

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

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

Cohort Total: 25

SPEP ID: 67-T1

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

Date(s) of Interview(s): Sep. 27, 2013

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Tracie Davies, Lehigh Co. & Lisa Freese, 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 Justice Works YouthCare, Inc. is a community-based program for youth in Lehigh County who are at high risk of re-offending. VIP® is one of several services offered by Justice Works YouthCare, Inc. in Lehigh County. Staff includes a Program Director, Supervisor and 3 Family Resource Specialists (FRS). VIP® can also function as an alternative to placement for youth who are at risk of removal from the home for probation violations or 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 monitoring, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 5 hours over a minimum of 5 days per week. The FRS has a full time caseload with a maximum of 10 clients and has a minimum of 30-33 hours of contact hours each week. The caseload is mixed with Standard, Intensive and Full VIP clients. The average age of each client is between 15-17 yrs of age, but there is no specific targeted age. Both male and female clients are accepted and bi-lingual staff are available. There is no wait list for referrals and VIP® services are typically provided for 3 - 6 months.

Once the referral is received the referral source as well as the referred family will be contacted within 24 hours. The probation office staff decide what level of service will be provided. The YLS (Youth Level of Service) is required with each referral, along with the Face Sheet, PSI (Problem Severity Index), Case Plan, where the top three target areas (domains, for example peer relations, attitudes/orientation, personality/behavior, etc.) are identified. All identified domains can be addressed. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, community, work (when applicable), and "leisure time" activities. The FRS provides assistance with, but not limited to: transportation of clients to and from probation required activities, aid in job search as well as some soft skills in completing an application and preparing for an interview, coordination and attendance at meetings with probation, school, community based services for D&A and MH, finding community service opportunities, discussion of clients interest and finding prosocial activities for engagement. The FRS overall offers guidance and assistance to the juvenile in a supportive manner in completing their conditions of probation while remaining in the community.

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

1. **SPEP™ 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: 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.

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

3 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: 55 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: 58% 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 supplemental service: behavioral contracting/management. The research demonstrates that the capacity of mentoring style programs to reduce recidivism is enhanced by the addition of behavioral contracting or behavioral management programs. These programs generally include a token or reward basis set of incentives which are granted when the juvenile reaches certain program or case plan milestones. Youth agree to a contract which specifies certain rewards for certain positive behaviors. Non-achievement of agreed upon goals results in loss of privileges and/or incentives.
2. Increase the duration of the program to provide 26 weeks of service. The importance of duration cannot be underestimated with the youth referred to VIP®. Quite often, these youth lack a community connection and engagement with positive role models. While the dosage target is 26 weeks, permanent community connection and mentoring by adults who role model positive behavior is the ultimate desired outcome post VIP®.
3. Increase the dosage or number of contact hours to be no less than 78 total service hours.
 - Some youth engaged in the program are meeting this mark; further analysis may be necessary to determine the differing characteristics associated with those who exceed 78 hours of service, and those who did not.
 - Additional examination of the youth who are unsuccessfully discharged from the program and placed out of the home.
 - Examine whether there are specific points of time or levels of engagement where these transitions may be predictable.
4. Review the YLS results of all referrals and target youth who are of moderate or higher risk for VIP®.
5. Documented “quality assurance” calls to youth and their families during or, at completion of service could enhance the evaluation of VIP® service as a continuous quality improvement measure.
6. Track recidivism after discharge at specific intervals, for example, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year .

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment

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

Cohort Total: 35

SPEP ID: 67-T2

Selected Timeframe: Nov. 1, 2014 –Dec. 31, 2015

Date(s) of Interview(s): Mar. 10, 2016

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Tracie Davies, Lehigh Co. & Lisa Freese, 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 in Lehigh County who are at high risk of re-offending. VIP® is one of many services offered by JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc. in Lehigh County. Staff includes a Program Director, Supervisor and 2 Family Resource Specialists (FRS). One VIP® can also function as an alternative to placement for youth who are at risk of removal from the home for probation violations or 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 monitoring, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 5 hours over a minimum of 5 days per week. The FRS has a full time caseload with a maximum of 10 clients and has a minimum of 30-33 hours of contact hours each week. The caseload is mixed with Standard, Intensive and Full VIP clients. The average age of each client is between 15-17 yrs of age, but there is no specific targeted age. Both male and female clients are accepted and bi-lingual staff are available. There is no wait list for referrals and VIP® services are typically provided for 3 - 6 months. Lehigh County Juvenile Probation determines the level of service.

Once the referral is received the referral source as well as the referred family will be contacted within 24 hours. The probation office staff decide what level of service will be provided. The YLS (Youth Level of Service) is required with each referral, along with the Face Sheet, PSI (Problem Severity Index), Case Plan, where the top three target areas (domains, for example peer relations, attitudes/orientation, personality/behavior, etc.) are identified. All identified domains can be addressed. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, community, work (when applicable), and “leisure time” activities. The FRS provides assistance with, but not limited to: transportation of clients to and from probation required activities, aid in job search as well as some soft skills in completing an application and preparing for an interview, coordination and attendance at meetings with probation, school, community based services for D&A and MH, finding community service opportunities, discussion of clients interest and finding prosocial activities for engagement. The FRS overall offers guidance and assistance to the juvenile in a supportive manner in completing their conditions of probation while remaining in the community

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

1. **SPEP™ 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: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 2

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.

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

13 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: 72 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: 76% 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 behavioral contracting for all youth receiving VIP® to supplement the mentoring service type.
2. Including a written description of VIP® in the JusticeWorks policies and procedures, as well as evidence that the service description can be referenced during service delivery, and that it is reviewed and updated at routine intervals.
3. Consideration to extend the service to 26 weeks in length. Increasing the duration of the service will positively impact dosage as well; increasing the number of youth who meet the targeted 78 hours for mentoring. Alternatively, if duration cannot be increased, another option could be to increase the number of face-to-face contact hours during the time period the youth is receiving the service (e.g. lengthening the existing meetings or meeting more times per week).

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 2

SPEP™ ID and Time: 67-T03

Agency Name: JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc
Program Name: Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)
Service Name: Mentoring
Cohort Total: 15
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: October 31, 2016 to April 30, 2018
Referral County(s): Lehigh
Date(s) of Interview(s): March 10, 2016 & May 15, 2018
Lead County: Lehigh
Probation Representative(s): Tracie Davies
EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese

Description of Service:

The Violation Initiative Program (VIP®), operated by JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc. is a community-based program for youth in Lehigh County who are at high risk of re-offending. VIP® is one of many services offered by JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc. in Lehigh County. Staff includes a Program Director, Supervisor and 2 Family Resource Specialists (FRS). VIP® can function as an alternative to placement for youth who are at risk of removal from the home for probation violations, or 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 monitoring, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 5 hours over a minimum of 5 days per week. The FRS has a full-time caseload with a maximum of 10 clients and has a minimum of 30-33 hours of contact each week. The caseload is mixed with Standard, Intensive and Full VIP clients. Most of the youth in this service are between 15-17 years of age, but there is no specific targeted age. Both male and female clients are accepted and bilingual staff are available. There is no wait list for referrals and VIP® services are typically provided for 3 - 6 months. Lehigh County Juvenile Probation determines the level of service.

Once the referral is received the referral source as well as the referred family will be contacted within 24 hours. The probation office staff decide what level of service will be provided. The YLS (Youth Level of Service) is required with each referral, along with the Face Sheet, PSI (Problem Severity Index), Case Plan, where the top three target areas/domains, (for example peer relations, attitudes/orientation, personality/behavior, etc.) are identified, but all identified domains can be addressed. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, community, work (when applicable), and "leisure time" activities. The FRS provides assistance with: transportation of clients to and from probation required activities, job searches as well as some soft skills in completing an application and preparing for an interview, coordination and attendance at meetings with probation, school, community based services for D&A and MH, finding community service opportunities, discussion of client's interest and finding prosocial activities for engagement, and more. Overall, the FRS offers guidance and assistance to the juvenile in a supportive manner in completing their conditions of probation while remaining in the community.

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

1. SPEP™ Service Type: Mentoring

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Behavioral Management

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Received: 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, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in 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 contact hours. 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 Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 2

Total Points Received: 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.

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

4 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 8 points

Total Points Received: 20 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 72 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. 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: 76% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. 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 juvenile probation department.

The JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc. VIP® program scored a 72 for the Basic Score and a 76% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Mentoring service type. These scores represent an increase from the Baseline findings and remained the same from the first reassessment which occurred in March 2016. The program could continue to improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by:

1. Establishing a pre-determined timeframe (annually, for example) to review the manual and document the date of the review.

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 3 SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0067-T04

Agency/Program Name: JusticeWorks Youthcare, Inc.

Service Name: Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)

Cohort Total: 32

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after January 1, 2021 and ended on/before June 30, 2023

Referral County(s): Lehigh (12), Northampton (20)

Feedback Report Delivery: December 7, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Tracie Henry-Quality Assurance Juvenile Probation Officer II & Eva Frederick-Juvenile Probation Officer II-Lehigh County Juvenile Probation

EPIS SIS(s): Lisa Freese

Justice Works YouthCare, Inc. provides services in 57 counties throughout Pennsylvania. They also have locations in Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Colorado and South Carolina. The Lehigh County office located in Allentown, PA serves Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties. The following services are offered at the Lehigh County office: GEM, Girls Circle, Violation Initiative Program (VIP®), Graduated Response to Address Delinquency (GRAD), Acute Pre-placement Response Service (APPRS), In Home, In Home Housing, Plan of Safe Care (POSC), Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Reunification Services, Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), Family Finding, Crisis Rapid Response (CRR), Nurturing Parenting, Visit Coaching, Visitation, JustCare and Reunification Services, Short Term Therapeutic Outreach to Prevent Placement (STOPP), Diversion Services, Transportation Services, Healthy Families America (HFA), Seeking Safety, and Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN). Justice Works is also currently leading the Youth Justice Advisory Board through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This advisory board consists of juveniles and young adults ages 14-28 with a mission to educate, advocate, and form partnerships to create positive change in the juvenile justice system.

The focus of this report is the Violation Initiative Program (VIP®), operated by JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc., a community-based program for youth in Lehigh and Northampton County Juvenile Probation who are at high risk of re-offending. VIP® is one of many services offered by JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc. in Lehigh County. Currently staff includes a Program Director, Supervisor and 6 Family Resource Specialists (FRS). VIP® can function as an alternative to placement for youth who are at risk of removal from the home for probation violations, or 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 monitoring, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 5 hours over a minimum of 5 days per week. The FRS has a caseload of approximately 5 clients and with face-to-face contact between 10-20 hours each week. The caseload is mixed with Standard, Intensive and Full VIP clients. Most of the youth in this service are between 14-17 years of age, but there is no specific targeted age. Both male and female clients are accepted and bilingual staff are available. There typically is no wait list for referrals and VIP® services are provided for 3 - 6 months

Once the referral is received the referral source as well as the referred family will be contacted within 24 hours. The probation office staff decide what level of service will be provided. The YLS (Youth Level of Service) is required with each referral, along with the Face Sheet, PSI (Problem Severity Index), Case Plan, where the top three target areas/domains, (for example peer relations, attitudes/orientation, personality/behavior, etc.) are identified, but all identified domains can be addressed. Typically, one to three goals are established with one focusing on accountability, actions, or behavior. Behavioral contracting is utilized for most clients. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, community, work (when applicable), and leisure time activities. The FRS provides assistance with: transportation of clients to and from probation required activities, job searches as well as some soft skills in completing an application and preparing for an interview, coordination and attendance at meetings with probation, school, community-based services for D&A and MH, finding community service opportunities, discussion of client's interest and finding prosocial activities for engagement, and more. Overall, the FRS offers guidance and assistance to the juvenile in a supportive manner in completing their conditions of probation while remaining in the community. The FRS is trained in motivational interviewing skills as well as the interpretation of the YLS.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Mentoring

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Behavioral Management

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Received: 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, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in 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. Targeted duration and dosage for this service is 26 weeks, 78 hours.

<u>5</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>32</u>	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total	<u>0</u>	points
<u>1</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>32</u>	of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of	<u>0</u>	points

Total Points Received: 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. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 8 low risk, 18 moderate risk, 5 , high risk, and 0 very high risk.

<u>23</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>5</u>	points
<u>5</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>3</u>	points

Total Points Received: 8 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 58 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. 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: 61% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. 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. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Collaborate with Lehigh and Northampton County Juvenile Probation Departments to consider ways to increase dosage and duration for youth in the VIP® service.
2. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. At the time of referral, inquire specifically as to why youth with a low level of overall risk are being referred to the VIP® service.