

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc.-Community Service Program

Cohort Total: 44/43

SPEP ID: 198-T01

Selected Timeframe: Jan.1, 2016-Dec. 20, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 21, 2017 & Sep. 29, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: David Evrard, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: David Evrard & 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)*

Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc. (TDP) is a Residential Independent Living Program located in Tionesta, PA. TDP is community based and promotes wellness through developing strong ties to the community, while creating a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens and enhancing their appreciation of the natural world. Balanced and Restorative Justice concepts are reinforced throughout each youth's treatment. Community Protection is accomplished by providing a safe and structured environment to the treatment of youth and helps them change their behaviors of concern. Victim Restoration is accomplished by working with youth to accept responsibility for their behavior, understand how their behavior has affected others, acknowledge the harm caused to their victims and communities, and take steps to restore the victim and the community. Competency Development is accomplished by providing opportunities for youth to develop a sense of belonging, form close relationships with those around them, make meaningful and responsible choices, and develop transferable skills to avoid future harmful behaviors.

Community Service Program is guided by a restorative community service model. The Community Service Program is a purposeful response to crime that is focused on meaningful outcomes for offenders, victims, and the community. Such a response focuses on what needs to be repaired, what needs to be healed, and what needs to be learned. It brings balance to the community's response, placing a high priority on the needs of victims and the community. Community Service Program events are scheduled and placed on the in-house community service calendar. The mentor processes the event with all the participating youth, before, during, and afterwards. Youth participating in each event will discuss the "highs" and "lows" of the event, along with what they feel they have gained/learned. Upon entry into TDP, each youth's counselor contacts the designated probation office to identify how many community service hours the youth is required to complete. It is TDP's mission to have each youth complete all of their community service requirements while in the program. Youth complete outstanding community service in various ways, such as: hosting a monthly on-site benefit bingo, road side clean ups, volunteering at Tri-County Animal Rescue, recording blue bird data at Oil Creek DCNR, stocking fish with the PA Fish Commission, projects with the US Forestry Company and the Army Corps of Engineers, snow removal, yard clean-up and mowing, and maintaining the grounds of the Tionesta Market Village.

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? n/a 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: 5 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 18 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 48 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: 60% 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 Program scored a 48 for the Basic Score and a 60% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Group 2 service; Restitution/Community Service. The quality of service delivery was found to be at a low level. The amount of service provided to the youth was 80% of the recommended targeted weeks for duration and 30% of the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the service were 7% as low, 65% as moderate risk, and 28% as high risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery: a. Written Protocol: i. Develop a written protocol or manual that describes the service being delivered and outlines the service delivery expectations by process or topic and identifies the specific population targeted for Community Service Program. ii. Develop documentation process to ensure manual/protocol is delivered as intended. iii. Develop a routine schedule to update the manual. b. Staff Training: i. Develop a specialized training program for all staff delivering the services that describes: 1. The mission and purpose of Balanced and Restorative Justice. 2. The components and processes of Community Service Program. 3. Expectations of staff and youth. ii. Develop booster/refresher trainings and document participation. iii. Ensure supervisors of Community Service Program participate in training. c. Staff Supervision: i. Develop a process to monitor the delivery of this service. ii. Utilize a documentation process to ensure manual/protocol is delivered as intended. iii. Ensure the supervisor provides written feedback for those who deliver this service. iv. Include information specific to the delivery of this service in employee performance evaluations. d. Organizational Response to Drift: i. Develop policy/procedures that outline how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service. ii. Ensure that the policy/procedures in response to drift include action steps including an “if-then” approach, for the agency to take to avoid drift. iii. Develop a process to collect feedback from youth and staff on the service with the intention of improving service delivery.
2. Regarding Amount of Service: a. Although it is the mission of TDP that youth complete all required community service hours, the SPEP™ requires that this service be delivered for a targeted duration of 12 weeks and that each juvenile receive a targeted dosage of 60 hours. Rather than have the youth only fulfill their obligation, it is recommended that each youth receive a minimum of 60 community service hours.