

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 319-T01

Agency Name: Bucks County Youth Center (BCYC)

Program Name: Residential Services Unit (RSU)

Service Name: Behavior Management

Cohort Total: 42

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Began the service on/after March 1, 2018 and ended the service on/before March 1, 2020

Referral County(s): Bucks

Date(s) of Interview(s): April 6, 2021

Lead County: Bucks

Probation Representative(s): Rich Kubicek

EPIS Representative: Kevin Perluke

Description of Service:

The Residential Services Unit (RSU) is a twenty-bed, non-secure program located at the Bucks County Youth Center and licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Juveniles are placed at the RSU on the recommendation of Bucks County Juvenile Probation and by the order of the Bucks County Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. All juveniles have been adjudicated delinquent and found to need supervision and treatment. The RSU is a restorative justice program, which focuses on accountability, competency development, and community protection. Case planning is individualized and based upon diagnostic assessment. Length of stay is indeterminate and dependent upon individual circumstances and progress. Individual, family and group therapies are provided by Lenape Valley Foundation. Educational services are provided by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22. The overall goal of the program is to hold residents accountable for their crimes, offer them the opportunity to restore damage to their victims and the community, and provide opportunities for offenders to gain new competencies intended to assure they will live productive, crime-free lives in the future.

Additionally, we design programs that address your development as an adolescent. These include your physical, emotional, relational, intellectual, sexual and spiritual development. Furthermore, many of the children who are ordered to our programs are survivors of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Our program is designed to help survivors overcome symptoms associated with past trauma. These programs are described later in the handbook.

We will work with you, your family/caregivers, and your Juvenile Probation Officer to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP) within 30 days of you being placed at the RSU. The ISP will describe the goals you need to accomplish to successfully complete the program. There is a behavior level system that rewards you for your good behavior in the program, and your active participation in programming. By advancing in the level system you can gain more access to the community including your home, community-based school and possibly work.

Behavior Management helps youth demonstrate the ability to take ownership for their behavior and act in a socially acceptable manner. Youth have the ability to advance levels due to their positive behavior, accomplishing personal goals, attendance in therapeutic or competency activities, and school behavior/ participation. The levels for both male and female youth include Orientation/Emerald, Bronze/Sapphire, Silver/Topaz, and Gold/Diamond. Each level has certain privileges they receive. The In order to advance each level the youth must maintain required signatures as well as to make an oral presentation. The purpose of the oral presentation is for you to demonstrate that you are gaining an understanding of your responsibilities and objectives in the program. The oral presentation is your opportunity to explain why you should be given a level advancement in front of a panel representing the agency administration, supervisors, staff members, therapeutic staff and your teachers. After your presentation, this panel will convene to decide about whether you have earned your level or give you specific objectives that you need to accomplish before advancing levels.

The Behavior Management Level System in the Residential Services Unit (RSU) is designed to hold you accountable for your compliance with program rules and expectations and for your positive participation in program activities. This is consistent with the goal of assisting residents in learning to behave in a pro-social manner and addressing the common criminogenic risk areas of personality/behavior and attitudes/orientation. Achievement in the level system is tied to both privileges and expectations in the program. The level system for both male and female residents include Orientation/Emerald, Bronze/Sapphire, Silver/Topaz and Gold/Diamond. In order to advance levels, you must achieve a determined number of daily signatures and make an oral presentation (level review). The purpose of the level review is for you to demonstrate that you are gaining an understanding of your responsibilities and goals in the program as well as appeal why you should advance levels. Your levels reviews will be presented to a panel representing agency administration, supervisors, case managers, therapeutic staff persons and education staff. After your presentation, the panel will convene to decide about whether you have earned your level or give you specific objectives that you need to accomplish if you have not earned your level.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Behavioral Management

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

If so, what is the Service Type? Mentoring

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes **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: 6
Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 6

Total Points Received: 12 **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.

<u>42</u>	youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth	<u>12</u>	points
<u>20</u>	in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>13</u>	points

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

Basic SPEP™ Score: 87 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: 92% 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.

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Written Protocol:

- i. Ensure that the manual is updated yearly and is time stamped.

b. Staff Supervision:

- i. Develop a process for supervisors to monitor service delivery.
- ii. Ensure that documentation occurs when supervisors monitor staff.
- iii. Document supervision of staff at predetermined time frames.
- iv. Ensure that all supervisors provide written feedback to staff delivering 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. Within the written policy, develop a process to document the utilization of the drift policy.
- iii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift policy includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, including an “if-then” approach or specific corrective action steps to address departure from the fidelity and quality of service delivery.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Maintain communication between RSU and Bucks County Juvenile Probation regarding youth being discharged early from the program without looking at the research recommended targeted amount of service.

3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

- a. Continue to communicate with Bucks County Juvenile Probation regarding the research supported targeted risk population recommended for this service type; there are larger positive effects on recidivism with high risk juveniles.