

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc. - Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM)

Cohort Total: 12

SPEP ID: 153-T01

Selected Timeframe: Jan.1, 2016 - May 15, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): May 12, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Tracie Davies, Lehigh Co. & Lisa Freese, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Lisa Freese and Tracie Davies

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)*

Justice Works YouthCare, Inc. provides services in 40 counties throughout Pennsylvania. They also have locations in Florida and South Carolina. The Lehigh County office located in Bath, PA serves Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. As many as 19 different services are offered at the Lehigh County office.

The focus of this report is the Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM), which is a specialized community-based service for female offenders in Lehigh County. This service was created in response to a lack of services specific to the female population. Referrals originate from Lehigh County for moderate to high risk female juvenile offenders. Each referral is assessed to determine if more than one Family Resource Specialist (FRS) is necessary. Typically, one FRS is assigned to work with the identified client, however at times a 2nd FRS is assigned to work specifically with the parent. Both Family Resource Specialists build rapport at the same time, the FRS assigned to the parent helps to support the parent in order for the parent to support the child.

There are a minimum of two contacts per week with a maximum of 4 hours per week; the length of the service is from 3-6 months. Contacts occur in the home, school and/or community. The assigned FRS spends their time building and enhancing coping and problem solving skills, demonstrating and practicing conflict resolution, modeling healthy living, providing support through coaching and modeling, increasing family communication and support, improving self-esteem and self worth, connecting the client to other pro-social family members and community supports, as well as linking them to services in their community.

During the first 30 days the client is given the Youth Risk and Resilience Inventory (YRRI) which is a self-assessment to identify risk factors along with resilience factors. The YRRI is also given at the end of the service to look at measurable outcomes. All clients are also placed on a behavioral contract to determine expectations and gain compliance in problem areas; everything is clearly outlined including behavioral goal expectations, rewards for meeting expectations, as well as consequences for not meeting expectations. Females in the GEM program are also eligible to participate in Girls Circle which is a structured support group for females that further enhances the goals of the GEM program.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Social Skills Training

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: 20

Total Points Earned: 20 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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Earned: 10 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.

11 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

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

Total Points Earned: 13 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 63 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: 75% 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:

The Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM) program scored a 63 for the Basic Score and a 75% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Social Skills Training service type with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was delivered at a high level. The amount of service provided to the clients fell short of meeting the recommended targets of duration and dosage for this service type. The program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Creation of a written protocol or manual that describes GEM and how the FRS delivers the service. It should include what target population is suited for the service. While GEM is tailored to meet the needs of each individual, a description of how to address specific topic areas would benefit staff. It would further enhance the training and staff supervision components as well.
2. Provide copies of the manual to each FRS assigned to GEM clients, so that it may be used or referenced if necessary during service delivery.
3. Schedule a routine review of the manual or protocol to determine what is working and what isn't and revise as needed.
4. Collaborate with referral sources to extend the service to duration of 16 weeks, and continue to target 24 hours of service for each client.