

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc.-Victim Community Awareness Curriculum (VCAC)
Cohort Total: 13 SPEP ID: 196-T01
Selected Timeframe: Jul. 25, 2017-Jan. 9, 2018
Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 21, 2017 & Dec. 4, 2017
Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: David Evrard, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter
Person Preparing Report: David Evrard & Shawn Peck

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)*

Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc. (TDP) is a Residential Independent Living Program (ILP) located in Tionesta, PA. TDP is community based and promotes wellness through developing strong ties to the community, while creating a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens and enhancing their appreciation of the natural world. Balanced and Restorative Justice concepts are reinforced throughout each youth's treatment. Community Protection is accomplished by providing a safe and structured environment to the treatment of youth and helps them change their behaviors of concern. Victim Restoration is accomplished by working with youth to accept responsibility for their behavior, understand how their behavior has affected others, acknowledge the harm caused to their victims and communities, and take steps to restore the victim and the community. Competency Development is accomplished by providing opportunities for youth to develop a sense of belonging, form close relationships with those around them, make meaningful and responsible choices, and develop transferable skills to avoid future harmful behaviors.

Victim Community Awareness Curriculum (VCAC) is a four-hour PA state developed curriculum for juvenile offenders that focuses on accountability (repairing the harm that was caused) and an understanding that the victims are real people (with names, faces, and hearts). This curriculum provides the information, instructions, and tools of a curriculum intended to increase offenders' awareness of victims and the community as well as their acknowledgment of how victims and the community are affected by crime and offensive behavior. At TDP, the curriculum is delivered in four, one-hour groups, utilizing a closed group format with four to six youth. The group is presented specifically following lesson plans outlined in the state curriculum. The sessions include handouts for the youth and each utilizes a power point presentation. All youth have the opportunity to complete the curriculum while in the program. The curriculum is facilitated by two mentors who have completed the 15-hour facilitator training provided by a state trained trainer. Not every youth is required to receive VCAC but all youth are eligible to receive the service. The Clinical Supervisor decides when to have the group and selects the group participants. There is a pre-test and post-test for the curriculum that is administered by the supervisor who records this data accordingly. The supervisor observes one group during the curriculum and completes a fidelity monitoring form to evaluate the facilitators. Youth also complete a youth satisfaction form. Youth can repeat the curriculum if the facilitators determine that they would benefit from doing so.

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

1. **SPEP™ 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: 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: 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 60 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: 64% 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:

Victim Community Awareness Curriculum (VCAC) scored a 60 for the Basic Score and a 64% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Group 4 service; Group Counseling. The quality of service was found to be at a high level. The amount of service provided to the youth was 0% of the recommended targeted weeks for duration and 0% of the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the service were 15% as low risk, 77% as moderate risk, and 8% as high risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Staff Training:
 - i. Develop and require the completion of a booster training for this service.
 - b. Staff Supervision:
 - i. Modify the existing Performance Evaluation to specifically address the delivery of this service.
 - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - i. Develop a 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.
 - iii. Develop a progressive supervision process and response plan to avoid drift in service delivery.
 - iv. Develop a process to collect feedback from youth and staff on the service with the intention of improving service delivery.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Make modifications to provide longer service participation, allowing for alignment with research supported amounts of 24 weeks and 40 hours.
 - b. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for the targeted amount of service of 24 weeks and 40 hours.