

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

**Service Score Results:** Alternative (\*) SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0363-A01

Agency/Program Name: Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS), Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC)

Service Name: Gun Violence, Allegheny Cottage

Cohort Total: Cohort data unavailable \*

Cohort Time Frame: N/A

Referral County(s): N/A

Feedback Report Delivery: February 29, 2024

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Joe Gifford and Matt Foster, Dauphin  
Sue Claytor, York

EPIS SIS(s): Lisa Freese

Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC) is a state secure facility that provides residential services for moderate to high risk males. The facility consists of four 12-bed cottages as well as a secure unit that can house 18 youth, however, only 2 cottages are currently housing youth. The Secure Unit is for youth ages 16-20 and addresses individualized treatment issues along with learning and displaying appropriate pro-social behavior. Treatment programming is consistent across all 3 areas housing youth.

The Gun Violence Group consists of information collected from various media outlets. It is comprised of 8 lessons for 8 weeks and occurs once per week. The Clinical Manager identifies articles and videos on the effects of gun violence and shares them with each program area. The facilitator and residents discuss the impact of gun violence on victims, families, and the community. This service is offered in ZB Cottage in a closed group setting. At the time of the interviews, it was reported that residents in Allegheny Cottage do not receive the Gun Violence curriculum in a group format, because of a staffing shortage. However, it is delivered individually with residents. In the Secure Unit, it is delivered individually to residents considered appropriate to receive the curriculum.

## 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 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: 10 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 24 weeks, 40 hours.

youth in the cohort of  received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total of  N/A\* points  
 youth in the cohort of  of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of  N/A\* points

Total Points Received:  N/A\* 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 program were:  low risk,  moderate risk,  high risk, and  very high risk

youth in the cohort of  are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of  N/A\* points  
 youth in the cohort of  are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of  N/A\* points

Total Points Received:  N/A\* Total Points Possible:  25

**\* Due to limited availability of qualitative and/or quantitative data, a valid SPEP™ score could not be generated. Any data that has been shared is strictly for informational purposes. Technical assistance will be offered to the service provider in regard to SPEP™ Performance Improvement with the goal of reassessment in the future.**

### **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. For purposes of consistency, deliver the curriculum in either a group or individual format in both cottages and the secure unit.
- ii. Identify a predetermined timeframe to review the Gun Violence curriculum. This will ensure that outdated material can be removed in the absence of new materials being added.

##### b. Staff Training:

- i. Consider creating a written training protocol that includes the incorporation of routine booster training.

##### c. Staff Supervision:

- i. Develop a system for routine monitoring and documentation of monitoring through direct observation by staff trained to deliver the service.
- ii. Provide written feedback to staff following observations.
- iii. Specifically address the delivery of Gun Violence in performance evaluations.

##### d. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Develop a policy that includes specific steps to address when Gun Violence is not delivered in the manner intended. This can include additional training and/or observation, coaching, etc.
- ii. Develop a system for evaluating the fidelity and quality of service delivery for Gun Violence. Data collection and monitoring processes can be enhanced by creating/using resources to monitor service delivery (e.g., “Pre-/Post-Tests”).

#### 2. Regarding Data Collection:

- a. Develop a tracking system for dosage or number of hours residents and staff are addressing Gun Violence if delivered to residents individually.