

# Understanding SPEP: The Partnership & The Process

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# Overview

- ▣ JJSES Context
- ▣ SPEP Partnership
- ▣ Research Behind SPEP
- ▣ The Berks County Pilot
- ▣ SPEP: A Provider's Experience
- ▣ Questions & Answers

# JJSES Context

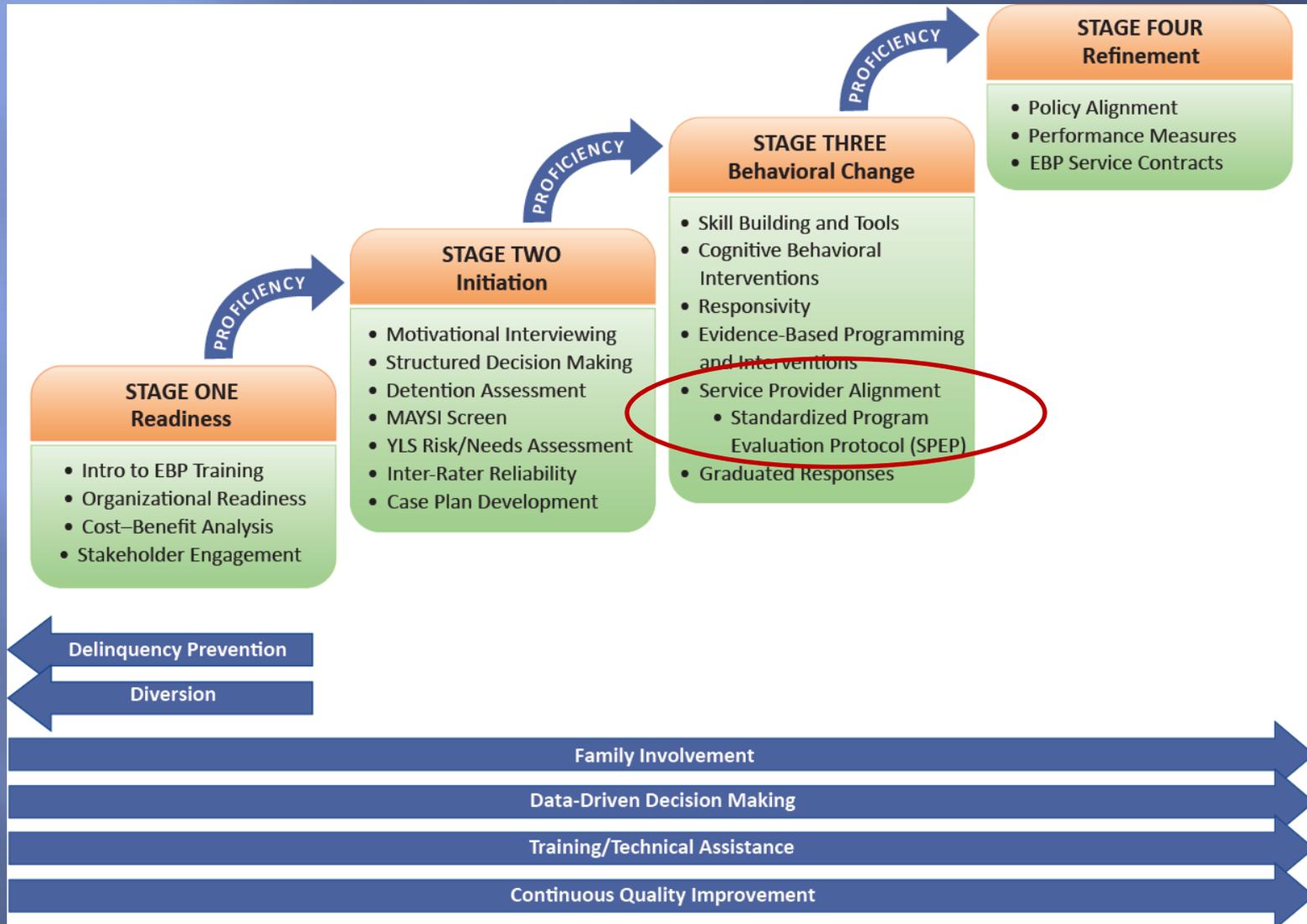


# Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy

## ▣ Statement of Purpose

- We dedicate ourselves to working in **partnership** to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:
  - Employing **evidence-based practices, with fidelity**, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;
  - **Collecting and analyzing the data** necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge,
  - Striving to **continuously improve** the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

# PA Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)



# Assessing Risk in PA: Youth Level of Service (YLS)

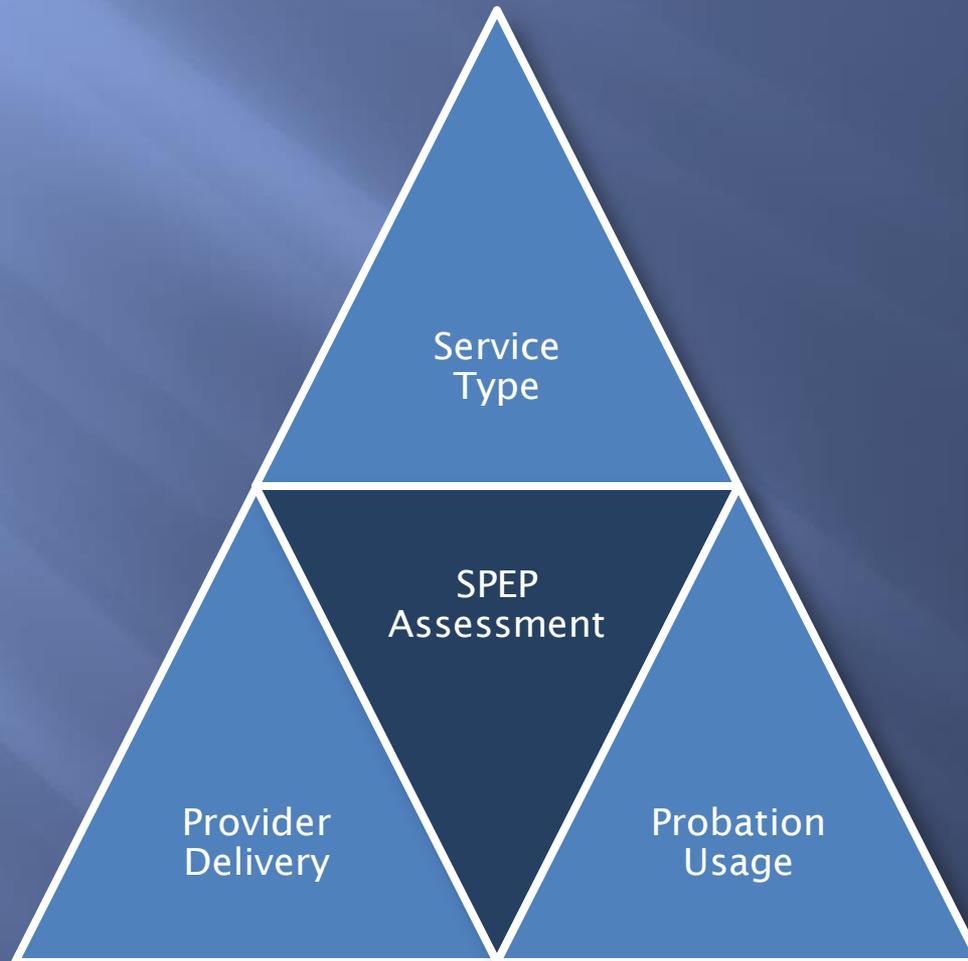
- ▣ Valid and reliable risk instrument
- ▣ Informs juvenile justice of appropriate level of supervision, service, and intervention targets
- ▣ Assesses risk for recidivism
- ▣ Risk levels: low, moderate, high, or very high
- ▣ Measures 42 risk/need factors
- ▣ Structured interview/information-gathering process

**SPEP:  
PARTNERSHIP IN  
REDUCING RECIDIVISM**

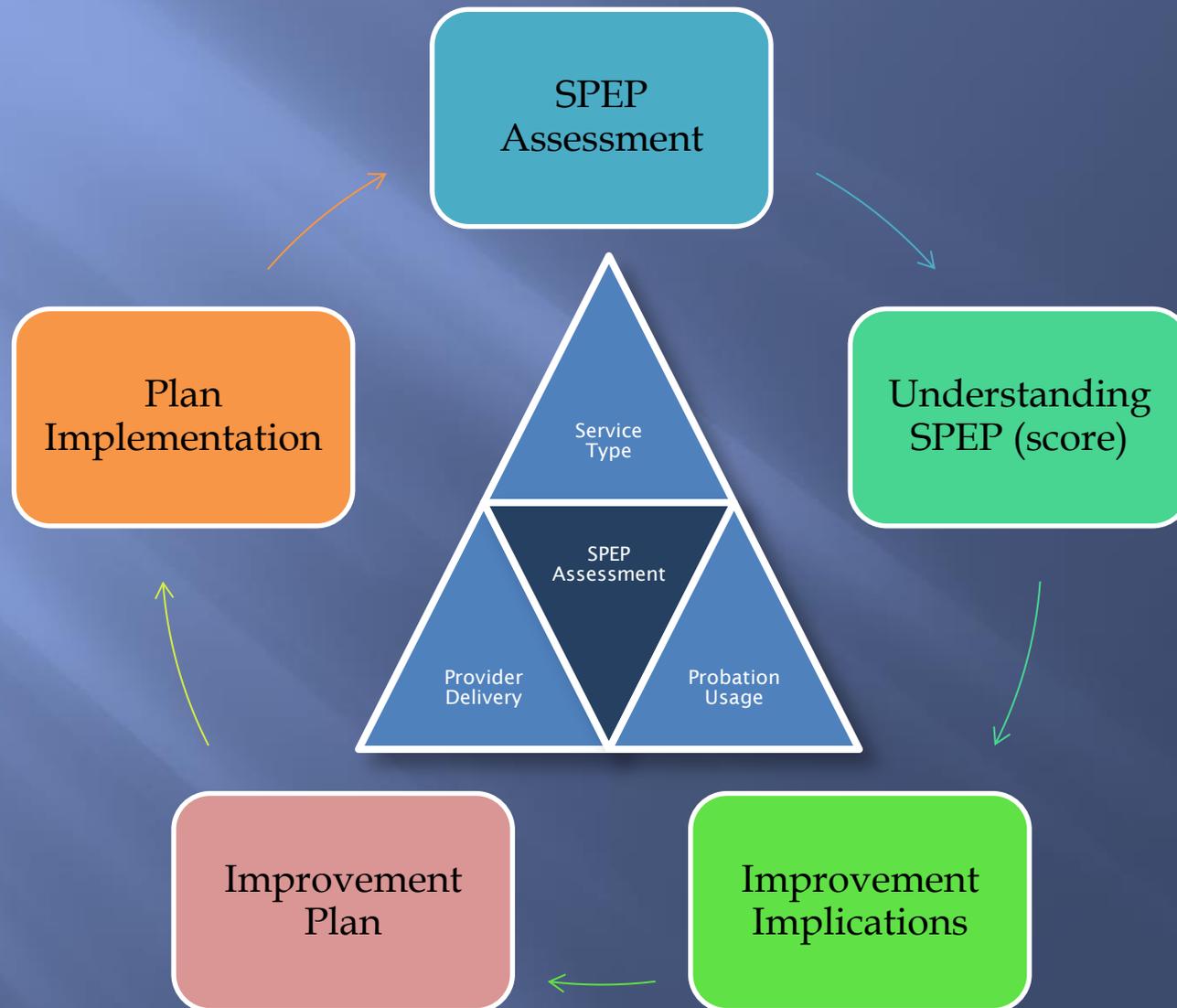
# What is the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)?

- ▣ Partnership – probation & providers
- ▣ Quality improvement process
- ▣ Aimed at reducing recidivism

# Key Drivers of Effectiveness



# Program Improvement Lifecycle



# SPEP in Pennsylvania

- ▣ 5 Pilot counties
  - Berks
  - Allegheny, Bucks, Dauphin, Lehigh
- ▣ Roll-out strategies
  - Community-based
  - Residential - prioritized
- ▣ State-level advisory group
- ▣ EPISCenter role in roll-out

# SPEP: Key Research Findings



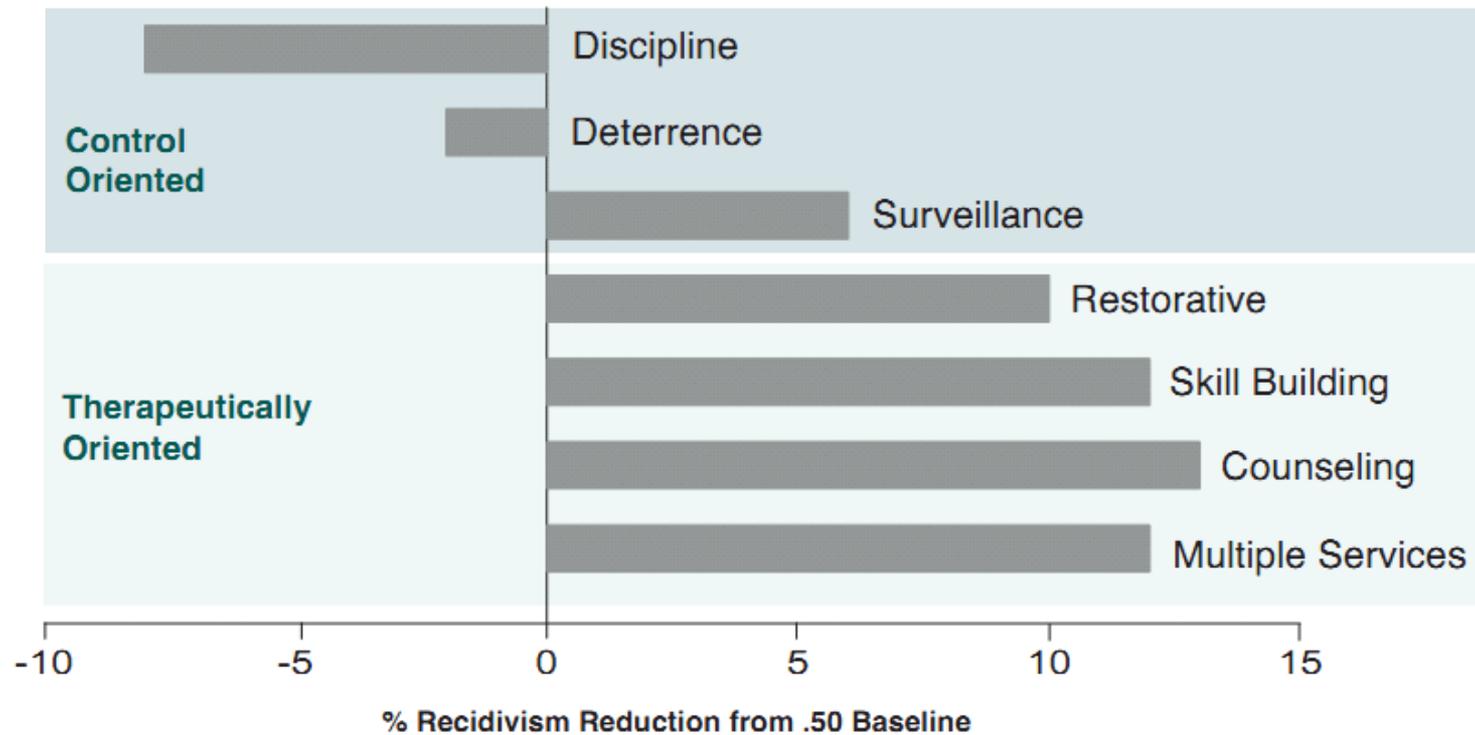
# Research on Reducing Recidivism

- ▣ 30 years of research tell us: Well designed programs that meet certain conditions can reduce recidivism
  - Risk Principle (Who to Target)
  - Need Principle (What to Target)
  - Responsivity Principle (How to Match)
  - Treatment Principle (Which Programs to Use)

# Key Finding # 1: Philosophy Matters

Figure 1

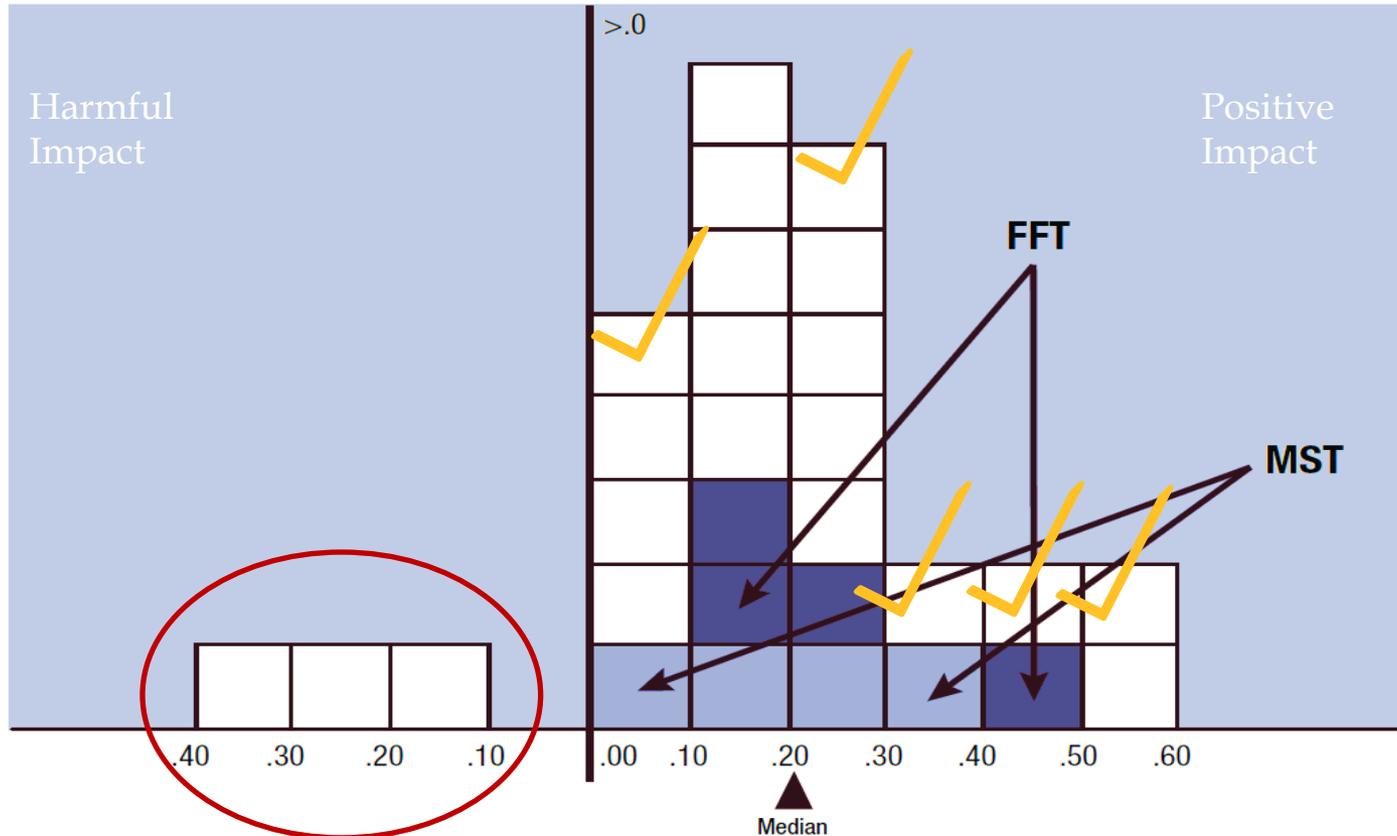
Mean Effects on Recidivism for the Major Intervention Approaches



Howell, J.C., & Lipsey, M. W. (2012) Research-based guidelines for juvenile justice programs. *Justice Research and Policy*, (14) 1, p.1-18.

# Key Finding # 2: Comparable Impact\*

**Figure 4.** Effect sizes for family counseling interventions with those for FFT and MST identified



# Key Finding # 3: Four Main Factors

- ▣ Four factors most strongly related to recidivism reduction:
  - Youth risk level and aggressive/violent history\*
  - Program philosophy, and type
  - Quality of service
  - Amount of service

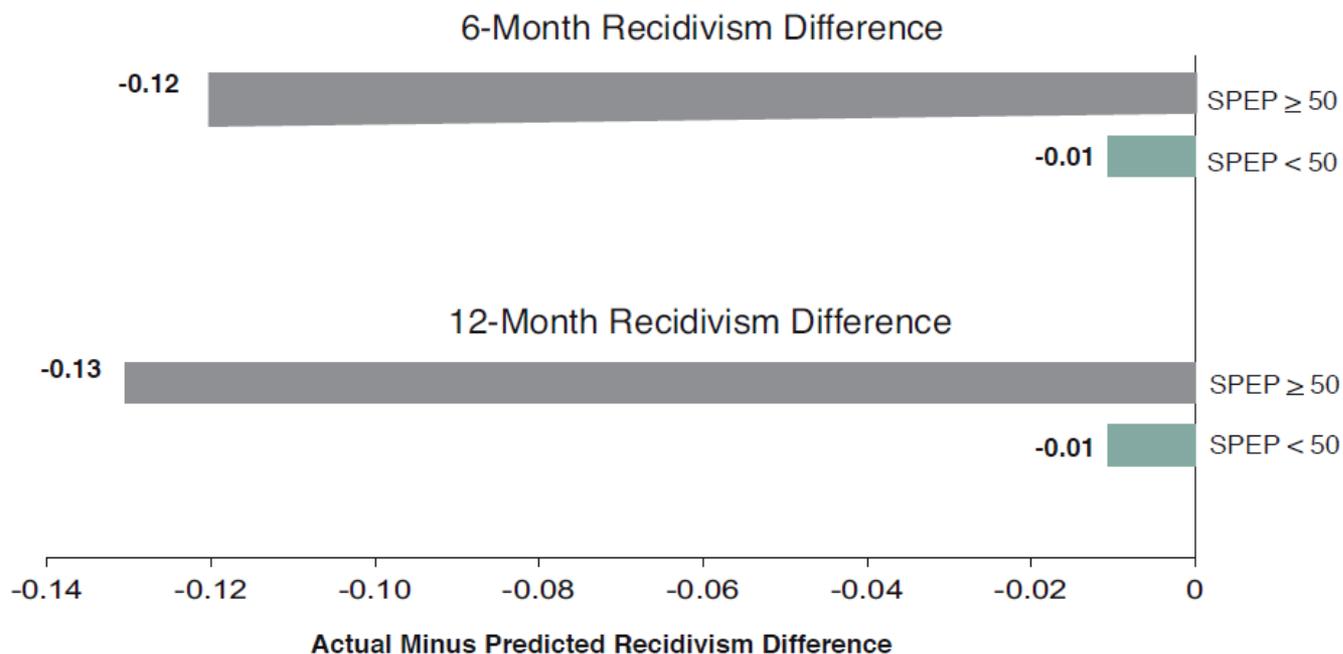
*\*Strongest predictor of recidivism identified in the meta-analysis.*

Lipsey, M. W. (2009). The primary factors that characterize effective interventions with juvenile offenders: A meta-analytic overview. *Victims and Offenders* (4), 124-147.

# Key Finding # 4: Score is Predictive

Figure 5

Difference between the Actual and Predicted Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Served by 66 Programs Scoring Above and Below 50 on the SPEP



\*Quality of service delivery not scored in this sample.

Howell, J.C., & Lipsey, M. W. (2012) Research-based guidelines for juvenile justice programs. *Justice Research and Policy*, (14) 1, p.1-18.

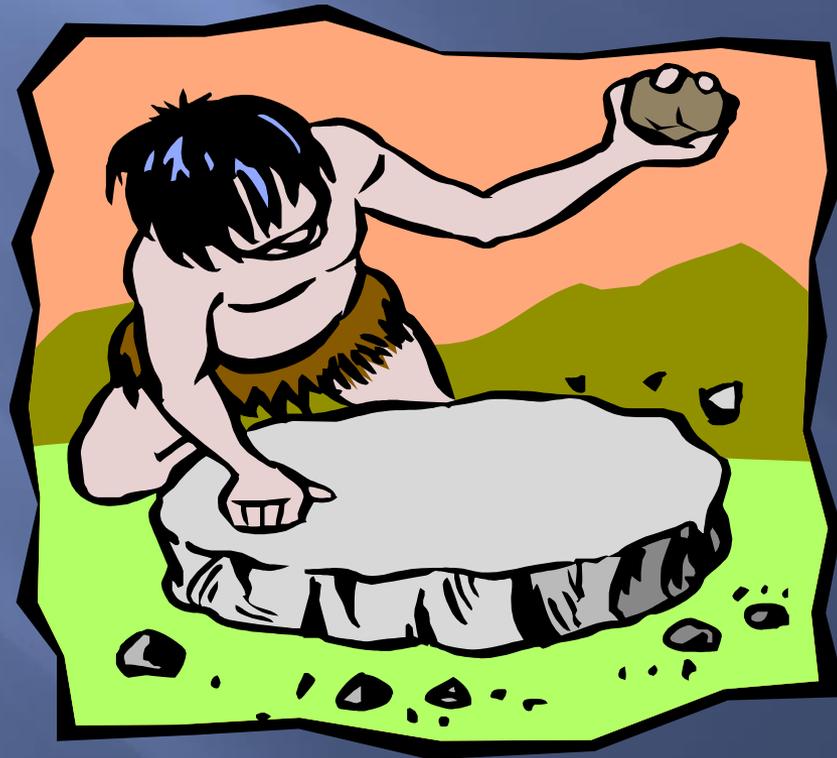


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# JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Berks County Pilot Project



# Berks County, PA

- ▣ One of 4 jurisdictions chosen nationwide 2011
  - Arizona, Florida, Connecticut
- ▣ Initial 5 day training held at Georgetown University for all sites
- ▣ Follow up SPEP training held at Vanderbilt University in August 2012
- ▣ Additional SPEP training held in Mechanicsburg July 2013 for new SPEPPERS

# Berks County, PA

Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project  
involves two parts:

1. Comprehensive Strategy to address delinquency
2. Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol – aka SPEP



# Comprehensive Strategy Berks County

Geared toward a community devising a comprehensive framework and continuum of services from prevention to aftercare.

- Work with community stakeholders
- Develop data collection methods to ID SVC
- Develop Graduated Responses Grid
- Develop Dispositional Matrix
- Review Continuum of Services available

# CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Map out all programs available to a jurisdiction starting with prevention through alternatives to arrest, diversion, supervision, placement (non-secure and secure) and aftercare.

Map out by SPEP category and targeted risk level and identify what's available and what's lacking

Continuum of Services - At a Glance

**Comprehensive Strategy**

**Prevention**

**Graduated Sanctions**

**Target Populations**

Program Services & Structures Categories	Available Program/Services	All Youth	Youth at Greatest Risk	Level I Alternatives to Arrest	Level II Diversion	Level III Community Supervision	Level IV Non-Secure Commitment	Level V Secure Commitment	Aftercare
Skill Building/ Structured Activities						→			→
						→			→
Remedial Academic Programs									
Restorative Justice									

# Berks County SPEP

- ▣ Started with in-home services
- ▣ Eight programs “scored”, three to go
- ▣ Working with EPISCenter and additional pilot counties to branch out to residential
- ▣ Program/System improvement plans submitted and being tracked
- ▣ Follow up scoring one year from Plan submission

# PROGRAM PROFILE

Full Program Profile for _____												
Name of Program Bundle	SPEP Program/Service Classification				SPEP Supplemental Components		Demographic Program Profile				Cost	
	Key Program Components - Gen Description	Service Name (may be same as Program Bundle)	SPEP Match Category	SPEP Match Sub-Category	Special Population Served	Risk (based on instrument)	Age Served	Gender Served	Program Capacity (seats/beds)	Geographical Reach	Cost Per Client	Cost Calc & Source
<b>Empower Youth</b>	<p><b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION:</b> Program primarily involves process group and mentoring with adult volunteer; once registered as a participant, probation officer notified and a home visit (in person preferred but via phone if necessary) conducted to explain program, obtain parent/guardian consents, and conduct the mentor match assessment (within 1 week of registration); Once in the program 1.) kid attends two weekly group sessions (10-12 kids) with LCT - mixed topics to include conflict management, communication, self esteem and social interaction skills; kids can discuss issues at home, school, their mentor, etc. 2.) Kids are assigned a volunteer mentor (qualification needed = successfully complete Empower course) who is required to meet with the child at least 1 time per week and submit a report to Empower Youth regarding the child's progress, behavior and goal attainment; mentors also work with child to develop academic and behavioral goals as well; events are planned 1/month for mentors and kids; mentors also function as liason with probation officer &amp; school as needed and advocate for the child 3.) Behavioral contracting is used as well with kids who meet their goals rewarded with tickets to attend special events (e.g., sporting events) with their mentor; parents/guardians are also involved in reporting about the child's issues/challenges with regard to the goals set by kid and mentor 4.) referrals such as indiv therapy, drug/alcohol therapy, mental health, assits with community transport, educ/GED resourcesn are done on an as needed basis my full time Empower staff (non clinical). <b>LOCATION TYPE:</b> in home (initial home visit) and offsite events but primarily at Holly-Smith Community Center <b>TIME:</b> 90 days to 6 months <b>TRAINING/QUALITY:</b> min of BS/BA for family &amp; mentor research specialists who do home visits (2 happen to have ms/ma and use these for kids who need higher level assistance); 40 hour volunteer orientation for mentors a that includes shadowing; 20 hrs ongoing learning per yr; required for specialists; counselors who run Youth Circle must be LCSWs or MS/MA in psychology and all had to have at least 1 yr of field experience to be</p>	Empower Youth Circle	counseling	Group	NONE - Gen Pop	Overall: med to hi; low risk/ specific need	15-17 primary	ma (most) and fe	working cap 45 but hire/staff as needed	17 counties	costs pd by probation; rate by level of service-2=\$14/day	from provider and probation staff
		Empower Partners	counseling	Mentoring	NONE - Gen Pop	Overall: med to hi; low risk/ specific need	15-17 primary	ma (most) and fe	working cap 45 but hire/staff as needed	17 counties	costs pd by probation; rate by level of service-4=\$28/day	from provider and probation staff
		Empower Partners	skill building	Behavioral Contracting	NONE - Gen Pop	Overall: med to hi; low risk/ specific need; the 5+ hr/week service reflects a higher need and/or higher risk juvenile	15-17 primary	ma (most) and fe	working cap 45 but hire/staff as needed	17 counties	costs pd by probation; rate by level of service-5=\$65/day	from provider and probation staff

# QUALITY MEASURES

☒ PA SPEP QUALITY MEASURES (3.0)

Name of Provider/Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

## 20 Point Quality of Service Checklist:

### Protocol:

	Written manual/protocol describing the service to be delivered (1pt)	
	Describes the service by topic/lesson/session (1pt)	
	Identifies target population and risk factors targeted by service (1pt)	
	Documentation or evidence that the manual is being used during service delivery (1pt)	
	Manual/protocol is reviewed and updated regularly (yearly, semi-annually, etc.) (1pt)	

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL POINTS FOR PROTOCOL

### Staff Training

	Minimum education requirements for those delivering service (1pt)	
	Delivery staff are trained to deliver service (documented) (1pt)	
	Certification is required in order to deliver the	

# SAMPLE DATA SHEET (QUANTITY)

Demographics						Provider Location	Length of Residential Stay		Individual Therapy		
Child ID	First Name	Last Name	DOB	Sex	Race		Admiss Date	Release Date	Duration of service (wks)	Freq of service per wk	Face to face Hrs (total hrs)
11111	Richard	Chapman	1/9/1995	M	C	TNV	10/28/2009	2/4/2010	4	1	4
23450	Terrance	Abelson	4/29/1995	M	AA	TNV	10/21/2009	1/15/2010	4	1	3
44588	Katherine	Bilbrey	11/29/1995	F	C	SM	5/18/2010	current	4	1	4
46943	Ronnie	Lipsey	2/2/1994	F	AA	QVC	3/25/2010	current	4	1	4
12567	Matthew	Morrison	05/16/94	M	UN	TNV	11/2/2009	3/18/2010	4	1	4
37789	Brandy	Tanner	04/14/95	F	C	SM	3/29/2010	current	4	1	4
66890	John	Smith	1/4/95	M	H	QVC	1/1/2010	current	18	2	35

# RISK LEVEL OF YOUTH SERVED

- Comes from the results of the YLS
  - % Scoring greater than Low (M or H)
  - % Scoring greater than Moderate (H)

## Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) for Services to Juvenile Offenders®

Recalibrated version, 2013

	Points Possible	Points Received	
<b>Primary and Supplemental Service Types</b> [Identified according to definitions derived from the research]			
<b>Primary Service Type for Program Being Rated</b>			
Group 1 services (5 points)      Group 4 services (25 points) Group 2 services (10 points)    Group 5 services (30 points) Group 3 services (15 points)	30	15	
<b>Supplemental Service Type</b> Qualifying supplemental service used: Yes (5 points) No (0 points)			
	5	5	
<b>Quality of Service Delivery</b> [Determined from a systematic assessment of the relevant features of the provider and provider organization]			
<b>Rated quality of services delivered:</b>			
Low (5 points) Medium (10 points) High (20 points)	20	5	
<b>Amount of Service</b> [Determined from data for the qualifying group of service recipients]			
<b>Duration</b> [Target number of weeks specified for each service type] % of youth who received at least the target weeks of service:			
0% (0 points)      60% (6 points) 20% (2 points)    80% (8 points) 40% (4 points)    99% (10 points)	10	6	
<b>Contact Hours</b> [Target number of hours specified for each service type] % of youth who received at least the target hours of service:			
0% (0 points)      60% (6 points) 20% (2 points)    80% (8 points) 40% (4 points)    99% (10 points)	10	2	
<b>Risk Level of Youth Served</b> [Determined from risk ratings on a valid instrument for the qualifying group of service recipients]			
% of youth with medium or high risk scores (greater than low):      % of youth with high risk scores (greater than medium):			
0% (0 points)    75% (7 points) 30% (2 points)    85% (10 points) 50% (5 points)    95% (12 points)	0% (0 points)    25% (8 points) 15% (3 points)    30% (10 points) 20% (5 points)    35% (13 points)	25	10 5
<b>Provider's Total SPEP Score</b>			
	100	48	

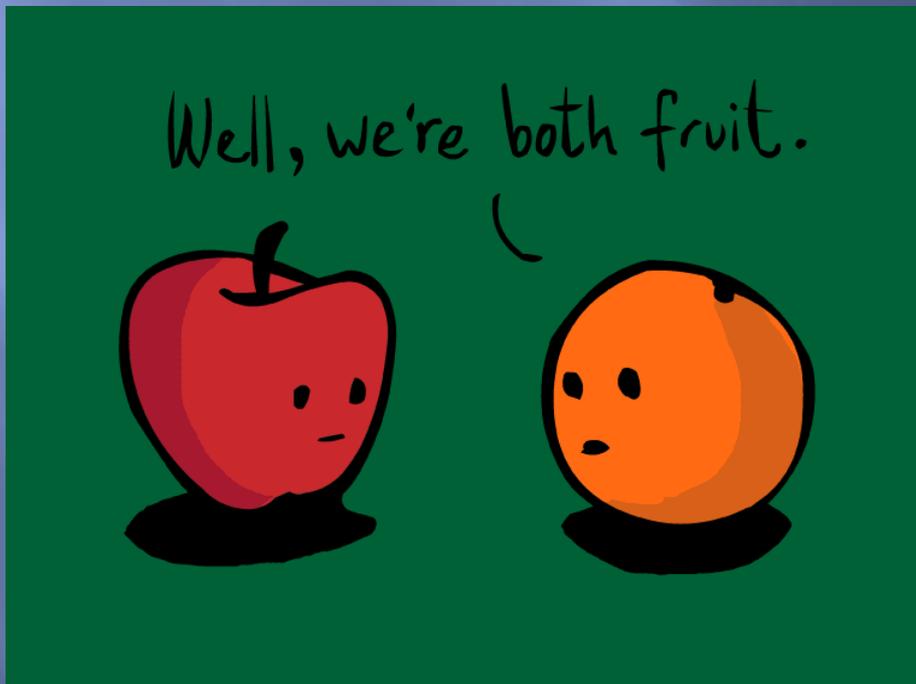
The maximum total points this service type could receive is 85.

The POP score accounts for this maximum of 85.

The Program Optimization (POP) is  $48/85 = 56\%$ .

# Understanding SPEP Basic Score

Compare the service to **all other** program service types.



Comparing:  
family counseling  
to  
cognitive behavioral.

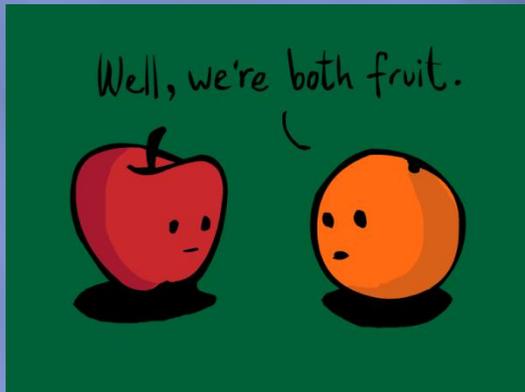
# Understanding SPEP Program Optimization (POP) Scoring

Compare the service to those offering **the same type of service.**



Comparing:  
mentoring program  
to  
other mentoring  
programs

## Basic Score



$$48/100 =$$

**48**

## POP Score



$$48/85 =$$

**56%**

# Program Optimization Report (POP)

- ▣ In person meetings to review with provider and probation
- ▣ Summary of SPEP score, individual components, Basic score, POP score
- ▣ Sources of information (interviews, manuals, etc.)
- ▣ Review of service strengths
- ▣ Suggestions for possible improvements
  - Probation Use Example: Adjust risk level of youth referred
  - Provider Delivery Example: Increase weeks of service to meet recommended target weeks

# Improvement Plan Example

Category	Improvement Opportunity	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Level of Risk</b>	Gear program toward serving higher risk youth	Refer high level of risk youth to program  Supply YLS	Probation	Sept30	Y			
<b>Duration &amp; Contact Hours</b>	Improve retention of youth and families referred to the program	Present findings to treatment staff and brainstorm solutions	Ex Director	Oct 15				
		Prioritize and select strategies for Implementation	All Program Staff	Oct 23				

# FINDINGS...

- Pre-visits checklist increases efficiency
- Team Spepping is ideal (JPO/EPIS Staff)
- Most Services Group 3 (SST, MC, Challenge Programs, Family Counseling, etc.)
- Basic Recidivism Scores range from 39-68
- Program Optimization Percentage range 41%-80%
- “fixes” have not led to more expense
- Areas for improvement have been in QM’s and Quantity

# FINDINGS...

- Areas for improvement have been split between Program and System
  - Appropriate referrals
  - Sufficient amount of time
  - Proper risk level
  - Program creation

# CHALLENGES

## ▣ Data collection

- Gaining information for Quantity section
- Automated vs. hand counting
- Risk Level, not a YLS on every juvenile
- Quality measures debates

Florida is the model for data collection

# NEXT STEPS

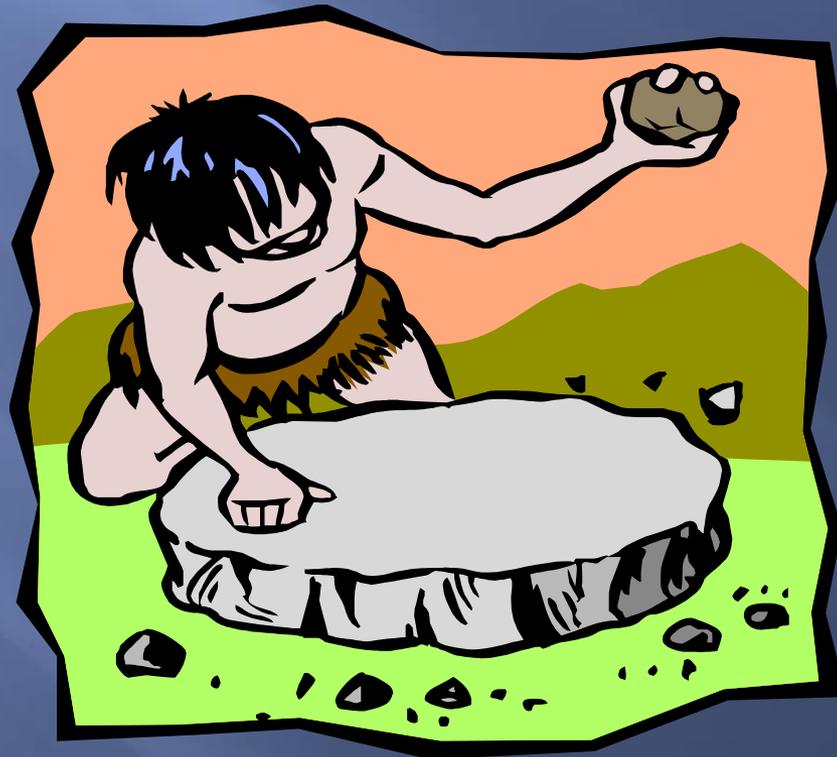
- ▣ SPEP Advisory Group Formed
  - Providers, EPISCenter staff, JCJC, PCCD, BJJS, four additional pilot counties.

Makes recommendations to JJSES Leadership Team

- Additional SPEPPERS trained
- Pilot Counties now “scoring” in home providers
- Residential programs on the horizon

# WHERE WE WERE...

Berks County Pilot Project



# WHERE WE ARE NOW...



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# SPEP: A Provider's Experience

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# Questions & Answers