

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Alternative (*) SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0359-A01

Agency/Program Name: Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS), Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC)

Service Name: Forward Thinking, Secure Unit

Cohort Total: Cohort data unavailable *

Cohort Time Frame: N/A

Referral County(s): N/A

Feedback Report Delivery: February 29, 2024

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Joe Gifford and Matt Foster, Dauphin
Sue Claytor, York

EPIS SIS(s): Lisa Freese

Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC) is a state secure facility that provides residential services for moderate to high risk males. The facility consists of four 12-bed cottages as well as a secure unit that can house 18 youth, however, only 2 cottages are currently housing youth. The Secure Unit is for youth ages 16-20 and addresses individualized treatment issues along with learning and displaying appropriate pro-social behavior. Treatment programming is consistent across all 3 areas housing youth.

Forward Thinking is an interactive journaling series designed by the Change Companies and is offered to all youth at LYDC. Interactive journaling is included in SAMSHA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). It is a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approach that uses strategies to assist youth in the juvenile justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Forward Thinking is a 9-workbook series that covers the criminogenic needs identified through the residents' Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS). Residents complete 8 Forward Thinking Journals in a group or caseload group setting. Those journals include: What Got Me Here, Individual Change Plan, Responsible Behavior, Family, Relationships and Communication, Handling Difficult Feelings, Victim Awareness, and Reentry Planning. Residents participate in two weekly group sessions (including the Community Building Group) and one weekly one on one session with their counselor or designee. Completed work is processed with the Psychological Services Specialist (PSS) monthly.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

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: 35

Total Points Received: 35 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: 20 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 15 weeks, 45 hours.

youth in the cohort of received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total of N/A* points
 youth in the cohort of of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of N/A* points

Total Points Received: N/A* 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 program were: low risk, moderate risk, high risk, and very high risk

youth in the cohort of are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of N/A* points
 youth in the cohort of are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of N/A* points

Total Points Received: N/A* Total Points Possible: 25

*** Due to limited availability of qualitative and/or quantitative data, a valid SPEP™ score could not be generated. Any data that has been shared is strictly for informational purposes. Technical assistance will be offered to the service provider in regard to SPEP™ Performance Improvement with the goal of reassessment in the future.**

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. Staff Training:
 - i. Develop booster training to occur at pre-determined timeframes.
 - b. Staff Supervision:
 - i. Develop a process for routine observation and documentation of facilitator observation by someone trained in Forward Thinking.
 - ii. Performance reviews should address the fidelity and quality of service delivery specific to Forward Thinking.
 - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - i. Develop a policy that includes specific steps to address when Forward Thinking is not delivered in the manner intended. This can include additional training and/or observation, coaching, etc.
 - ii. Develop a system for evaluating the fidelity and quality of service delivery. Data monitoring processes can be enhanced by creating/using resources to monitor service delivery (e.g., “Pre-/Post-Tests”).