

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc.-Individual Counseling
Cohort Total: 43 SPEP ID: 195-T01
Selected Timeframe: Jan.1, 2016-Dec. 20, 2017
Date(s) of Interview(s): Aug. 21, 2017 & Dec. 4, 2017
Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Bill Shultz, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter
Person Preparing Report: Bill Shultz & 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)*

Taylor Diversion Programs, Inc. (TDP) is a Residential Independent Living Program located in Tionesta, PA. TDP is community based and promotes wellness through developing strong ties to the community, while creating a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens and enhancing their appreciation of the natural world. Balanced and Restorative Justice concepts are reinforced throughout each youth's treatment. Community Protection is accomplished by providing a safe and structured environment to the treatment of youth and helps them change their behaviors of concern. Victim Restoration is accomplished by working with youth to accept responsibility for their behavior, understand how their behavior has affected others, acknowledge the harm caused to their victims and communities, and take steps to restore the victim and the community. Competency Development is accomplished by providing opportunities for youth to develop a sense of belonging, form close relationships with those around them, make meaningful and responsible choices, and develop transferable skills to avoid future harmful behaviors.

Youth are provided with a minimum of a one-hour individual counseling session with their assigned counselor each week. The content of these sessions will focus on specified weekly goals outlined in the Individual Service Plan (ISP), which is developed utilizing the Youth Level Services (YLS) or on any youth needs that require immediate attention. Individual counseling sessions utilize a strength-based approach that is future paced, specifically focused on preparing the youth for successful, long term reintegration into their community. Individual counseling sessions utilize guided discovery to help youth identify a positive career/life path in the future. Individual counseling sessions also serve as a platform for relationship development. However, the primary focus would be using relationships to help youth address any underlying issues. Counselors are encouraged to conduct individual counseling sessions in environments that are outside of the traditional 'across the desk' format, to include conducting sessions outdoors in the nature-based setting where students reside.

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 Earned: 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 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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 0

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.

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

12 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

Basic SPEP™ Score: 42 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: 57% 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)

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:

Individual Counseling scored a 42 for the Basic Score and a 57% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Group 1 service; Individual Counseling. The quality of service delivery was found to be at a medium level. The amount of service provided to the youth was 37% of the recommended targeted weeks for duration and 7% of the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the service were 5% as low risk, 67% as moderate risk, and 28% as high risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

- a. Written Protocol: i. Develop a written protocol/manual that describes the service by process, topic, lesson, and session, while making it scheduled to update the protocols and ensure the latest version is utilized.
- b. Staff Training: i. Develop documentation for the specialized training of individual counseling components. ii. Develop documentation for the Professional Development Conferences and Case Management Trainings. iii. Develop booster/refresher training, or ongoing training in service delivery. iv. Develop documentation that supervisors are trained to deliver the service.
- c. Staff Supervision: i. Develop a process to monitor the over-arching policy/procedures that encompasses the entirety of this service to ensure adherence to protocol.
- d. Organizational Response to Drift: i. Develop policy/procedure that outline how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service. ii. Ensure that the policy/procedures in response to drift include action steps including an “if-then” approach, for the agency to take to avoid drift. iii. Develop a process to collect feedback from youth and staff on the service with the intention of improving service delivery.