

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Berks County Juvenile Court, Earthrise Enterprises, Inc. Snack Shop

Cohort Total: 18

SPEP ID: 31-T1

Selected Timeframe: Start date varies for each youth in cohort - Aug. 14, 2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 21, 2013

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Jeff Gregro, Berks Co.

Person Preparing Report: Lisa Freese

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)*

Earthrise Enterprises, Inc. is a community based program operated by the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office for juveniles referred by the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office. The program operates Monday- Friday from 7am to 3pm within the confines of the Berks County Services Center in Reading. There are multiple components to the program: Job Training; Education/Life Skills; Community Service; and Social Skill building. The identified population varies from low to high risk juveniles who are in need of one or more of the following: vocational counseling, on the job training, work experience in a structured environment, life skills education, and payment of restitution to their victims,. The program has an open enrollment so kids can enter the program at any time. The intended duration can vary due to the reason for referral. Their juveniles have been in the program from a few weeks to up to a year.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Job Related Training-Job Training

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

If so, what is the Service type? Remedial Academic Program

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 10

Total Points Earned: 10 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: 10 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: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 2

Total Points Earned: 2 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.

13 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

4 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 32 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: 43% 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)

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. Creating a training manual for the staff of the Snack Shop. This manual should identify the target population and risk factors of the targeted youth. Regular observation of the delivery staff and documented feedback on their adherence to the manual would also enhance the program.
2. Enhancements to the current training protocol could be improved by creating/developing a staff training checklist, and an in-house certification process for service delivery, that includes documentation delivery staff have been observed delivering the service and are deemed “competent” to deliver. Also documentation of booster trainings and recertification would increase the score in this area.
3. Targeting higher risk youth and eliminating low risk youth referred to the program.
4. Increasing the duration of the program by increasing the number of youth achieving 400 target hours of service. Perhaps the juveniles could participate in classroom education with the JPO that would be non-paid, but count toward duration in the program. If possible, attempt to include more long term youth in the program, rather than short term community service kids.