

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results:

Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0346-T01

Agency/Program Name: Pearls Academy

Service Name: Making Proud Choices

Cohort Total: 11

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after January 1, 2021 and ended on/before December 31, 2022

Referral County(s): Chester

Feedback Report Delivery: April 3, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Kara Winchester, Kiki Garcia, and Chezara Taylor - Chester County

Brandi Sabol and Marshall Clark - Beaver County

EPIS SIS(s): Dawn Karoscik, Lisa Fetzer, and Christa Park

Pearls Academy staff members are composed of volunteer mentors, certified educators, licensed social workers and counselors who combined have over 100 years of experience supporting the needs of at risk youth in the home and school setting. Program staff members are trained to integrate evidence based practices with a humanistic and strengths based approach to ensure that youth feel valued and respected when taking the steps to improve their lives. Pearls Academy is committed to promoting behavioral health, social and emotional well-being of youths through a, "strength-based, positive youth development approach."

Pearls Academy offers Making Proud Choices! Developed by ETR*, an Evidence-Based, Safer-Sex Approach to Teen Pregnancy and HIV/STD Prevention, throughout the Chester County Region. The program serves male and female clients between the ages of 13 and 18 years old who are involved in Chester County's offices of Juvenile Probation and Children, Youth and Families. "MPC" is an 8-module curriculum that provides adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and pregnancy by abstaining from sex or using condoms if they choose to have sex.

The intervention is based on cognitive-behavioral theories, focus groups and the authors' extensive experience working with youth. Making Proud Choices! is an adaptation and extension of the original Be Proud! Be Responsible! curriculum that integrates teen pregnancy prevention along with HIV/STD prevention. The curriculum involves culturally sensitive video clips, games, brainstorming, role-playing, skill-building activities and small group discussions that build group cohesion and enhance learning. Curriculum modules include:

- Module 1: Getting to Know You and Steps to Making Your Dreams Come True
- Module 2: The Consequences of Sex: HIV Infection
- Module 3: Attitudes About Sex, HIV and Condom Use
- Module 4: Strategies for Preventing HIV Infection: Stop, Think and Act
- Module 5: The Consequences of Sex: STDs
- Module 6: The Consequences of Sex: Pregnancy
- Module 7: Developing Condom Use and Negotiation Skills
- Module 8: Enhancing Refusal and Negotiation Skills

Each activity lasts only a brief time and involves adolescents getting out of their seats and interacting with each other. In this way, it is possible to maintain interest and attention that might fade during a lecture or lengthy group discussion.

At the completion of the program, youth will

- Have increased their knowledge of HIV, STDs and pregnancy prevention
- Believe in the value of safer sex, including abstinence
- Have improved their ability to negotiate abstinence/safer-sex practices
- Have increased their ability to use condoms correctly
- Have stronger intentions to use condoms if they have sex
- Have a lower incidence of HIV/STD sexual risk-taking behavior
- Take pride in choosing responsible sexual behaviors

*ETR was founded in 1981 and has been committed to promoting the sexual and reproductive health of young people and communities in the United States and internationally. They are the only agency that researches, develops, implements, evaluates and disseminates programs and strategies to prevent HIV/AIDS and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

It should be noted that as per the developer, the curriculum is designed to be delivered for a total of 10 hours. However, the service is being scored per the SPEP™ tool.

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Social Skills Training

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service Type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? N/A

Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 20

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 10 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP™ service categorization. Each SPEP™ service type has varying amounts of duration and dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction. Targeted duration and dosage for this service is 16 weeks, 24 hours.

<u>0</u>	youth in the cohort of <u>11</u>	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total	<u>0</u>	points
<u>0</u>	youth in the cohort of <u>11</u>	of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of	<u>0</u>	points

Total Points Received: 0 **Total Points Possible:** 20

4. Youth Risk Level: The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 5 low risk, 6 moderate risk, 0 , high risk, and 0 very high risk.

<u>6</u>	youth in the cohort of <u>11</u>	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>5</u>	points
<u>0</u>	youth in the cohort of <u>11</u>	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>0</u>	points

Total Points Received: 5 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 35 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 41% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research.)

The SPEP™ and [Performance Improvement](#)

The intended use of the SPEP™ is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Written Protocol:

- i. Incorporate the service delivery requirements that Chester County requires into a policy and procedure for Making Proud Choices.
- ii. Review the Curriculum from the provider at predetermined timeframes and time stamp when updated.

b. Staff Training:

- i. Outline in a Pearls Academy policy who is eligible to facilitate this training by position, education requirements, and training required to deliver the service.
- ii. Identify booster trainings that are relevant to the service or develop agency specific booster trainings to enhance the quality of service delivery and document that staff receive the booster trainings.

c. Staff Supervision:

- i. Develop a process to ensure consistence usage of fidelity logs.
- ii. Ensure supervisors provide written feedback to staff delivering the service and incorporate it into a policy and procedure.
- iii. Develop written performance evaluations that directly reference the delivery of this service.

d. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Create a policy independent of Chester County JPO that identifies drift from service delivery, how it will be corrected, and document when it is utilized.

2. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

- a. Maintain collaboration with referring JPO to consider appropriate risk level for each youth.