

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0321-T01

Agency Name: Chester County Juvenile Probation

Program Name: Internally Facilitated Services

Service Name: Community Service Program

Cohort Total: 33 for Amount of Service/32 for Risk

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Referral County(s): Chester

Date(s) of Interview(s): Service Classification: March 2, 2021, Quality of Service Interview: April 26, 2021

Lead County: Chester

Probation Representative(s): Kara Winchester, Mary Gaspari, and Lai-Onda Welcome

EPIS Representative: Dawn Karoscik

Description of Service:

The mission of the Chester County Juvenile Probation Department is to create balanced and restorative plans for juvenile offenders that involve their families, victims, and community and ensure accountability for harms caused and development of valued skills, while upholding the rights of victims.

The Community Service Program provides an opportunity for juvenile offenders to engage in productive partnerships with the community, to promote accountability, foster empathy for victims, develop competencies and build self-esteem as the juvenile restores losses to their victim and the community. The Community Service Program supports the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice; the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

- Accountability
 - o Crime victims can make recommendations as to how and where juveniles complete their community service obligation.
 - o Direct service to victims is coordinated whenever possible.
- Competency Development
 - o Juveniles practice skills that are required and valued in the workforce.
- Community Protection
 - o Juveniles are engaged in service during peak crime hours; after school and on weekends.
 - o Juveniles are supervised by responsible adult members of the community.

Community service staff along with Probation Officers work side by side with the youth in a diverse variety of community service projects throughout the county. These projects vary in nature, from land preservation, carpentry work, as well as various supports within Chester County. When possible, community service events are completed in the area the youth resides to help youth gain a sense of connection and pride. Probation staff provide mentoring and useful skills to encourage appreciation for the work they are completing. They teach and model skills with hands on training while providing guidance. In addition to the skills taught, youth also have an opportunity to learn about work ethic. Any youth on supervision can participate and are assigned hours based upon their age and type of offense.

If youth owe restitution they have the opportunity to earn credit towards their restitution obligation through the performance of community service work that is in addition to any community service hours ordered for their offense or costs and fines owed. Juveniles over 16 are encouraged to obtain employment in order to pay their debt. If an older juvenile demonstrates an inability to obtain or maintain employment, they may be considered for the program on a case by case basis. As a juvenile completes community service hours, they accumulate credits which are then converted into dollars. This money is then paid directly to that juvenile's victim through the Juvenile Court Restitution Fund which is sustained by court costs.

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 Received: 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, 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: 2

Total Points Received: 4 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.

10	youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth	2	points
1	in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	0	points

Total Points Received: 2 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 41 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: 51% 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. Review and update the manual at predetermined time frames and date when this occurs.

b. Organizational Response to Drift:

i. Manualize the process that is in place when departure from fidelity and quality occurs with the service.

ii. Ensure documentation is developed and utilized to verify implementation of policies and procedures.

iii. Include in the manual an “if-then” approach for corrective action steps if service delivery departs from what is intended.

iv. Consider developing youth surveys to obtain feedback on quality of service.

2. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

a. Youth, regardless of risk level will continue to receive this service when community services hours are assigned and/or money is owed.