

# SPEP Update: Insights from the Field and Next Steps

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&  
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The EPISCenter represents a collaborative partnership between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and the Prevention Research Center, College of Health and Human Development, Penn State University. The EPISCenter is funded by PCCD and the Department of Public Welfare. This resource was developed by the EPISCenter through PCCD grant VP-ST-24368.

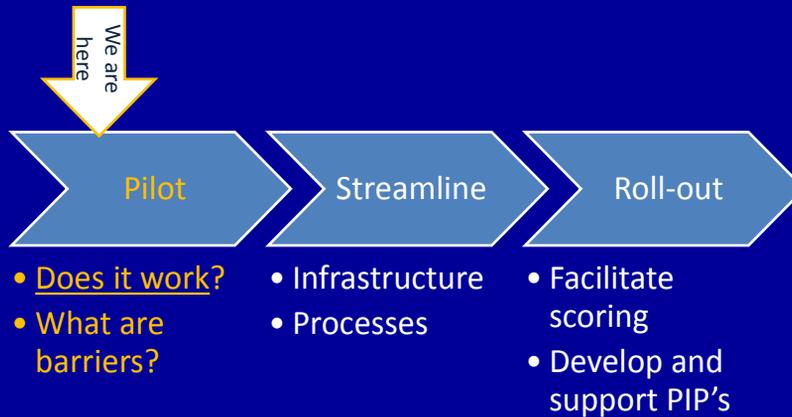


**Throwback Thursday #tbt**

**SPEP: November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



## SPEP: PA Roll-out Roadmap



## EPISCenter's Role

- "Ride Along" with Berks & Lehigh during pilot phase
  - How well does SPEP work in PA context?
- Prepare for later statewide rollout
  - Develop infrastructure and streamline processes from pilot phase to scale-up
  - Facilitate the process of scoring across PA counties (probably in phases/cohorts)
  - Develop and support Program Improvement Plans
  - Scoring again 1 year later
  - Collect lessons learned and facilitate CQI of SPEP in PA

## SPEP 2012-2014

	Technical Assistance to Sites	Site Visits	Resources Created	Strategic Outreach
2012	0	2	0	0
2013	80	51	24	59
2014	308	91	11	157

To date: 64 community and residential programs/services have begun the SPEP process, across 33 providers and 5 counties.

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## Key Accomplishments 2013-14

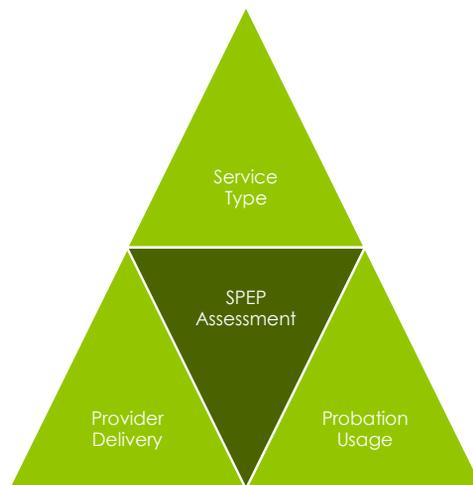
- Training and competency development of first cohort of SPEP specialists
- SPEP of residential services
- Development of PA's Performance Improvement Process
- Becoming Trainers of SPEPrs – first in the country
- SPEP webinar series for providers and probation

## The Core of SPEP in PA

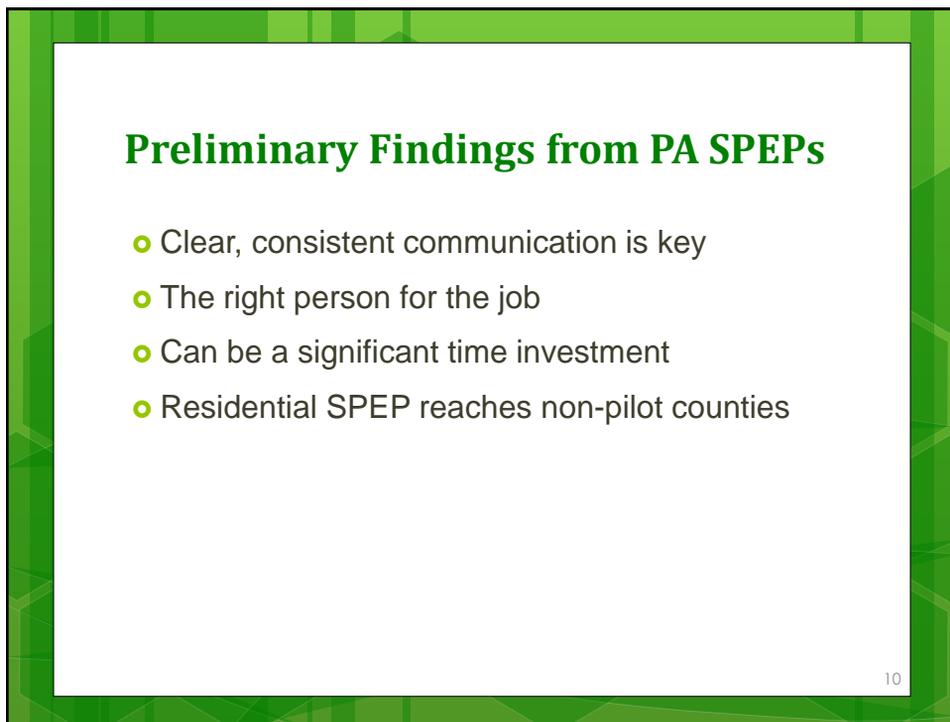
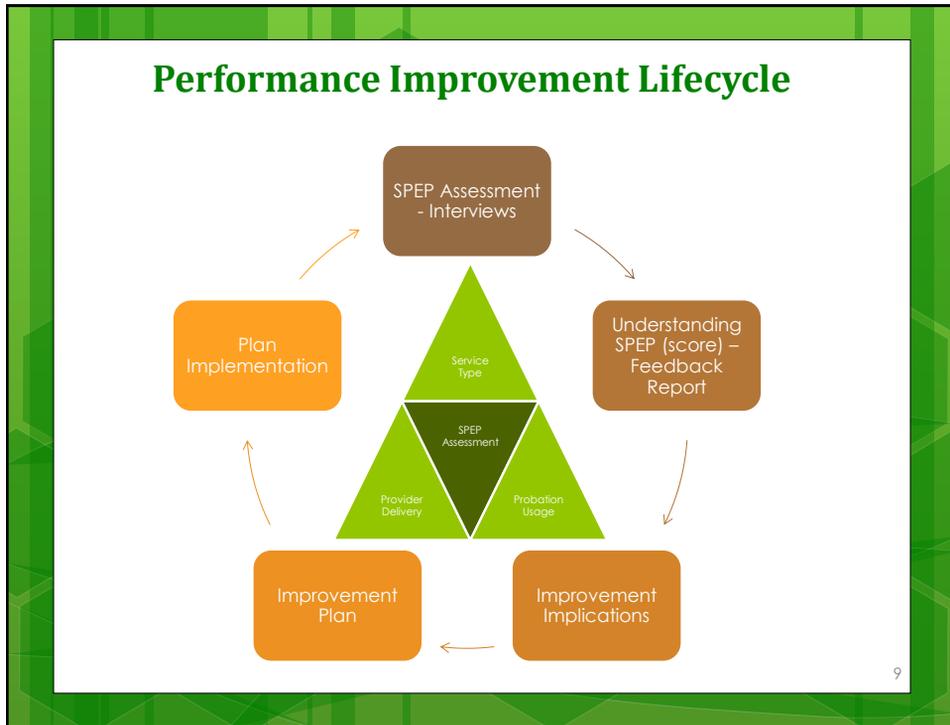
- Partnership – probation & providers
- Quality improvement process
- Aimed at reducing recidivism

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## Key Drivers of Effectiveness



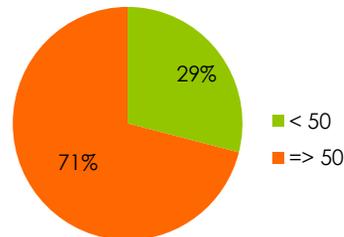
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## Preliminary Findings from PA SPEPs

- 28 fully scored services; avg. score of 60, range of 37-100
- Most services scored well on staff training and supervision
- Most services scored lowest on written protocols and response to drift
- Low fidelity to dosage and duration standards

Most services score  $\geq 50$ \*:



\*Pilot data may reflect higher performing services than the true state of the field.

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## Preliminary Findings from PA SPEPs

- Qualitative interviews lead JPOs better understanding what programs **really** offer (and for whom services are best suited)
- JPOs are now more routinely sending YLS risk score to providers (better service matching and treatment plans)
- Ongoing education of juvenile court system re: relationship of dosage and duration to youth/service outcomes

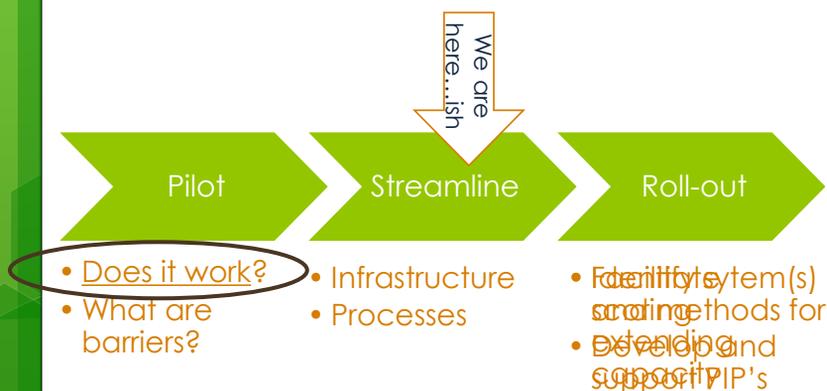
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## Preliminary Findings from PA SPEPs

- Service providers are more aware of research supporting services
- Providers are proactively planning for SPEP and actively interested in Performance Improvement by utilizing website and asking questions
- Improved relations between probation and providers

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## Where are we now?



## Does it work?

- Partnership – probation & providers ✓
- Quality improvement process ✓
- Aimed at reducing recidivism **TBD?**

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## Where are we headed?

- Ready to do 1-year follow-up SPEPs with first programs/services
- Beginning to pilot the performance improvement process
- Quantitative evaluations of SPEP process
- Development of supporting manuals and guides to implement SPEP
- Building out training model and resources to support trainers



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## **SPEP Update: Insights from the Field and Next Steps, Part 1**

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Harrisburg, November 2014



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## **The Big Picture: Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice Practices and Programs**



## The juvenile justice challenge

- A high proportion of adult offenders (60-80%) were prior juvenile offenders who appeared in the JJ system first.
- They were thus on a path to continued criminal behavior that effective JJ intervention might have interrupted.

### But, at the same time:

- A high proportion of the juveniles who come into the juvenile justice system (60-70+%) are **not** on a path to adult crime; they are just afflicted with adolescence.
- Over-involvement with the JJ system can make things worse for those juveniles.



## The juvenile justice challenge

So, the JJ system needs to be able to do four things—

- Distinguish youth at high risk for continued criminal behavior from those at low risk.
- Supervise the high risk youth at the least restrictive level that protects public safety.
- Administer effective treatment programs to the high risk youth that reduce their risk for reoffending.
- Avoid making recidivism worse, especially for low risk youth.

**And do all this in a consistent and sustained manner**



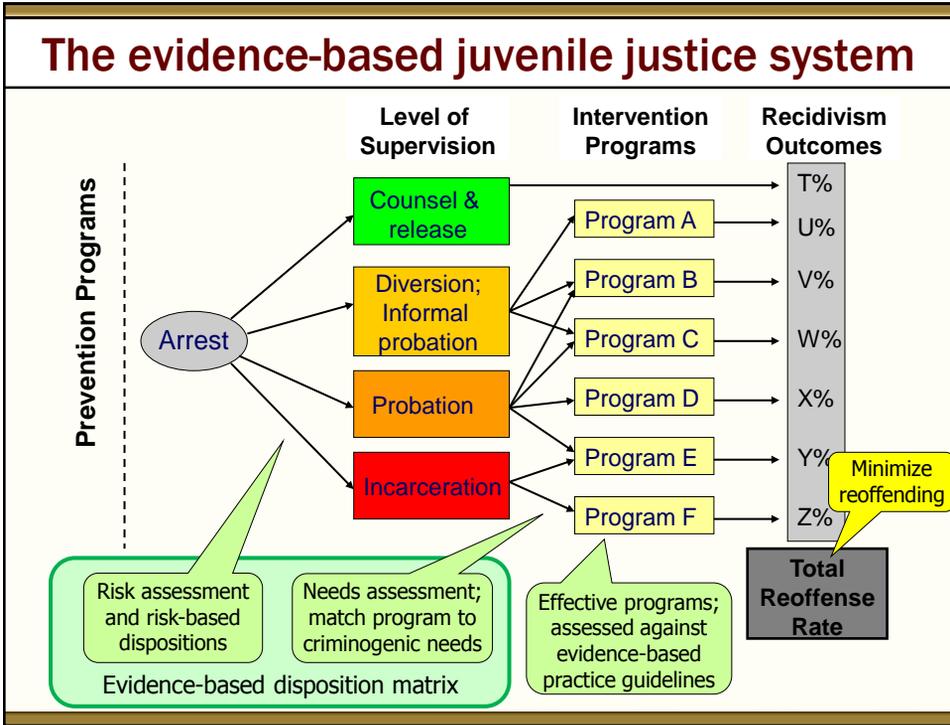
## There is research that can help meet this challenge

- Longitudinal research on the developmental pathways to criminality
  - Risk factors that predict the probability of criminal behavior
    - Static background factors & prior history
    - Dynamic factors that can be addressed to reduce the probability of criminal behavior (“criminogenic needs”)
- Evaluation research on the effects of intervention programs
  - Therapeutic programs that reduce reoffense rates
  - Programs that do not reduce reoffending and may increase it (punitive, disciplinary, deterrence oriented; transfer to CJ)



## The bridge between research and practice: structured decision support tools

- Risk assessment instruments
  - Provides an estimate of the probability of reoffending
- Disposition matrices
  - Guides risk-based level of supervision and treatment
- Needs assessment instruments
  - Supports matching of programs to criminogenic needs
- Program practice guidelines and assessments
  - Evaluates the expected effectiveness of programs for reducing recidivism; e.g., Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)






## The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)

### Assessment of the Effectiveness of Interventions for Juvenile Offenders



## The evidence base for the SPEP: A comprehensive collection of studies of interventions for juvenile offenders

### Meta-analysis of delinquency intervention research:

- Studies: 500+ controlled studies of interventions with juvenile offenders
- Outcomes: Focus on the programs' effects on recidivism (reoffending)



## Guidelines for effective practice based on the findings from this research

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP): A structured process for assessing programs on these key characteristics

- *Program type*
- *Quality of service delivery*
- *Amount of service (dose) provided*
- *Risk level of juveniles served*

 <b>VANDERBILT</b> PEABODY COLLEGE		<b>Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)</b> for Services to Juvenile Offenders® <small>Recalibrated version, 2013</small>	
		Points Possible	Points Received
<b>Primary and Supplemental Service Types</b> <small>[Identified according to definitions derived from the research]</small>			
<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	
<b>Supplemental Service Type</b> Qualifying supplemental service used: Yes (5 points)      No (0 points)		5	
<b>Quality of Service Delivery</b> <small>[Determined from a systematic assessment of the relevant features of the provider and provider organization]</small>			
Rated quality of services delivered: Low (5 points) Medium (10 points) High (20 points)		20	
<b>Amount of Service</b> <small>[Determined from data for the qualifying group of service recipients]</small>			
<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	
<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	
<b>Risk Level of Youth Served</b> <small>[Determined from risk ratings on a valid instrument for the qualifying group of service recipients]</small>			
% of youth with medium or high risk scores (greater than low): 0% (0 points)    75% (7 points) 30% (2 points)    85% (10 points) 50% (5 points)    95% (12 points)		% of youth with high risk scores (greater than medium): 0% (0 points)    25% (8 points) 15% (3 points)    30% (10 points) 20% (5 points)    35% (13 points)	
<b>Provider's Total SPEP Score</b>		100	(Insert Score)

**Instrument for rating how well a program profile matches the guidelines: The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)**

Points assigned proportionate to the contribution of each factor to recidivism reduction

Target values from the meta-analysis (generic) OR program manual (EBP brand name)

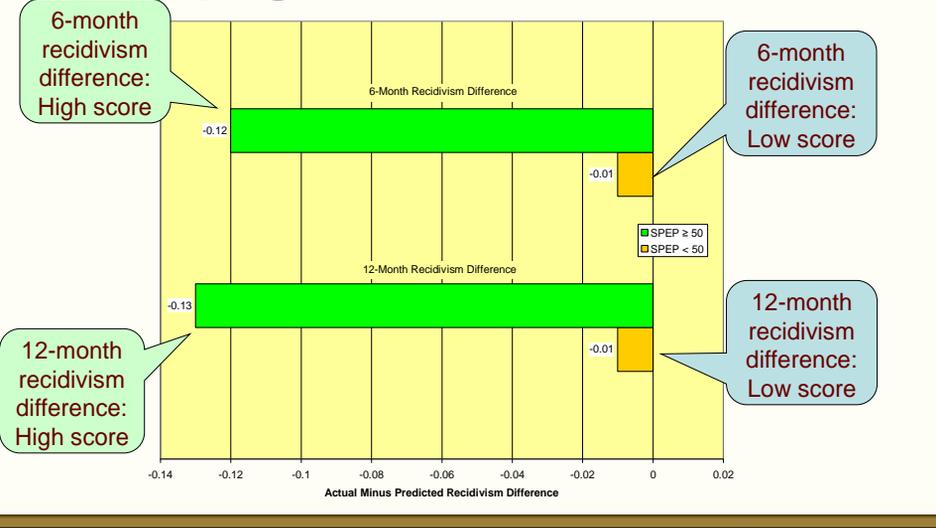
 <b>VANDERBILT</b> PEABODY COLLEGE		PEABODY researchinstitute
<h2 style="color: #800000;">Program types with sufficient research to support SPEP practice guidelines</h2>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive-behavioral therapy</li> <li>Behavioral contracting; contingency management</li> <li>Social skills training</li> <li>Group counseling</li> <li>Family counseling; family crisis counseling</li> <li>Individual counseling</li> <li>Mentoring</li> <li>Challenge programs</li> <li>Victim-offender mediation</li> <li>Restitution; community service</li> <li>Remedial academic programs</li> <li>Job-related programs (vocational counseling, training, etc.)</li> </ul>		



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## Feedback on outcome improvement with use of SPEP program assessment: Arizona data



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## SPEP Updates and Developments



## New research and analysis

- Update of the meta-analytic database with studies reported through the end of 2013
  - Total number of studies will be more than 700
  - Adds research in some underrepresented service categories
- Update of the analysis of program factors predicting recidivism using the expanded database
- SPEP 3.0: Update of the SPEP with any new results
- Separate SPEP schemes for selected offender populations
  - Youth with substance disorders
  - Youth labeled as sex offenders



## Scoring variants for different circumstances

- Two versions of full SPEP Score
  - Basic Recidivism Score
    - Points scored out of 100 max; indicates expected effect on recidivism
  - Program Optimization Percentage (POP Score)
    - Points scored as a percentage of those possible for the agreed targets
- Interim variants for insufficient data situations
  - Provisional score: Fewer than 80% of juveniles served, but more than 60%, have risk scores; offense data show representativeness
  - Advisory score: Fewer than 10 juveniles in the cohort served



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## Other SPEP developments underway

- Updated and expanded SPEP manual
- Broadened repertoire of training materials and examples
- SPEP-Connect website
- Web-based data input system for alternative SPEP data compilation
- Credentialing of SPEP implementers and trainers
- Licensing SPEP use
- Certification and periodic recertification of accredited SPEP users
- Further and continued validation of SPEP's relationship to recidivism



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## The SPEP and Its Use and Role in the National Juvenile Justice Reform Movement



## Juvenile justice reform and system enhancement

- *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*, National Academies Press, 2013.
- Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Foundations and government support agencies
  - Annie E. Casey, JDAI
  - MacArthur, Models for Change
  - Pew Charitable Trusts, Public Safety Performance Project
  - Council of State Governments, white papers on reform, recidivism
  - National Governor's Association, Learning Labs



## Expanding SPEP footprint in juvenile justice

- Original development sites
  - North Carolina
  - Arizona
- Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP)
  - Connecticut
  - Florida
  - Pennsylvania
- OJJDP Justice System Reform & Reinvestment Initiative
  - Delaware
  - Iowa
  - Milwaukee County
- Independent participants
  - Tennessee
  - Georgia



## “System alignment” implications of the SPEP

- Matching juveniles with different risk levels to appropriate providers and levels of service
- Matching of juveniles with different “criminogenic needs” to appropriate providers and levels of service
- Service array available to a JJ system
  - Accountability continuum appropriate for levels of risk
  - Service coverage of need areas; gaps in coverage
  - Geographical coverage; rural vs urban areas
  - Optimizing allocation of resources; reinvestment strategies
  - Cross-agency coordination; high needs, low risk youth



## Continuing challenges

- Availability of required data, especially risk scores from a validated instrument that discriminate risk levels
- Cumbersome or insufficient data systems for routine collection of the needed data and generation of SPEP scores
- Sustainability of SPEP implementation; over-dependence on initial adopters and implementation team
- Occasional provider or political resistance
- Scaling up SPEP resources, personnel, procedures to support interested sites



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**Thanks!**

**Questions? Comments?**

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