

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 310-T01

Agency Name: The Academy
Program Name: Community Based Services
Service Name: Community Based Services (CBS)
Cohort Total: 34
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Began the service on/after June 1, 2019 and ended the service on/before March 31, 2020
Referral County(s): Chester
Date(s) of Interview(s): November 20, 2020 & December 17, 2020
Lead County: Chester
Probation Representative(s): Kara Winchester, Mary Gaspari, and Lai-Onda Welcome
EPIS Representative: Dawn Karoscik

Description of Service:

The Academy Community Based Program offers daily, face-to-face contact, supervision, and 24/7 emergency intervention availability. The program allows students to remain in their home and community while addressing their educational, social, behavior, and employment needs. The Academy utilizes the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) principles of accountability, competency development, and community protection. The purpose of The Academy Community Based Program is: (1) To provide opportunities and development to avoid further involvement with the juvenile justice system; (2) To provide structure and accountability for the students processed through the juvenile justice system; (3) To monitor school attendance and academic progress; (4) To reduce overall recidivism; (5) To help students avoid detention or residential placement; (6) To help students avoid detention or residential placement for non-payment of restitution owed to the courts. The Academy's Community Specialists focus on facilitating positive community, school, and family involvement to increase behavioral accountability and life skills development. This, in conjunction with supervision, counseling, and intervention is geared to help youth reach the ultimate goal of eliminating further contact with the criminal justice system.

Community Based Services (CBS): All youth referred to The Academy receive this service as a community-based treatment for placement prevention or aftercare from residential placement. The service allows students to remain in their home and community while addressing their educational, social, behavior, and employment needs. All youth are assigned a Community Specialist, who works with the youth for the duration of the service. The Community Specialist will use the YLS and probation recommendations to complete an intake within 72 hours of court referral to determine youth treatment needs as it relates to home, community and school needs to include truancy concerns. The Community Specialist will develop a treatment plan for the youth and provide face-to-face contact (these can occur as often as daily), supervision, and 24/7 emergency intervention availability as youth achieve their goals through various activities, interventions and treatment methods. This includes services such as, court appearances, case supervision, and transportation. The Community Specialist can also provide community linkage to employment education and career readiness services and can also assist youth with resume writing and finding employment. They also perform curfew checks, contact the youth's probation officer 3 times per week, and provide family meetings as well as updates to the family weekly, or as necessary, to discuss progress, changes, or problems with the youth.

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: 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.

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| <u>20</u> | youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth | <u>5</u> | points |
| <u>2</u> | in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of | <u>0</u> | points |

Total Points Received: 5 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 37 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: 49% 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.

Community Based Services received a 37 for the Basic Score and a 49% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Group 1 service; Individual Counseling Service Type. There is no qualifying supplemental service found in the research. The Quality of Service Delivery was found to be at a High Level. For Amount of Service, 6% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 33% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 41% low risk, 53% moderate risk, 6% high risk, and 0% very high risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Staff Supervision:
 - i. Ensure all supervisors provide written feedback to delivery staff via the Weekly Supervision Form, and incorporate it into policy and procedures.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Maintain collaboration with Chester County Juvenile Probation to ensure that youth receive the research supported amount of service recommended for this type of service.
3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. All youth referred to Community Based Services should continue to receive the service despite their YLS/CMI risk level in accordance with Chester County Juvenile Probation.