

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** The Summit Academy-Victim Awareness Curriculum  
Cohort Total: 42 SPEP ID: 191-T01  
Selected Timeframe: Jan. 11, 2016-Oct. 14, 2016  
Date(s) of Interview(s): Jan. 18, 2017 & Mar. 6, 2017  
Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: William Holt, Allegheny Co., & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter  
Person Preparing Report: William 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)*

The Summit Academy is a private, residential school for court-adjudicated and dependent male youth ages 14-19 in grades 9-12. The program is multi-faceted, interweaving academics, counseling, trades training, and athletics. Youth with drug and alcohol issues reside on a different floor than those without drug and alcohol issues.

Victim Awareness Curriculum: Advancing Accountability, Moving Toward Victim Restoration is designed to enhance the students' understanding of the impact of crime, guide them in writing apology letters, ensuring that provisions are made for restitution, when possible, and reinforce the concept of accountability for wrongful actions. The curriculum runs on a twenty (20) week cycle that runs all year. There are no gaps in the sequence and all youth get this service. All youth who participate in this service write an apology letter to the victim.

**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 Earned: 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 and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Earned: 10 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: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 2

Total Points Earned: 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 20 Total Points Possible: 25

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 62 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:** 66% 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)

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## 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:

The Victim Awareness Curriculum scored a 62% for the Basic Score and a 66% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 4 service type. The quality of service was found to be at a Medium Level. The amount of service provided to the clients was 0% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 34% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 0% as low risk, 74% as moderate risk, and 26% as high risk. The program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality Service Delivery:

a. Staff Training:

- i. Develop a checklist or form that would be used by supervisors to measure and document the group facilitation skills that staff demonstrated while delivering this service to students.
- ii. Develop a booster training for this service.
- iii. Ensure supervisors are trained to deliver and document this service.

b. Staff Supervision:

- i. Develop a checklist or form specific to the intervention to ensure that weekly lesson material was delivered and documented to the students.
  - ii. Develop a form specific to this intervention that will focus on direct observation of all groups.
  - iii. Develop a supervision process to ensure fidelity to include a schedule of direct observation.
- c. Response to Drift:
- i. Develop a policy that outlines how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service.
  - ii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, an ‘if-then’ approach.
  - iii. Develop a progressive supervision process and response plan to avoid drift in service delivery.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Make modifications to provide longer service participation, allowing for alignment with research supported amounts of 24 weeks and 40 hours.
- b. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for targeted amount of service of 24 weeks and 40 hours.

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 1

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0191-T02

Agency Name: The Summit Academy  
Program Name: The Summit Academy  
Service Name: Victim Awareness Curriculum  
Cohort Total: 44 for Amount of Service; 41 for Risk Level  
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Mar. 25, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019  
Referral County(s): Adams (1); Allegheny (12); Beaver (1); Berks (1); Chester (2); Clinton (1); Crawford (2); Dauphin (1); Delaware (2); Fayette (1); Huntingdon (1); Lebanon (1); Monroe (3); Montgomery (1); Philadelphia (5); Schuylkill (1); Westmoreland (5); York (3)  
Date(s) of Interview(s): Dec. 9, 2019 & Feb. 12, 2020  
Lead County: Allegheny  
Probation Representative(s): William Shultz  
EPIS Representative: Christa Park

## Description of Service:

The Summit Academy is a private residential school for young men, ages 12-18 in grades 7-12 who are overcoming delinquency, dependency, and addiction issues. The school provides a multi-faceted approach to treatment, rehabilitation and recovery for youth who have experienced substantial trauma and challenges in their past. Summit Academy's trauma-informed milieu interweaves academics, substance abuse treatment, mental health service, evidence-based counseling, family support services, trades training, community service, arts and athletics to provide a transforming opportunity and holistic support system. The unwavering encouragement and comprehensive competency skill development they receive enables them to redirect their lives and focus on healthy and positive futures.

Summit Academy's Victim Awareness Curriculum is based on the "Advancing Accountability, Moving toward Victim Restoration" curriculum. Advancing Accountability, Moving toward Victim Restoration is designed to enhance the students' understanding of the impact of crime, guide them in writing apologies, ensure that provisions are made for restitution, when possible, and reinforce the concept of accountability for wrongful actions. The curriculum was modified during the PIP process (now includes a portion on victim impact) to become a 24-week curriculum. The enhancements included use of the "Looking Inward" workbook; this workbook outlines "restorative community" and victim impact modules to enhance learning.

### 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:** 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:** 2  
**Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours:** 6

**Total Points Received:** 8 **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.

32 / 41 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth 7 points  
16 / 41 in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

**Total Points Received:** 20 **Total Points Possible:** 25

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 78 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:** 82% 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.

The Victim Awareness Curriculum received a 78 for the Basic Score and an 82% Program Optimization Percentage. These Basic Scores represent an increase of 16 percentage point(s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment. These POP Scores represent an increase of 16 percentage point(s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment.

The service was classified as a Group 4 service; Group 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, 39% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 60% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 22% low risk, 39% moderate risk, 39% 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. Written Protocol:
    - i. Enhance existing policy to include utilization of the YLS (i.e., risk, needs, and responsivity factors) when identifying youth appropriate for the service.
    - ii. Include review/revision date on binder materials.
  - b. Staff Training:
    - i. Within the written protocol, outline current practices regarding initial employee orientation on group services and process for annual booster trainings (e.g., the training director's annual schedule).
    - ii. Use information gathered from direct observation of service delivery to identify topics for potential booster trainings (e.g., facilitation issues, strengths, etc.).
  - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
    - i. Identify current mechanisms in place in which documentation of drift policy use could be captured (e.g., bullet list on agendas, attaching agendas to sign-in sheets, etc.).
    - ii. Ensure the drift policy contains an "if-then" approach for corrective action steps to be taken if service delivery departs from what is intended for both service-specific delivery as well as employee performance delivery.
    - iii. Enhance current practices to include service-specific data collection & analysis to impact service delivery.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
  - a. Maintain communication with referral JPO to better match research recommendations for the target amount of service and appropriate length of stay for each youth.
3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
  - a. Collaborate with referral JPO to consider the appropriate risk level for each youth.
  - b. Collaborate with referral JPO to consider each youth's responsivity factors during service delivery.