

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0347-T01

Agency/Program Name: Pearls Academy

Service Name: Recognizing Your Strengths Everyday (R.Y.S.E.)

Cohort Total: 17

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after January 1, 2021 and ended on/before December 31, 2022

Referral County(s): Chester

Feedback Report Delivery: April 3, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Kara Winchester, Kiki Garcia, and Chezara Taylor - Chester County
Brandi Sabol and Marshall Clark - Beaver County

EPIS SIS(s): Dawn Karoscik, Lisa Fetzer, and Christa Park

Pearls Academy staff members are composed of volunteer mentors, certified educators, licensed social workers and counselors who combined have over 100 years of experience supporting the needs of at risk youth in the home and school setting. Program staff members are trained to integrate evidence based practices with a humanistic and strengths based approach to ensure that youth feel valued and respected when taking the steps to improve their lives. Pearls Academy is committed to promoting behavioral health, social and emotional well-being of youths through a, “strength-based, positive youth development approach.

The R.Y.S.E. Program is an intervention program that includes at least weekly sessions lasting 1-2 hours and timeline activities to assist the youth in developing skills and better understand consequences and help prepare them for the next level of service. The LSW/LCSW will determine the timeframe for sessions based on the youth's Individual Service Plan and needs.

- Provides face-to-face services at least once a week for 1-2 hours to the youth by a Master's Level Licensed Clinical Social Worker at a time and place that is convenient for the youth;
- Develop an Individual Goal Plan for each youth with goals that are designed for the youth's specific needs and skill levels;
- Youth may earn incentives, not to exceed a \$50.00 value per youth a month for participation or goal achievement and a \$100.00 value completion stipend for any youth who successfully completes the program (Incentives may not be cash, but may be gift cards, food, supplies, books, etc.)

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

Total Points Received: 5 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 25 weeks, 30 hours.

<u>5</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>17</u>	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total	<u>2</u>	points
<u>4</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>17</u>	of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of	<u>2</u>	points

Total Points Received: 4 **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: 2 low risk, 10 moderate risk, 2 , high risk, and 0 very high risk.

<u>12</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>14</u>	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>10</u>	points
<u>2</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>14</u>	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>0</u>	points

Total Points Received: 10 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 29 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: 39% 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 Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Written Protocol:

- i. Develop a manual that outlines how to deliver the service to include the practice of creating SMART goals, identifies youth most appropriate (for example: include YLS domains addressed by the service), and create a way to document the use of the manual.
- ii. Develop a pre-determined timeframe to review and/or update the manual (annually for example) and document it on the manual.

b. Staff Training:

- i. Develop a policy that describes the education and experience requirements to deliver the service as well as the continuing education required to maintain certification.

c. Staff Supervision:

- i. Consider ways to provide a supervision process and oversight of the service outside of Chester County JPO's requirements. This process should include monitoring at pre-determined time frames, documenting when this occurs and providing written feedback.
- ii. Incorporate the service specifically in the annual performance evaluations.

d. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Create a policy independent of Chester County JPO that identifies drift from service delivery, how it will be corrected, and document when it is utilized.
- ii. Maintain consistent usage of the satisfaction survey to monitor fidelity and quality of the service and use this information to make enhancements and improvements when deemed necessary.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Consider ways to increase the dosage and duration to better match research recommendations for the target amount of service and communicate this with Chester County JPO.

3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

- a. Continue collaboration with Chester County JPO to ensure the most appropriate referrals are being received.