The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEPTM):

**Service Score Results:** Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Abraxas I-Intensive Drug and Alcohol Program-Female-Victim Community Awareness

Cohort Total: 27
Selected Timeframe: Nov. 13, 2015-Sep. 9, 2016
Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 17, 2016, Sep. 16, 2016

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Angela Work, McKean Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter
Person Preparing Report: Angela Work & Shawn Peck

**SPEP ID:** 108-T01

**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)

The Abraxas I Intensive Drug & Alcohol Treatment Programs provides intensive substance abuse programming for 60 adolescent males and 32 female adolescents in separate treatment settings. The programs provide a safe, nurturing and structured environment for delinquent and/or dependent youth to make positive changes in their behaviors, attitudes and beliefs. The goal of treatment is to eliminate drug abuse/dependency & delinquency and develop competencies that will enable youth to function as responsible members of the community. Youth participate in a variety of therapeutically structured activities. Treatment planning integrates the concepts of Balanced and Restorative Justice by focusing on offense-specific counseling, victim awareness, accountability and competency development.

Victim & Community Awareness is based upon Victim/Community Awareness: Establishing a Restorative Justice Community, April 1999. Youth are introduced to Balanced & Restorative Justice, the mission of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System, and includes responsibilities to victims, communities as well as offenders. Youth are educated on victim empathy through the use of role plays. Role playing encourages empathy toward emotions victims may experience. Through group processing, youth become aware of the actual harm done to the victim in their specific case. Lastly, youth have the opportunity to apologize, in writing, for their behavior. The apology letter may be forwarded to the Juvenile Probation Department. Material is presented in a psycho-educational seminar format, with approximately 16 youth per group. Handouts are provided as necessary for effective group facilitation. Victim & Community Awareness group includes 52 sessions facilitated one hour per week, designed in an open group format.

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

1. **SPEPTM Service Type:** Group Counseling
   
   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:** 30
   
   **Total Points Earned:** 30
   
   **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:** 5
   
   **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:** 0  
   
   **Total Points Earned:** 0  **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.

   21 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points  
   5 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points  
   
   **Total Points Earned:** 15  **Total Points Possible:** 25

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 50 total points awarded out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP therapeutic service. 

*Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.*

**Program Optimization Percentage:** 53% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found 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:

Victim & Community Awareness could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service:
   a. Develop a routine schedule to inquire about updates to the manual
   b. Develop a process to monitor the delivery of this service
   c. Develop a scheduled process for the supervisor to observe the delivery of this service
   d. Ensure the supervisor provides written feedback for those who deliver this service
   e. In annual performance reviews, include information specific to the delivery of this service
   f. Develop a policy that outlines how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service
      i. Ensure that the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, an “if-then” approach
      ii. A progressive supervision process and response plan
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
   a. Make modifications to provide longer service participation, allowing for alignment with research supported amounts
   b. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for targeted amount of service.

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