

Evidence-based Delinquency Prevention and Juvenile Justice System Reform in Pennsylvania:

A Multi-component Partnership Model for Optimization and Continuous Quality Improvement

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JJSES Statement of Purpose

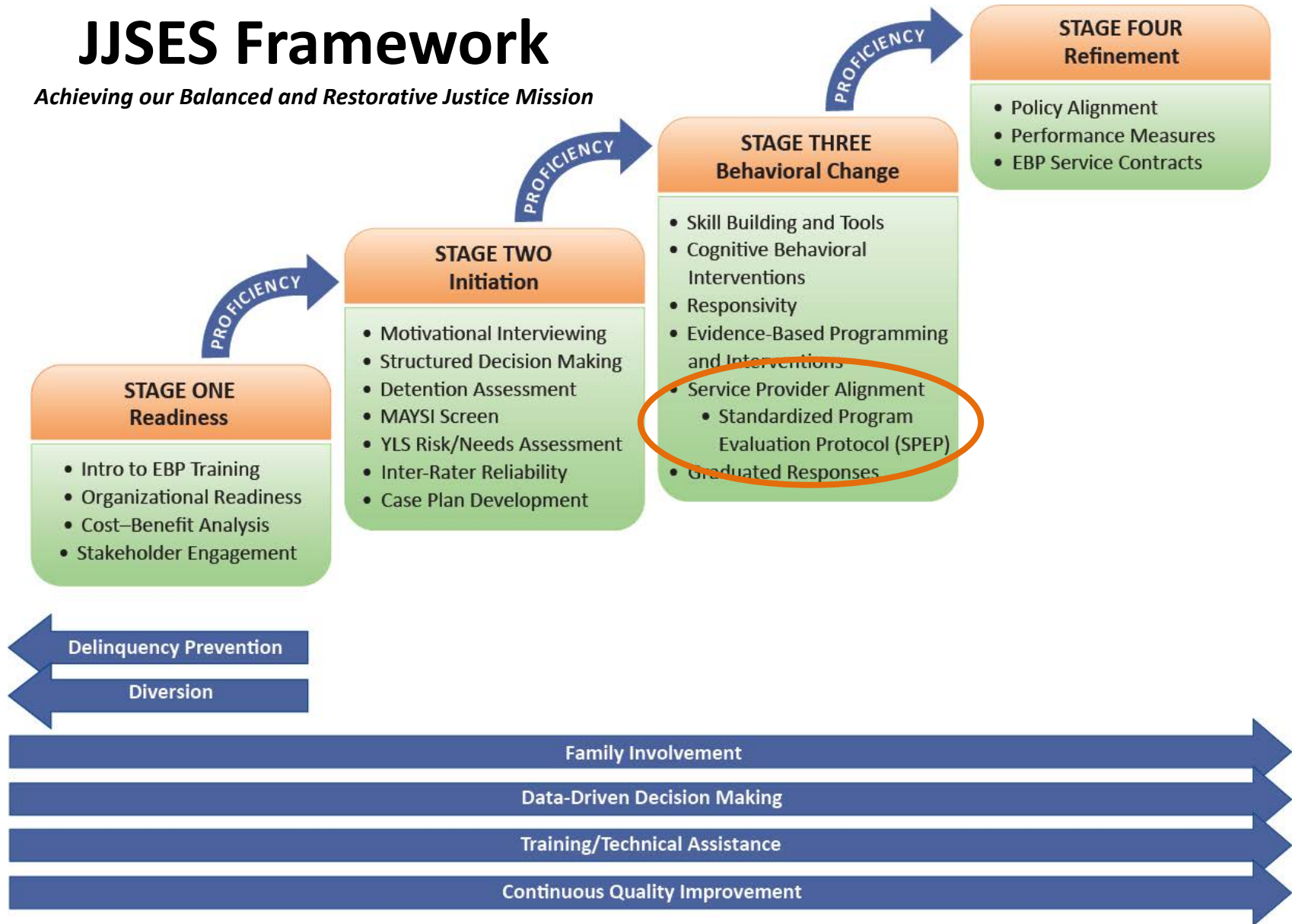
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We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice *system* to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:

- 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.

JJSES Framework

Achieving our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission



EPISCenter: Structure, Initiatives, & Goals

Multi-agency Steering Committee
(Justice, Welfare, Education, Health)

State-level Intermediary and Implementation Support System



Support to Community
Prevention Coalitions

Support to Evidence-
based Prevention &
Intervention Programs

Improve Quality of Locally-
developed Juvenile Justice
Programs

Broad-scale Dissemination

High-quality Implementation

Valid Impact Assessment

Long-term Sustainability

EPISCenter Technical Assistance

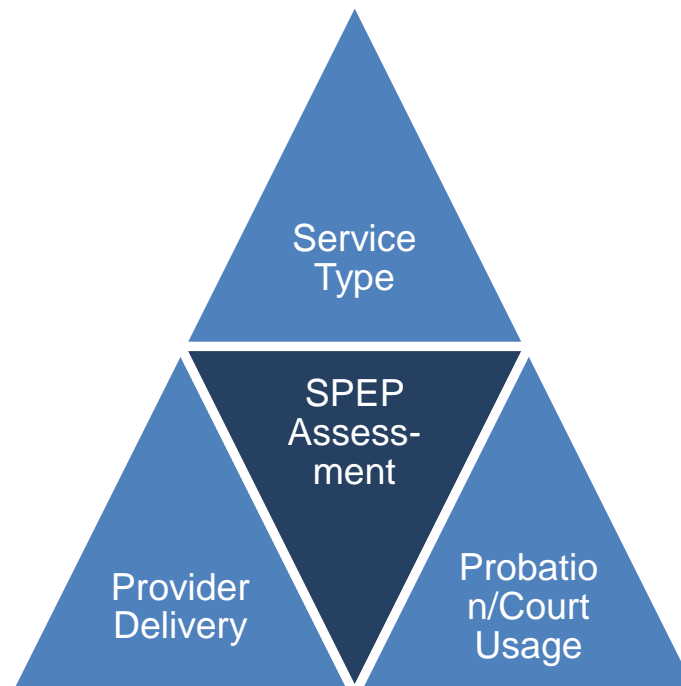
- In-state infrastructure for SPEP; co-creating SPEP in PA w/stakeholders
- Three full-time staff at EPISCenter, certified SPEP trainers
 - Each county has a designated SPEP contact at EPISCenter
 - Tailored support according to each county's unique strengths and capacity
- Coordinating and delivering certification training
- SPEP coordination throughout the entire improvement lifecycle (e.g., first SPEP to re-SPEP)
- Resource development (website, logic model, manuals, fact sheets, data templates, etc.)
- Learning Community planning and coordination
- Data collection, aggregation, summarization for SPEP project

Targeted Strategies in PA for SPEP Roll-out

- Emphasis on **key principles** of SPEP in PA
- Integrated **advisory committees** between JJSES leadership and SPEP
- **Learning community** structure for knowledge sharing, problem solving, cohesion
- Commitment to securing and providing **technical assistance** (Vanderbilt, EPISCenter)
- Regular, ongoing focus on **education and buy-in** for existing and future stakeholders (webinars, membership meetings, conferences)
- Development of **standard language** for including SPEP in counties' annual DHS budget
- Long-term focus on establishing **in-state capacity** for sustaining SPEP

Pennsylvania's SPEP Culture: Partnership

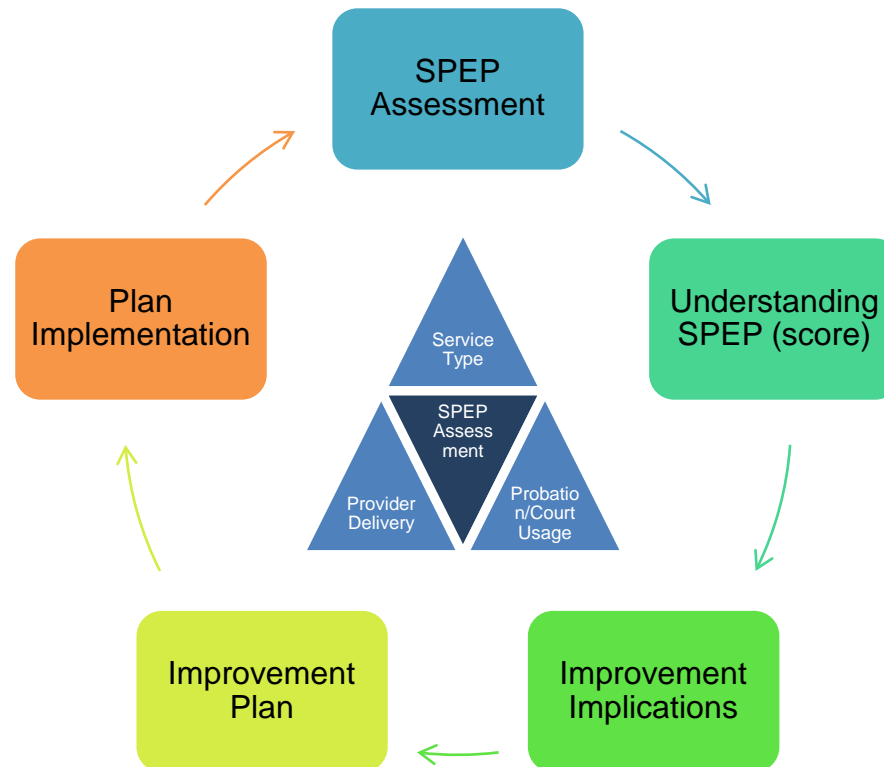
Juvenile probation departments and service providers are **equal** partners in the SPEP process. EPISCenter as neutral third party.



Pennsylvania's SPEP Culture: Continuous Improvement

The SPEP process brings both probation and providers to the table from pre-SPEP planning to SPEP reassessments.

Emphasis is on continuous performance improvement. SPEP is not an audit.



Challenges

- Pacing of roll-out to meet needs of multiple stakeholders at multiple levels
- Allowing for county-level autonomy while ensuring project-level consistency (e.g., what is “the policy” for a provider refusal?)
- Managing ambiguity vs. building the plane while flying it
- Navigating the gravitational pull to focus on and publish “the score”
- Understanding correspondence between a 50 in PA vs. 50 in research
- Determining role of state residential facilities’ staff on SPEP roll-out

Lessons Learned

- State investment in high-quality technical assistance and intermediary infrastructure fosters rapid development of in-state capacity
- Clear, consistent communication at all levels is vital (impossible to overdo it!)
- Discussions on new policies should start early and be thorough
- The most successful change agents have a well-rounded set of knowledge and abilities and protected time for reform activities
- Implications of reform efforts in other localities where reform has not occurred

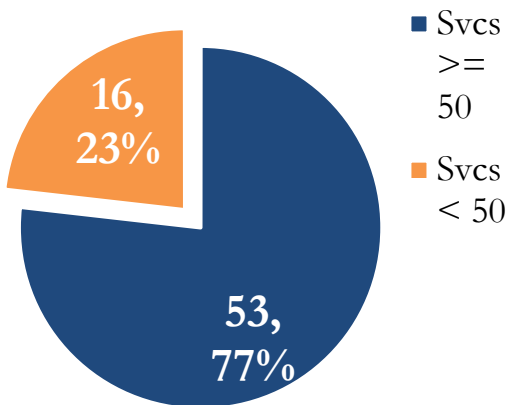
SPEP Data to Date

90 programs have begun the SPEP process

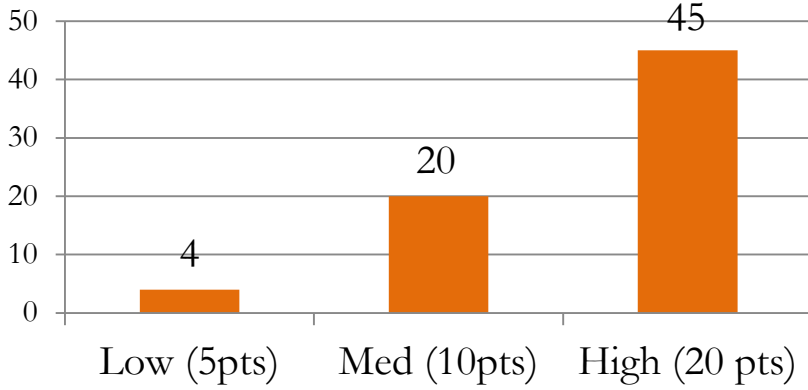
69 services have received full SPEP scores

Most Services Earn 50 or Greater, and Deliver with High Quality

Number and Percent of Services Scoring 50 or more

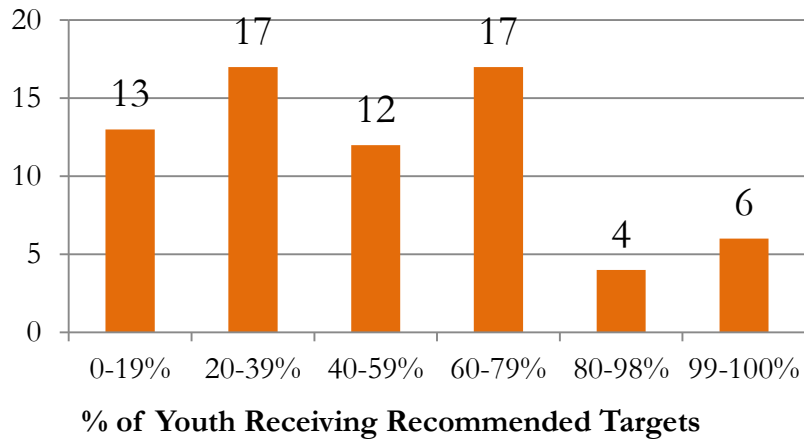


Count of Services by Quality of Service Delivery

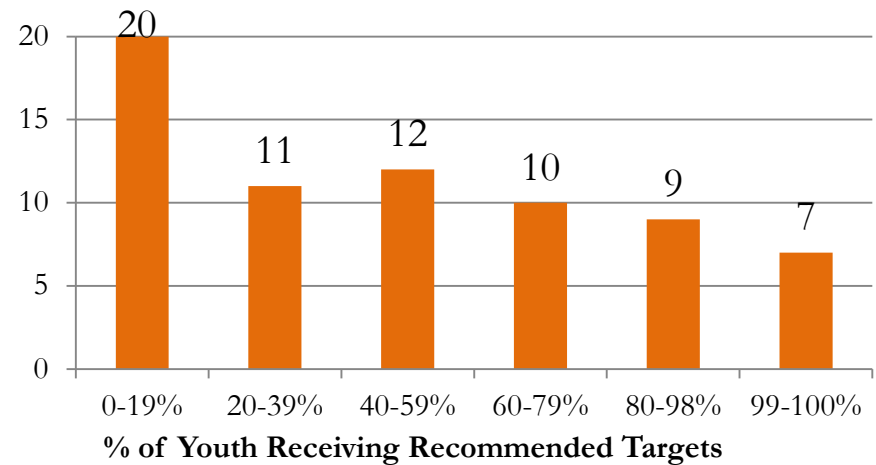


Few Services Deliver Recommended Targets to Most Youth

Count of Services by % of Youth Receiving Recommended Duration

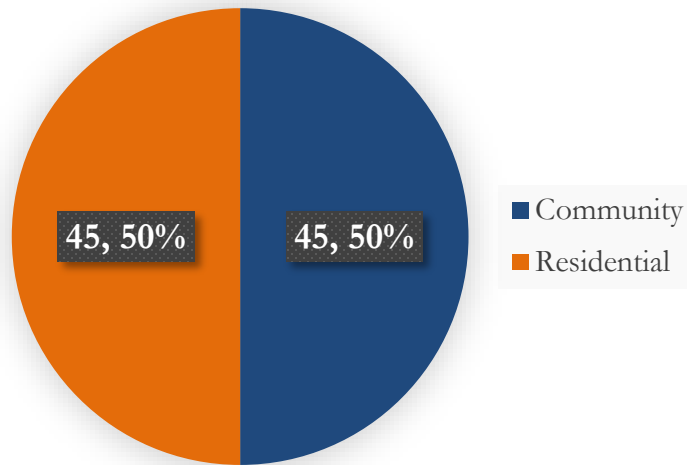


Count of Services by % of Youth Receiving Recommended Dosage

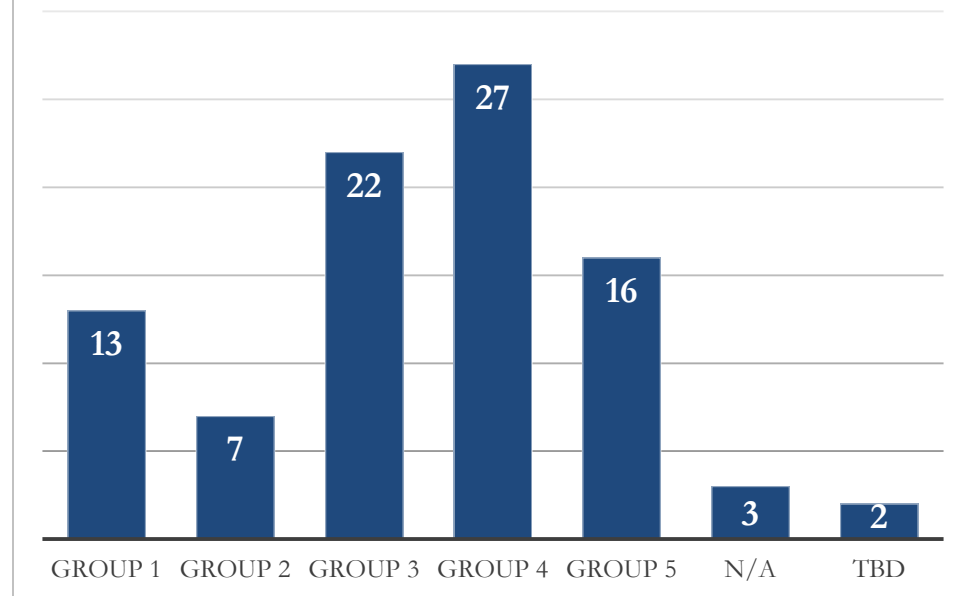


Distribution of SPEPs by Supervision, Service Effectiveness Groups

Count and % of SPEPs by Supervision



SPEPs per Group Type



Correlations Across SPEG Score Components (n=69)

CORRELATION MATRIX OF SPEG SCORE COMPONENTS						
	Svc Type	Supp Svc	Quality	Duration	Dosage	Risk
Svc Type	1					
Supp Svc	n/a	1				
Quality	0.03	0.02	1			
Duration	0.41	0.00	0.07	1		
Dosage	0.19	0.09	0.37	0.42	1	
Risk	0.10	0.00	0.12	0.28	0.46	1

Thank you!

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



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