

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 126-T01

Agency Name: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)  
Program Name: Lebanon Youth Advocate Programs, Day Treatment Program  
Service Name: Restitution/Community Service Program  
Cohort Total: 27  
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Sep.1, 2015-Sep. 30, 2016  
Referral County(s): Lebanon  
Date(s) of Interview(s): Jul. 29, 2016, Sept. 22, 2016  
Lead County: Lebanon  
Probation Representative(s): Nicole Mattern, Dauphin Co. & Sue Christner, Lebanon Co.  
EPIS Representative: Shawn Peck

## Description of Service:

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., (YAP) provides various types of services for male and female youth across the United States. YAP's Mission is to provide safe, proven effective and economical alternatives to institutional placement. Types of treatment include Juvenile Justice programs, Child Welfare programs, developmental disability programs and Behavioral Health programs. YAP's community-based programs emphasize the treatment needs of the individual youth, family and community. The YAP philosophy to prepare youth and their families for engagement after treatment ends is emphasized throughout treatment to create independent communication with the youth and their family and the development of community linkages the youth and family can access independently. Mentoring is a theme of YAP's treatment milieu and paid mentors are selected from the same communities as the youth.

All youth in this program participate in the Restitution/Community Service Program. YAP has partnered with several community organizations to develop a community service and restitution program where the youth can restore the community that they offended. Including organizations such as the Humane Society and the Arts Studio, the Day Treatment program has pre-determined days and times that community service is conducted with all the youth in the program. Community Service is a standard requirement of juvenile probation and the Day Treatment program. YAP has also worked with WellSpan to develop a Farm to Table program that allows the youth in the program to grow food and learn how to prepare and cook the food.

The YAP Day Treatment Program has a greenhouse project where the youth in the program grow various seasonal plants and help cultivate other projects. The goal is to sell the products to the local community and raise money for the restitution program. In addition, there are some vocational opportunities in the greenhouse that allow for a youth in the program or a graduate of the program to earn additional money. The YAP program is also developing a workforce curriculum to assist in connecting the dots with community service and vocational experiences. This curriculum also includes an assessment tool to help identify the needs of the youth as it pertains to vocational opportunists.

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

### 1. SPEP™ Service Type: Restitution/Community Service

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: 15

Total Points Received: 15      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 contact hours. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

**Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks:** 6

**Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours:** 0

**Total Points Received:** 6 **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.

27/27 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

4/27 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

**Total Points Received:** 15 **Total Points Possible:** 25

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 46 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:** 58% 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.)

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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 juvenile probation department.

Restitution/Community Service scored a 46 for the Basic Score and a 58% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 2 service; Restitution/Community Service with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be at a Medium level. The amount of service provided to the clients was 74% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 0% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 0% as low risk, 85% as moderate risk and 15% as high risk.

Restitution/Community Service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service:

a. Written Protocol:

- i. Develop a written protocol or manual that describes the service being delivered and outlines the service delivery expectations by process or topic for the Community Service/Restitution program.
- ii. Develop a singular document to ensure that the protocol for services are delivered as intended.

b. Staff Training:

- i. Develop booster trainings for staff.

c. Staff Supervision:

- i. Ensure the performance of staff facilitating this service is directly referenced into their yearly performance evaluations.

d. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Develop an agency policy that outlines how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service.
- ii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, an “if-then” approach.

2. Regarding Service Amount:

a. Improve upon the existing data collection process to capture all community service/restitution activities.

b. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for targeted amount of service.