
Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol [SPEP] Report

Dade Juvenile Regional Facility
TrueCore Behavioral Solutions, LLC
(Contract Provider)
18500 SW 424 Street
Florida City, Florida 33034-7100

Primary Service: Individual Counseling
SPEP Review Date(s): February 26-March 1, 2019



Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Report Date(s): March 4, 2019

Introduction

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) is a data-driven rating system for evaluating program effectiveness. The SPEP was developed by relying on hundreds of studies that have examined key characteristics of programs that demonstrated their ability to reduce recidivism. To determine a SPEP score, the program's services are compared to characteristics of effective programs in the research of a similar type.

The SPEP score is composed of four principle characteristics that have been shown to predict reductions in youth recidivism; service type, quality of service, dosage (amount of service), and youth level of risk.

- **Service Type:** service type points are awarded based on the group category that the service falls within
- **Quality of Service:** quality points are awarded by determining the extent to which the program is delivered in what research suggests is a high-quality manner
- **Amount of Service:** or "dosage" refers to the amount and duration of services that were received
- **Risk Level:** refers to the level of criminogenic risk for youth involved in the intervention.

The final output of the SPEP review is the Program Optimization Percentage (POP). This rate is derived from the Basic Score and Program Optimization Score. The POP rate is a percentage score that indicates how the service rates in effectiveness when compared to the potential effectiveness if optimized to match the most effective services in the research. This means the POP rate represents how close the program's Primary Service is to its potential for that Primary Service Type. For example, a POP rate of 55% would indicate that the program's Primary Service is operating at 55% of its potential effectiveness for recidivism reduction based on the SPEP research.

1. Primary Service and Supplemental Service Types

Basic Score: 10 Points
POS: 10 Points
POP: 100%

There are five Primary Service Types that have been classified into Groups with a maximum number of points possible for rating purposes. Some Primary Service Types may also have qualifying Supplemental Service Types that could earn a program an additional 5 points.

The Primary Service for this program is Individual Counseling. The program was awarded 5 points because the Primary Service is identified as a Group 1 Service. The specific Sub-Component Service Type identified is Individual Counseling. The Primary Service was identified as this type of service as it includes any range of treatment techniques that focus on psychological or interpersonal problems or issues faced by an individual that involves a one-on-one relationship with a therapist or counselor.

An additional 5 points was awarded based on a Qualifying Supplemental Service. The Qualifying Supplemental Service was identified as None (automatic 5 points added to score), which was not demonstrated to have been implemented.

The Primary and Supplemental Service Raw Score is equal to the sum of the Primary Service points plus the Qualifying Supplemental Service points.

Note: Quality information is evaluated by the Bureau of Monitoring and Quality Improvement while on-site during the annual compliance review.

2. Overall Quality of Service Delivery Score	Basic Score: 20 Points POS: 20 Points POP: 100%
<i>The Quality of Service Delivery Score is the sum of the scores for the seven treatment quality indicators. The Program Optimization Percentage Rating determines the Overall Quality of Service Level: Indicator Sum Score 0-3 = Low; Sum Score 4-7 = Medium; Sum Score 8-10 = High.</i>	

Sum of all Indicator Scores (a – g below): 10 Points

Overall Quality of Service Delivery Level:

- ☐ Low (Raw Score = 5)
☐ Medium (Raw Score = 10)
☒ High (Raw Score = 20 Points)

a. Facilitator Training	Basic Score: 1 Point(s) Maximum Possible Score: 1 Point
<i>All facilitator(s) of the Primary Service must have received formal training specific to the intervention or model/protocol.</i>	

The SPEP review encompasses twelve (12) months of records. The program provided documentation of delivery of individual counseling during the last twelve (12) months. The program provided written documentation of the training of the facilitators. The facilitators are either master level therapists, or interns working under the direction of a master level therapist. The therapists all are under the Director of Clinical Services, who is also licensed therapist.

b. Treatment Manual/Protocol	Basic Score: 2 Point(s) Maximum Possible Score: 2 Points
<i>There is a specific written manual/protocol detailing delivery of the Primary Service.</i>	

The program has a written policy of the delivery of individual counseling services. The youth within the program have some type of mental health counseling daily. The types include, but are not limited to: group, supportive, and individual counseling. The program provided documentation of youth receiving individual counseling a minimum of once per week.

c. Observed Adherence to the Manual/Protocol	Basic Score: 1 Point(s) Maximum Possible Score: 1 Point
<i>Upon observation of the Primary Service by the Quality Improvement reviewer, the facilitator of that service adhered to the written protocol/manual.</i>	

The primary service could not be observed due to confidentiality, and nature of the client/therapist dynamic. The program did provide casenotes reflecting the general topic(s) of conversation discussed during individual session. Case notes did reflect the youth consistently receive counseling sessions based on their individual needs.

d. Facilitator Turnover	Basic Score: 2 Point(s) Maximum Possible Score: 2 Points
<i>Measures the extent to which facilitators of the specific intervention/service have changed as well as gaps in service of that Primary Service.</i>	

No facilitator turnover has occurred that adversely affects the delivery of services. The Director of Clinical Services stated that if a therapist leaves the program, she would rotate in to provide counseling services until a new therapist could be hired.

e. Internal Fidelity Monitoring	Basic Score: 2 Point(s) Maximum Possible Score: 2 Points
<i>The program has a process to monitor the delivery of the intervention to examine how closely actual implementation matches the model protocol.</i>	

According to documentation provided by the program, and an informal conversation with the Director of Clinical Services, the casenotes are reviewed at least monthly. Often, notes are reviewed and approved on a bi-weekly basis. The case notes are approved and maintained in an internal computer system.

f. Corrective Action based on Fidelity Monitoring	Basic Score: 1 Point Maximum Possible Score: 1 Point
<i>The program has a process by which corrective action is applied and demonstrated based on the fidelity monitoring of the delinquency intervention/therapeutic service.</i>	

The program has a procedure for applying corrective action if a therapist is found to be in need of skill development. The Director of Clinical Services would document the needs for corrective action, and develop plan for the therapist to improve their skills.

g. Evaluation of Facilitator Skill Delivering the Intervention	Basic Score: 1 Point Maximum Possible Score: 1 Point
<i>Performance evaluations of the facilitators of the specific intervention/service include evaluation of skill in delivering the intervention/service.</i>	

A review of performance evaluation documents confirmed the therapists were rated on their abilities to conduct individual counseling sessions as part of their overall job responsibilities.

3. Amount of Service - Duration

Basic Score: 8 Points
Program Optimization Score: 10 Points
Program Optimization Percentage: 80%

Research indicates the target duration of 25 weeks for this type of service. Of the 40 youth in the sample, 98% (39 of 40) reached at least the indicated target duration. Further explanation is detailed in the Summary and Recommendations below.

Note: Dosage information (duration) is calculated from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) Evidence-Based Services module. Duration is included for the youth in the SPEP sample.

4. Amount of Service – Contact Hours

Basic Score: 0 Points
Program Optimization Score: 10 Points
Program Optimization Percentage: 0%

Research indicates a target of 30 contact hours for this type of service. Of the 40 youth in the sample, 13% (5 of 40) reached the indicated target contact hours. Further explanation is detailed in the Summary and Recommendations below.

Note: Dosage information (contact hours) is calculated from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) Evidence-Based Services module. Contact hours are included for the youth in the SPEP sample.

5. Risk Level of Youth Served:

Basic Score: 25 Points
Program Optimization Score: 25 Points
Program Optimization Percentage: 100%

Percentage of Youth with Moderate, Moderate-High, and High-Risk Levels to Reoffend: 100%

Moderate to High Score: 12 Points
Program Optimization Score: 12 Points
Program Optimization Percentage: 100%

Table 1		
Moderate	=	1 youth
Moderate-High	=	13 youth
High	=	25 youth
<u>Total Youth in Sample</u>	=	<u>40 youth</u>

Percentage of Youth with High-Risk Level to Reoffend: 63%
 High Score: 13 Points
 Program Optimization Score: 13 Points
 Program Optimization Percentage: 100%

Table 2		
High	=	25 youth
Total Youth in Sample	=	40 youth

The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total percent of the SPEP sample that score Moderate to High-Risk to reoffend and also the total percent of the SPEP sample that score High-Risk to reoffend.

Of the SPEP sample, 100% (40 of 40) youth scored Moderate to High-Risk to reoffend, for a score of 12 points.

Of the SPEP sample, 63% (25 of 40) youth scored High-Risk to reoffend, for a score of 13 points.

Note: The latest Community Positive Achievement Change Tool (C-PACT) prior to the placement date was used in the derivation of the risk level score. This C-PACT provides the best indication of the risk to re-offend level of the youth when the youth was first placed in the program.

Summary and Recommendations

Category	Basic Score	Program Optimization Score	Program Optimization Percentage
Primary and Supplemental Service Type	10	10	100%
Quality of Service Delivery	20	20	100%
Amount of Service: Duration	8	10	80%
Amount of Service: Contact Hours	0	10	0%
Risk Level of Youth Served	25	25	100%
Totals	63	75	84%

This SPEP report evaluates Individual Counseling, an intervention delivered at Dade Juvenile Residential Facility.

40 youth completed the program during the review period. Of those youth, each was eligible to receive this service and be included in the sample.

The program scored High for Quality of Service Delivery.

The program earned 8 points for Amount of Service: Duration. Of the 40 total youth sampled, all 40 included dosage with end dates in the EBS Module. Of those youth, 39 received at least the recommended weeks of service. Youth in the sample completed between 17 and 62 weeks of service, with an average of 33 weeks.

The program earned 0 points for Amount of Service: Contact Hours. Of the 40 total youth sampled, all 40 included dosage in the EBS Module. Of those youth, 5 received at least the recommended hours of service. Youth in the sample completed between 1 and 56 hours of service, with an average of 17 hours.

The program was awarded 25 available points for Risk Level of Youth Served. This is calculated using data from the Community - Positive Achievement Change Tool (C-PACT) assessment. This score reflects youths' most recent C-PACT score prior to placement at the program. The program itself has no control over youths' C-PACT risk level because the scored assessment was administered prior to the youths' admission.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Dade Juvenile Residential Facility can maintain their SPEP Quality of Service Delivery score by continuing the practices in place at the time of this review.

Dade Juvenile Residential Facility can optimize their SPEP Amount of Service score by ensuring that dosage for all youth is recorded accurately in EBS and by ensuring that youth receive the full targeted dosage of service.