

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

**Service Score Results:** Advisory (\*) SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0341-A01-T01

Agency/Program Name: Children's Home of Reading/Lehigh Valley Community Programs

Service Name: Specialized In-Home Service (SIS) – Individual Therapy

Cohort Total: 7 (\*)

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after September 1, 2020 and ended on/before September 30, 2022

Referral County(s): Lehigh (6), Northampton (1)

Feedback Report Delivery: February 28, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Lehigh County - Tracie Henry, Quality Assurance Juvenile Probation Officer II & Eva Frederick, Juvenile Probation Officer II

EPIS SIS(s): Lisa Freese

The Children's Home of Reading was established in 1884 as a day nursery for working mothers and was located on Franklin Street in Reading. The first Board of Directors was organized in 1886; members were drawn from throughout Reading and Berks County. In 1888 the "Home for Friendless Children" was incorporated and was a privately-owned charitable organization. By 1947, the name of the Home for Friendless Children was officially changed to The Children's Home of Reading to better describe its atmosphere and purpose. The Home began to expand its programs to offer treatment-oriented care rather than custodial care. The Board of Directors amended The Children's Home Charter in 1974 to expand its function and accommodate more children with different and more serious kinds of problems such as abuse, neglect, truancy, and drug abuse. In 1997, The Children's Home of Reading established a second corporation, CHOR Youth & Family Services, Inc., (CHOR Services). The Children's Home of Reading continues to provide a treatment-oriented residential and community-based programming for children and teenagers.

A continuum of care approach is utilized with varying levels of intensity. Their community-based services emphasize personal accountability and family involvement through a team-based approach. Various treatment approaches are utilized based upon the needs of each individual. The Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS) is utilized to address areas of concern. A trauma-informed approach and cognitive behavioral techniques are used by staff to assist with healing and reframing impaired thought patterns. The use of community supports and resources is encouraged. There are 5 different levels of service within the Specialized In-Home Program: Specialized In Home Service (SIS), Specialized Family Program (SFP), Specialized Intensive Family Program (SFP), Specialized Residential Prevention Program (SRPP), and Individual and Family Sessions.

The focus of this report is the Individual Therapy component of the Specialized In-Home Service, which was designed to be utilized as a free-standing community intervention model, a step-down from more intensive community programming, or as an aftercare component assisting with the transition of the youth returning to the community from residential placement. The SIS is an individualized and creative approach for sexually acting out youth ranging from 8 to 20 years of age. The program involves creation of a safety plan, case management, direct service, and supervision in the community, school, and home milieus. If the youth is not in group, an additional individual contact will be made. If the youth is not present for a scheduled session, at least one additional contact will be made to make up for the missed session. The Community Interventionist will act as a change agent, liaison, and advocate for the identified youth. The youth sessions are primarily focused on sex offense specific psycho-education, prevention and victimization, but also cover other life skill training. The BARJ philosophy is utilized with community/victim empathy, restoration, and competency development woven throughout service delivery. Weekly groups are available on-site for the youth. Transportation assistance is available, if needed, to youth attending group. The average length of stay is approximately twelve to eighteen months.

## 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: 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 25 weeks, 30 hours.

1	youth in the cohort of	7	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total	N/A*	points
2	youth in the cohort of	7	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: 1 low risk, 4 moderate risk, 2 high risk, and 0 very high risk

6	youth in the cohort of	7	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	N/A*	points
2	youth in the cohort of	7	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	N/A*	points

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

**\*A minimum of 10 youth is required for data analysis to occur. Due to insufficient cohort size, 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. Note in the manual what type of youth are most appropriate for Specialized In Home Services (for example: include YLS domains addressed by the service).
- ii. Develop a pre-determined timeframe to review and/or update the manual (annually for example) and document it on the manual.

##### b. Staff Supervision:

- i. Provide written feedback to each of the Family and Community Interventionists on delivery of the service (this could be done following the monthly meetings as an example).
- ii. In the written performance review, provide feedback specific to the delivery of Individual Therapy for the Specialized In-Home Service.

##### c. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Create a policy that specifically addresses how drift from service delivery will be corrected, and document when it is utilized. Include responses such as additional training, constructive written feedback, etc.

#### 2. Regarding Data Collection:

- a. Consider ways to increase the number of hours and weeks youth receive the service. This could include the targeted dosage and duration for an individual counseling service through the SPEP™ on referral, marketing and court materials.
- b. Continue to aim to serve youth with a YLS risk level of moderate to very high.