

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Outside In-Voyagers-Community Service

Cohort Total: 17

SPEP ID: 170-T01

Selected Timeframe: Sep.1, 2016-Sep.1, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): Jul.17, 2017 & Jan.11, 2018

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Bill Shultz, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Bill Holt & Shawn Peck

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)*

Outside In is a nonprofit corporation based in Bolivar, Pennsylvania that provides services for youth and families. Outside In offers a continuum of care that includes both residential and nonresidential services with the goal to interrupt nonproductive behavior patterns and establish successful and positive development in referred youth. Upon entering Outside In, students are placed in one of two residential programs on the campus. The two programs offered at Outside In are Pathway to Recovery and Voyagers. The Voyagers Program is an activity-intensive 36-bed, male only, residential program focusing primarily on pro-social adolescent development and skill building. The Voyagers Program utilizes a cognitive behavioral approach which challenges each student's thinking and behavior patterns in three specific adolescent developmental areas: pro social skills, moral reasoning, and education. The Voyagers Program incorporates a group approach with experience-based learning. The group approach emphasizes pro-social skill building and the experience-based learning provides real-world engagement. The average length of stay is four to six months, but can vary from a month to a year or longer. Each student has the opportunity to earn community service hours and restitution. Using the YLS, other court documentation, and input from the Juvenile Probation Office, Outside In records the number of community service hours owed at intake for each student. Utilizing a wide variety of community-based partners, such as Boy Scout Camps, church camps, the Food Bank, and others, students are able to work toward fulfilling this juvenile justice requirement while also learning the valuable lessons that accompany such work – community engagement, accountability, responsibility, and self-sacrifice, among others. Students also have the opportunity to earn community service hours at the facility. Over and above the expectation of completing routine chores, students can also work to contribute to their own current community while learning valuable and transferrable skills by engaging in landscaping, kitchen work and food preparation, physical site beautification, infrastructure upgrades, and other meaningful tasks. This allows students to further learn valuable skills and to feel a sense of pride in their living environment. Restitution, court costs, and fines are also addressed by Outside In during a student's stay. Utilizing a private restitution fund, payments are made for each student approximately quarterly, though this may be adjusted for a variety of reasons. If restitution is a major factor that the juvenile probation officer feels needs to be addressed, the treatment team will work with the referring agency to develop a plan. Depending on the length of stay, student can expect Outside In to contribute from \$100 to \$500 towards costs, fines, and/or restitution.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Restitution/Community Service

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? No Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 15

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: 8

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 2

Total Points Earned: 10 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.

14 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 7 points

0 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

Total Points Earned: 7 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 52 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: 65% 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:

Community Service scored a 52 for the Basic Score and a 65% Program Optimization Percentage (POP). It was classified as a Group 2 service; Restitution; Community Service. The quality of service was found to be of high level. For amount of service, 94% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 24% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth that received this service were 18% low risk, 82% moderate risk, 0% high risk, and 0% as very high. This service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Organizational Response to Drift.

- i. Ensure the Organizational Response to Drift includes specific action steps focused on Community Service with a focus on not only the number of community service hours but also data on service delivery.
- ii. Enhance existing data review processes to include more formalized and documented procedures that can be included in the drift policy.
- iii. Review findings with staff delivering service to include documentation through training.
- iv. Review the feedback collected from the non-profit partnerships that provide community service opportunities.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for the targeted amount of service.
- b. Discuss aftercare options to help with transition after residential treatment:
 - i. Reconsider the “pre-release” option that increases frequency of home passes as youth approach discharge.
 - ii. Initiate a transition plan for each student.

3. Regarding Level of Risk:

- a. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for the Level of Risk.
- b. Increase collaboration between juvenile probation and Outside In to consider:
 - i. Each youth’s responsivity factors during treatment.
 - ii. Appropriate length of stay for each youth.