The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

**Service Score Results:** Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Community Service Foundation (CSF)-Sellersville-Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®)

**Cohort Total:** 23

**Selected Timeframe:** Jun. 19, 2017 to May 17, 2018

**Date(s) of Interview(s):** Aug. 1, 2018

**Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives:** Nick Caramenico & Rich Kubicek, Bucks Co. & Heather Perry, EPIS

**Person Preparing Report:** Nick Caramenico & Rich Kubicek, Bucks Co. & Heather Perry, EPIS

**Description of Service:** This should include a brief overview of the service within the context of the program, the location and if community based or residential. Indicate the type of youth referred, how the service is delivered, the purpose of service and any other relevant information to help the reader understand the SPEP service type classification. (350 character limit)

Community Service Foundation (CSF) has been in operation since 1977 and operates a variety of programs throughout Bucks County and SE PA. CSF provides the counseling component of the operation and is part of a consortium of organizations that include Buxmont Academy, which is the alternative education component, and the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) Graduate School. The main goal to help youth understand the impact of their behavior on themselves and others, and take responsibility for their actions. CSF provides training, education and guidance to help youth find the internal motivation to make better choices and restore meaningful connections with their families and communities. Youth learn the social and emotional skills needed to become positive, productive members of society. MI and trauma informed care are woven into the fabric of all programs. Service delivery is informed by the JJSES aligned with BARJ as well as the guiding principles of Child Welfare of Child Safety, well-being, and permanency. Services include ART®, Competency Skill Development (Community Based Individual and Family Counseling), Foster Care, READY – Restore Empower and Develop Youth (Licensed Day Treatment), Restorative Reporting Centers, Intensive Program (Licensed drug and alcohol treatment), Conferencing Services (FGDM and Restorative Conferences), Home and Community Supervision (In-home individual counseling designed to keep families intact by preventing or easing transition from placement). The focus of this report is ART®, which is a multimodal psycho educational intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children. The program incorporates three specific interventions: Skillstreaming, Anger Control Training, and training in Moral Reasoning. Skillstreaming uses modeling, role-playing, performance feedback, and transfer training to teach pro-social skills. In Anger Control Training, participating youth must bring to each session one or more descriptions of recent anger-arousing experiences (hassles), and over the duration of the program they are trained in how to respond to their hassles. Training in Moral Reasoning is designed to enhance youths’ sense of fairness and justice regarding the needs and rights of others and to train youth to imagine the perspectives of others when they confront various moral problem situations. ART® consists of a 10-week, 30-hour intervention administered to groups of 8 to 12 juvenile offenders three times weekly. During these 10 weeks, participating youth typically attend three 1-hour sessions per week, one session each of Skillstreaming, Anger Control Training, and training in Moral Reasoning. The program relies on repetitive learning techniques to teach participants to control impulsiveness and anger, resulting in the use of more appropriate behaviors.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Cognitive-behavior 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 Earned:** 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 and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

   **Total Points Earned:** 20

   **Total Points Possible:** 20
3. **Amount of Service:** Score was derived from examination of weeks and hours each youth in the cohort received 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.

   **Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks:** 8  
   **Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours:** 8

   **Total Points Earned:** 16  **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.

   - 22 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points
   - 3 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

   **Total Points Earned:** 12  **Total Points Possible:** 25

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 83 total points awarded out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP therapeutic service. *(eg: 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:** 83% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. *(eg: individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research)*

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**The SPEP and Performance Improvement**

The intended use of the SPEP is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service feedback report, and these recommendations are the focus of the performance improvement plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the local juvenile court. The recommendations for this service included in the feedback report are:

1. **Quality of Service Delivery:**  
   a. **Written Protocol:** i. Add a section to the Restorative Playbook that addresses the steps required to implement ART®. ii. Identify the age range being addressed by the service type in the Restorative Playbook.  
   b. **Staff Training:** i. Add a section to the Restorative Playbook that addresses the required training needed to be able to deliver the service type (ART®). It would be beneficial if this section covered the following items: 1. Specialized training required to become a master trainer in the service type. 2. Specialized training required for staff to be qualified to the deliver the service type. 3. The frequency of booster trainings and topics to be covered during these trainings. c. **Staff Supervision:** i. Add a section to the Restorative Playbook that addresses the supervision requirements of the service type. d. **Response to Drift:** i. Add a section to the Restorative Playbook that addresses procedures/policies in place to correct departure from the delivery of the service type. It would be helpful if this section covered the following items: 1. Documentation that the policies/procedures to prevent drift are being applied to all staff delivering the service type. 2. Written policy/practice on how drift from the service type by a staff member will be addressed.
2. **Amount of Service:** a. Continue to collaborate with Bucks County Juvenile Probation to ensure that the dosage and duration for the service type is being met.
3. **Risk Level of Youth Served:** a. Continue to collaborate with Bucks County Juvenile Probation to ensure that only Moderate and High risk juveniles are being referred to the program.
4. **Completion of the 90-day service provider outcome sheet.**

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