

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Loysville YDC-Victim Awareness Curriculum-Group Counseling

Cohort Total: 24

SPEP ID: 138-T01

Selected Timeframe: Jan. 16, 2016 - Dec. 8, 2016

Date(s) of Interview(s): Oct. 20, 2016

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Matt Foster, Dauphin Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Matt Foster

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)*

Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC) is a state secure facility that provides residential services for moderate to high risk male youth. It is located at 10 Opportunity Drive, Loysville PA 17047. Referrals are made to the State Court Liaison for Loysville by the juvenile probation department. The State Court liaison determines whether the youth is appropriate for Loysville or another state facility. This facility consists of six separate cottages as well as a secure unit. Each cottage has a specific focus in terms of the treatment received by the youth: ZB cottage focuses on D&A issues, Williams Cottage focuses on lower functioning youth that are in need of academic remediation, East Penn is general residential, Juniata focuses on older youth who have their GED/Diploma and need vocational counseling and payment of restitution, Allegheny focuses on younger youth and STAR focuses on youth identified with mental health needs.

Victim Awareness Curriculum (VAC) group counseling curricula is provided to youth in order to improve interactions and help the youth sustain positive relationships in their community. VAC is an 8-week group, with one-hour sessions facilitated two times per week (16 hours of service delivered in 8 weeks). In VAC, youth explore their harmful actions toward others (both family and community members) as a result of their criminal behaviors. Group members utilize a Victim Impact Assessment Tool on a weekly basis to increase their ability to recognize consequences of antisocial actions and alter their behavior in various scenarios tailored to this population.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

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

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: 30

Total Points Earned: 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 and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Earned: 20 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: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 0

Total Points Earned: 0 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.

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

14 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

Total Points Earned: 25 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 75 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: 79% 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:

Victim Awareness Curriculum (VAC) at Loysville scored a 75 for the Basic Score and a 79% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group Counseling service type. The quality of the service was delivered at a high level. For amount of service, none of the residents were provided the recommended targets of duration and dosage for this service type. All of the youth scored above low for Risk Level and enough youth scored above Moderate Risk to receive the maximum points for this service type. The program could continue its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Enhance Written Protocol:
 - a. Identify or develop a Victim Awareness Curriculum that matches the Group Counseling service type recommended duration of 24 weeks.
2. Enhance Staff Training:
 - a. Develop a booster training that is specialized for this service.
3. Amount of Service:
 - a. Investigate ways to increase the number of weeks of service and contact hours to reach the recommended 24 weeks and 40 hours.
4. Risk Level:
 - a. Continue to accept High Risk youth for this service.