**The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEPTM):**

**Service Score Results:** Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program and Service:</th>
<th>JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc., Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Total:</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date(s) of Interview(s):</td>
<td>July 27, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead County &amp; SPEP Team Representatives:</td>
<td>Jeff Gregro, Bill Keim &amp; Ryan Alena, Berks Co. &amp; Lisa Freese, EPICenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Person Preparing Report:</td>
<td>Lisa Freese</td>
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<td>SPEP ID:</td>
<td>210-T01</td>
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**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 Violation Initiative Program (VIP®), operated by JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc. is a community-based program for youth under the supervision of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office who are moderate to high risk to reoffend and/or at risk of being removed from their homes due to violations of probation supervision. The intent of the program is to provide counseling, support, supervision and to also assist with supplemental referrals to other community agencies in order to reduce the likelihood of long-term out-of-home placement.

It also functions as a re-entry component to supervision following an out-of-home placement to ensure a youth’s smooth, seamless entry back into their home community. The Family Resource Specialist (FRS) provides supervision at varying levels of service. Standard VIP® is 2 hours per week of face to face youth contact, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 6 hours over a period of 7 days per week. The probation office staff decides what level of service should be provided based upon the juvenile’s risk score and current level of supervision compliance. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, work when applicable, and “leisure time” activities. Based upon the goals outlined by the probation office, a treatment plan is developed with the youth and family within 48 hours of first contact. VIP® services are typically provided for 4 - 6 months.

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

1. **SPEPTM Service Type:** Mentoring
   - Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes
   - If so, what is the Service type? Behavioral Contracting/Management
   - Was the supplemental service provided? No
   - Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30
     - Total Points Earned: 25
     - 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:** 0

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**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.

- 43 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points
- 12 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 8 points

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**Total Points Earned:** 20  **Total Points Possible:** 25

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 67 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:** 71% 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)*

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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:

JusticeWorks Youthcare Inc. VIP® scored a 67 for the Basic Score and a 71% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 4 service- Mentoring. The program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. **The addition of a Supplemental Service- Behavioral Management.**
2. **Exploring ways to increase the duration (26 weeks) and dosage (78 hours) youth receive the Violation Initiative Program to achieve the targeted amounts.**
3. **Working in collaboration with the Juvenile Probation Office to increase the percentage of High Risk youth receiving the service and eliminate Low Risk youth from the cohort.**
4. **Rewriting the service description to reclassify the service as Mentoring and working with the Juvenile Probation Office to educate probation staff on the target population, duration, and dosage of the service.**