

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

**Service Score Results:** Alternative (\*) SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0360-A01

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

Service Name: Behavior Modification System, ZB Cottage

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.

There are 5 levels in the Behavior Modification System. Upon admission, residents are on intake level and are assigned a mentor which is a resident on one of the highest levels. Within the two residential cottages, each level is referred to with different names, but essentially have the same format. Level One is achieved when the resident accepts their placement, is able to follow expectations and recognizes that no one is coming to rescue them. Level 2 is earned with at least 2 weeks of good behavior in school and an ability to follow basic expectations. Gym privileges and additional hygiene product selection are rewards. Level 3 is achieved with consistent positive behavior, working on treatment and rewards include an extra mattress (in ZB) or higher quality clothing (t-shirts, socks, etc.). Residents on Level 4 are mentoring new residents and are committed to treatment; rewards include an extra mattress (in Allegheny), higher quality pillow, can wear a watch, etc. Level 5 is the highest level a resident can achieve. They get extra clothing, can stay up at night one hour later and are expected "to do the right thing when no one is looking". Youth on Levels 4 and 5 have access to the Reward Room each week. Residents can have input on rewards earned. The Secure Unit has a slightly different level system that includes weekly individual resident reviews by staff and residents must be interviewed by staff to earn Level 4. Behavior incentives include extra time on phone calls, hygiene selection and food rewards.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Behavioral Management

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Mentoring

Was the supplemental service provided? No **Total Points Possible for this Service Type:** 30

**Total Points Received:** 25 **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 24 weeks, 72 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 Primary & Supplemental Service Types:
  - a. BMS as a Behavior Management service does have qualifying supplemental services as shown in the research. If BMS was enhanced by or tied to a mentoring, mixed counseling, or remedial academic service, an additional 5 points could be added to the service type score, and the service's capacity for recidivism reduction is increased.
2. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
  - a. Written Protocol:
    - i. Develop a Behavior Modification System that is consistent across all cottages/units, including names and numbers of levels.
  - b. Staff Training:
    - i. Create a training specific to the use of the BMS.
    - ii. Include in the policies and procedures manual the requirement that staff receive the training, as well as document when the training occurs.
    - iii. Develop booster training to occur at pre-determined timeframes.
  - c. Staff Supervision:
    - i. Performance reviews should address the fidelity and quality of service delivery concerning the BMS.
  - d. Organizational Response to Drift:
    - i. Develop a policy that includes specific steps to address when the BMS 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 for the BMS. Including resident input through exit surveys, data collection such as average number of days residents remain on each level, types of infractions, rewards and sanctions could help to improve consistency among cottages/units in the delivery of the BMS and identify where adaptations might need to occur.
3. Regarding Data Collection:
  - a. Develop a tracking system for dosage or number of hours residents and staff are addressing the BMS. This could include group or individual time spent with residents.