

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Alternative (*) SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0353-A01-T01

Agency/Program Name: Abraxas Youth & Family Services/Abraxas PATH (Preparation for Adolescent Transition to Home)

Service Name: Residential PATH

Cohort Total: Cohort data unavailable *

Cohort Time Frame: N/A

Referral County(s): Delaware and Montgomery

Feedback Report Delivery: December 18, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Kiersten Keenan - Delaware County Juvenile Probation
Anthony Anderson and Jennifer Ungarino - Montgomery County Juvenile Probation

EPIS SIS(s): Dawn Karoscik and Lisa Fetzer

Abraxas Youth & Family Services (Abraxas Y&FS) functions as a nonprofit organization, delivering a diverse range of services to over 5,000 individuals and families annually. The organization originated in Marienville, Pennsylvania, in 1973, starting with a single site and serving 30 clients. Presently, after 50 years, Abraxas operates programs in five states, offering treatment, behavioral health services, educational and vocational support, life skills, family counseling, recreation, and community engagement. Abraxas adopts a strength-based, client-centered, family-oriented, and trauma-focused approach. The organization provides alternative education, outpatient counseling, in-home services, shelter, detention, residential treatment, and re-entry/transition assistance.

Abraxas PATH (Preparation for Adolescent Transition to Home) is a service offered in 2 different settings; residential (Residential PATH) and community (Community PATH). The services are designed to help youth be successful in either setting by providing supports where needed.

In effort to continue the success achieved while in Abraxas residential placements, the Residential PATH Program is designed to help youth successfully reintegrate back into their community by providing intensive, in-home and community based services. The PATH Case Manager will work with the youth and his/her family in conjunction with the residential treatment team throughout his/her commitment to placement, during any court approved home passes and ultimately, his/her return home following discharge, in effort to meet the goal of reducing the chance of recidivism.

The Residential PATH Program aims to help youth establish and maintain positive community connections, apply treatment-derived competencies, and adhere to probation conditions. Recognizing the pivotal role of families in successful reintegration, the program actively involves parents or guardians in their child's treatment, both during residential placement and post-reintegration into the community.

The Residential PATH Program is available in both Delaware and Montgomery Counties, with caseloads managed by two case managers. Service delivery begins the first month a youth is in residential placement and there are 3 tiers that guides length of time in the program.

Tier System Outline

Residential:

Tier 1: 2 individuals and 1 family contact per month

Post Residential:

Tier 2: 16 weeks (2 individuals and 1 family contact per week)

Tier 3: 4 weeks (1 individual and 1 family contact per week)

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Mentoring

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Behavioral Management

Was the supplemental service provided? No **Total Points Possible for this Service Type:** 30

Total Points Received: 25 **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 dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction. Targeted duration and dosage for this service is 26 weeks, 78 hours.

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

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

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

*** Due to limited availability of qualitative and/or quantitative data, 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 Primary & Supplemental Service Types:
 - a. Consider utilizing Behavior Contracting/Management to supplement the service.
2. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Written Protocol:
 - i. Identify in writing the youth that are most appropriate for this service as it relates to the YLS/criminogenic needs.
 - b. Staff Training:
 - i. Provide booster trainings at pre-determined timeframes relevant to the service
 - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - i. Develop a policy and procedure to identify departure from the fidelity and quality of service delivery.
 - ii. Ensure documentation is developed and utilized to verify implementation of policies and procedures.
 - iii. Develop an if/then approach to specific corrective action steps to address departure from fidelity and quality of service.
3. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Collaborate with Delaware and Montgomery County Juvenile Probation to ensure youth are receiving research recommendations for the targeted amount of service of 26 weeks and 78 hours.
 - b. Develop a mechanism to capture dosage and duration that is being delivered in the residential setting.
 - c. As it relates to Forward Thinking Journals, ensure that dosage and duration is being captured and what journals are completed and shared with JPO in the monthly reports.
4. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. Continue collaboration with Delaware and Montgomery County Juvenile Probation to ensure the most appropriate referrals are being received.