

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc., Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)

Cohort Total: 24

SPEP ID: 30-T1

Selected Timeframe: Jun. 1, 2012 - Aug. 31, 2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 13, 2013

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Jeff Gregro, Berks Co. & Stephanie Bradley, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Lisa Freese

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. It also functions as a re-entry component to supervision following an out-of-home placement. The VIP 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 5 hours over a period of 5 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 3 - 6 months.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Mixed Counseling

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: 20

Total Points Earned: 15 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: 6

Total Points Earned: 8 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.

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

9 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

Total Points Earned: 25 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 68 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: 80% 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:

1. The addition of a qualifying supplemental service: behavioral contracting
2. Analysis of the Amount of Service particularly in the area of "Duration".
3. Examine engagement efforts to increase contact hours.