

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Outreach Teen & Family Services-Kids At Risk Effort (KARE)- Individual Counseling

Cohort Total: 45

SPEP ID: 23

Selected Timeframe: Jan. 1, 2013-Dec. 31, 2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): May 1, 2014

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Doug Braden, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Doug Braden

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)*

Outreach Teen & Family Services is a non-profit, community-based agency that provides counseling and educational services for youth and their families. Services provided include those that address anger management, family problems, school-related issues, depression, anxiety, and drug and alcohol issues. In addition to offering psycho-educational groups for youth ages 5-21, Outreach Teen and Family Services offers parenting coaching and counseling services.

The KARE program is for teens that are considered to be at high risk and have already been identified by the Allegheny County juvenile justice system. This program focuses on youth who have been identified as having issues with anger control and/or abuse of drugs or alcohol. These individuals benefit from a master's degree level counselor providing assessment, education, life skills training and counseling to help them make better decisions. An evaluation is completed to assess the initial needs of a client who is referred to KARE.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Individual 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:** 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: 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.

29/45 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

3/45 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

Total Points Earned: 5 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 25 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: 34% 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 Outreach Teen & Family Services KARE scored a 34% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 1 service; Individual Counseling with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to being delivered at a Medium level. The risk levels of youth participating in this program are: 36% as Low Risk; 64% as Moderate Risk or above; and 7% as High Risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was at 3% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 0% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type.

The Outreach Teen & Family Services KARE could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Improving communication with Allegheny County Juvenile Court on the research supported amount of service that should be provided for this service type.
2. Developing a training for staff to deliver this service.
3. Developing a training for supervisors to deliver this service.
4. Developing an agency policy that outlines how to prevent drift from delivering KARE with high fidelity.
5. Identifying JPO and agency personnel to work collaboratively toward implementing ways to improve upon the mutual understanding of each other's roles as applicable to presentation of this service; addressing attendance issues, ways to avoid absences, matters related to notification/documentation to court of youth's progress.