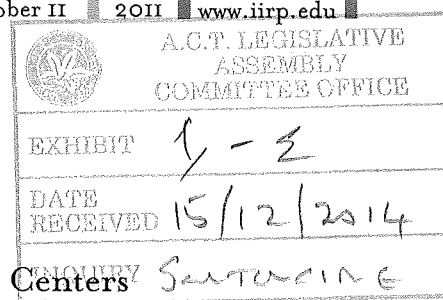
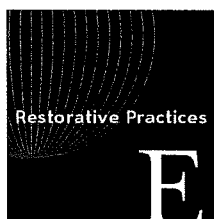




FORUM

Structured Support and Accountability:

Community Service Foundation's Restorative Reporting Centers

BY SUZANNE COPE

Kevin Finnigan is the youngest of his siblings, and as his mother Mary puts it, "fell in with the wrong crowd." After multiple interactions with the Bucks County (Pennsylvania, USA) Juvenile Probation Office, Kevin was facing residential placement for repeated non-violent probation violations. In most communities, this would require Kevin to leave his family and school for the duration of his placement. When that placement ended, he would then have to deal with the upheaval of reintegration into his home community. Instead, Kevin was referred to a groundbreaking new program, the Community Service Foundation (CSF) Restorative Reporting Center (RRC), a model program of the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) Graduate School.

CSF, which has operated a network of schools and other programs for at-risk youth since 1977, developed the RRC program so that young people like Kevin can stay home with their families and attend their home schools for the duration of their placements.

Other programs, known as evening reporting centers, also allow adjudicated youth to remain home with their families. What's different about the RRC program is that it immerses young people in an intensive environment of restorative practices. RRC staff work with youth to help them take responsibility for their actions and make lasting changes in their lives, directly involving the youths' family members in this process.

Youth are referred to the RRC Program for a 30-, 60- or 90-day term on the recommendation of the youth's probation

officer, with the final decision made by the presiding judge. The program accepts juveniles — males and females — from urban and rural settings covering the large geographic area of Bucks County.

On a typical weekday late afternoon and evening at one of CSF's Restorative Reporting Centers, teens can be seen huddled over books or working together on homework problems. Adolescent girls and boys work side-by-side, representing diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and varying degrees of criminal histories. Besides receiving intensive academic support, these teens spend their evenings engaged in restorative practices, including "talking circles," groups and family group decision-making conferences. The program helps students develop positive learning, communication and coping skills and provides drug and alcohol treatment when necessary. On Saturdays the teens perform meaningful community service at such settings as parks, nature centers and nursing homes. At the end of each day they return to their own homes. Both at home and during the hours they spend in the RRC program, the teens wear electronic ankle bracelets so that their county juvenile probation department can monitor their whereabouts.

At first glance, an outsider might be surprised to learn that these teenagers are all on "indefinite probation" within the juvenile legal system: Each has engaged in repeated violations of probation after committing an initial crime. Most young people in this position would be removed from their homes and schools and for long periods of time. Guided by the principles of restorative practices, Community Ser-

RRC staff work with youth to help them take responsibility for their actions and make lasting changes in their lives, directly involving the youths' family members in this process.

vice Foundation and Bucks County Juvenile Probation worked together to develop a different approach, a community-based model that aims to reduce recidivism by holding youth accountable for their behavior and enabling them to make positive changes in their lives, while also addressing the need for community safety.

Craig Adamson, executive director of Community Service Foundation, talked about the importance of collaborating with the Bucks County Juvenile Probation Department on this program: "The RRC program is a great example of two groups working together to develop a vision for a program that responds to the needs of the community while creating restorative programming that impacts offending youth and their families."

Bob Stanzione, Bucks County chief juvenile probation officer, and Nick Caramenico, a Bucks County probation officer, were critical to the development of the RRC program.

Stanzione discussed the intention behind the program: "Generally these are kids who haven't been able to keep on the right track. The idea was to break the string of noncompliance with a program that gets their attention with a lot of interaction, regimen, structure and family engagement." Added Caramenico, "Other reporting centers across

the country focus mainly on community protection, which is an important goal or objective; however, that doesn't assist the referred juvenile with the repair of issues that might have gotten them into the program in the first place."

CSF and Bucks County Juvenile Probation worked together to secure grant funding for the RRC program from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Caramenico said he thought Community Service Foundation was the best agency for his department to collaborate with on the program because of its focus on community resources and family and parental empowerment. "In order for the RRC Program to be successful, both of these components needed to be present."

"The RRC Program costs about half of the average daily rate for a juvenile to be placed out of their community in a residential program."

—NICK CARAMENICO, BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) JUVENILE PROBATION

Mary Lynn LaSalvia-Keyte, assistant director of the RRC Program, explained that the philosophy of restorative practices at the heart of CSF's mission is what sets the program apart from other reporting centers. "Restorative practices enhances the experience of youth and families in the RRC, especially those processes involving family engagement." An important example of such a process is the family group decision making (FGDM) conference, in which a young person's extended family meets together to help make a plan for his or her future.

While the program is just completing its first year, the Restorative Reporting Centers are seeing excellent results. Mary Finnigan, who saw how successful the program was for her son Kevin, believes that

it worked because it taught him life lessons while keeping him in the situations where he would have to immediately use his new skills. "Had they put him away, I think he would have been more sheltered. [With the RRC program] he still had to deal with pressures by staying in the same school and coming home to the same family. He learned to deal with his life."

Kevin agrees that restorative practices, as he experienced them in the RRC program, were essential to his success. "They taught me to deal with situations that I see in real life, like peer pressure." Kevin also said that he really appreciated the RRC counselors and that he "could talk to them about anything." He is now on track to graduate high school and has plans to attend a local community college to study counseling, with hopes of helping other young people. Both Kevin and his mother cite this unique program as the reason Kevin is doing so well, and there are many other success stories like his among the clients that the RRC program serves.

The evidence based on program outcome measures of the Restorative Reporting Centers shows great potential, but Stanzione's office will next focus on tracking probationers' recidivism rates to see the long-term effects of the program. He notes, "We know in the short term that two thirds of the clients have completed the program. That may not seem like a lot, but we kept all of those clients without arrests, probation violations or endangering the community during the time of their placement."

Caramenico adds, "The Community Service Foundation RRC Program costs about half of the average daily rate for a juvenile to be placed out of their community in a residential program... and has the potential, as time moves on, to be a large cost saver for the County of Bucks."

Stanzione believes it is too early to make definitive statements about the

success of the RRC program but says, "I think it is very promising."

While in-depth statistical analysis is yet to come regarding the effects of the Restorative Reporting Centers on probationers, the community and their families, early informal indications of success are strong.

LaSalvia-Keyte notes, "We've had some youth enter the program with complex issues and make a transformation in a short period of time. Some former RRC clients are still getting A's and B's in school because they came here and learned to take the time to do their homework. I've had probation officers call us and provide updates, telling us that a particular kid is on the honor roll and going to graduate."

Outcome measures collected by CSF in the first year of the RRC program show that a total of 104 clients entered the program between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011. Of 85 clients discharged in this year, 81 said they were satisfied with their experience; 59 were discharged and successfully completed the program; 26 were discharged early and did not complete the program. The 104 clients completed 4,305 hours of community service and achieved 98% attendance; 99% of the drug screens were negative for controlled substances.

The attention to restorative practices sets Community Service Foundation apart: the emphasis on keeping juvenile offenders in their home and teaching them — and their families — coping mechanisms for the various challenges they will face in their schools and communities. While still new, the RRC program appears to be very promising, both for Bucks County and as a model for other programs around the country. ●



DRAFT PROPOSAL

THE RESTORATIVE REPORTING CENTER'S INTENSIVE TRANSITION

LENGTH OF TIME: (RRC + Intensive Transition) The RRC program is enhancing its delivery through aligning with the SPEP target duration times and adding a transition period of aftercare. These changes are to promote greater service delivery in order to reduce recidivism. The social skills training service type will be the primary intervention.

- 9 weeks placement in RRC proper with EM - 11 weeks of Intensive Transition (20 weeks total - formally the 60 program day track)
- 13 weeks placement in RRC proper with EM – 7 weeks of Intensive Transition (20 weeks total - formally the 90 program day track)

*Recommend doing away with 30-day placement

*We will change the language from days to weeks to mirror duration vocabulary.

(note – Lipsey's target 16 weeks duration and 24 hours dosage are averages and the thought is to combine the intensive experience of RRC proper with an aftercare component specific to social skills training totaling 20 weeks.)

NARRATIVE: The RRC is a community-based social skills training intervention created to provide services as an alternative to placement for delinquent youth. This intensive experience has two stages and two lengths of time to offer some variability based on the risk and needs of the client. The RRC specifically targets moderate risk youth with the ability to accept other risk levels on a case-by-base basis.

The RRC curriculum and restorative circle processes primarily focus on social skills development for delinquent youth. In addition to this service, the RRC provides additional supports that include individual and family connections, FGDM, drug and alcohol monitoring, homework skill development, healthy peer relations, moral reasoning skills, anger control skills and empathy building through restorative practices.

Categorization of the YLS/CMI – RRC looks to reduce recidivism by providing programming that targets attitudes/orientation in the high dosage portion of the program and through the progression of the program personality/behavior, family circumstances/parenting and peer relations are targeted.

By adding the intensive transition portion of the program to the RRC proper, the RRC hopes to lower the recidivism rate of 25% for the successfully discharged clients at 6 months. Our goal would be to be at 22% recidivism or lower through this program enhancement.



Community Service Foundation

RESTORING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

www.csfbuxmont.org

STAFFING:

- 1 full time Intensive Transition counselor at each RRC site. (2 FTE)

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Facilitate one Intensive Transition group/week.
- One in - home contact/week (one week could be individual, next week would be family)(Counselor would have flexibility to do more of one if need be) (sessions to be 45 min – 1 hour).
- Facilitate Family night with Intensive Transition clients and parents. one/week (held on alternate family night from RRC clients).
- Facilitate RRC family night with RRC staff so current RRC clients and families start building the relationship that will continue on into the Intensive Transition.

*Note: Intensive Transition counselor could also conduct individual sessions in community. (school, work,)

- Conduct mandatory FGDM at end of Intensive Transition rather than at the end of RRC.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Transportation to group night will be provided on a case-by-case basis. Parents who are willing to transport will be encouraged to do so. On Family Nights parents or relative are responsible to transport and attend weekly family night. Client is required to attend even if parent does not.

FAMILY NIGHT:

6:45 – 8:15 – One session/week

- Family groups will provide direction and support to develop skills that will help the client and family improve their communication skills, assertiveness skills, listening skills, talking with respect, setting and maintaining appropriate house rules and negotiating conflict

GROUP NIGHT:

6:45 – 8:15 – One session/week

- Clients will continue to build on social skills that they addressed while in the RRC program. The social skills training will focus on developing skills required for an individual to interact with others. The training technique will include: TELL (instruction), SHOW (modeling of behavior), DO (practice and rehearsal), FEEDBACK, and REDO (reinforcement).

PO Box 283, Pipersville, PA 18947 • Main Office 610-807-3555 • School Records 215-783-0173

Programs: Foster Care 215-778-2955 • Supervision 267-718-7608 • Conferencing/FGDM 267-718-7608

Centers: Bethlehem 610-807-0210 • Feasterville 215-953-0895 • Pottstown 610-718-9500

Sellersville 215-257-4131 • Woodlyn 610-833-1722



Community Service Foundation

RESTORING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

www.csfbuxmont.org

Social skills curriculum will include but will not be limited to:

- Communication skills
- Conflict resolution
- Decision making
- Drug and alcohol education
- Peer pressure
- Victim empathy
- Anger control
- Disconnectedness
- Dealing with authority
- Values clarification
- Impulse control
- Family connection
- Problem solving
- Self awareness
- Academic attitude and performance
- Building positive relationships

ELECTRONIC MONITORING:

- We recommend that clients entering the Intensive Transition be removed from electronic monitoring. We believe that the removal of the electronic monitor is a natural “step-down” progression from the initial RRC tract to the Transition tract.

URINE COLLECTION:

- Intensive Transition clients will be randomly urine tested during the week and on weekends and holidays.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Community service will not be mandatory for clients moving into the Transition program. It can be used for Intensive Transition clients who have court ordered hours to perform or at a probation officer's request.

SUMMARY:

The Intensive Transition will provide clients with:

- Social Skills training on an ongoing basis.
- One Intensive Transition group / week.
- One in-home individual or family session / week.
- One Family night group/week.
- One FGDM conference with potential follow-up.
- Community service available to make up required community service hours (on as needed basis).
- Weekend morning urine collection.

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Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

Bucks County Juvenile Probation Annual Report

This report reflects discharged Bucks County Juvenile Probation clients that attended Community Service Foundation's (CSF) programs between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

CSF provides foster care, day treatment, in-home and community-based services for delinquent and dependent youth. The following data provides information in a total population outcome and specific to the county.

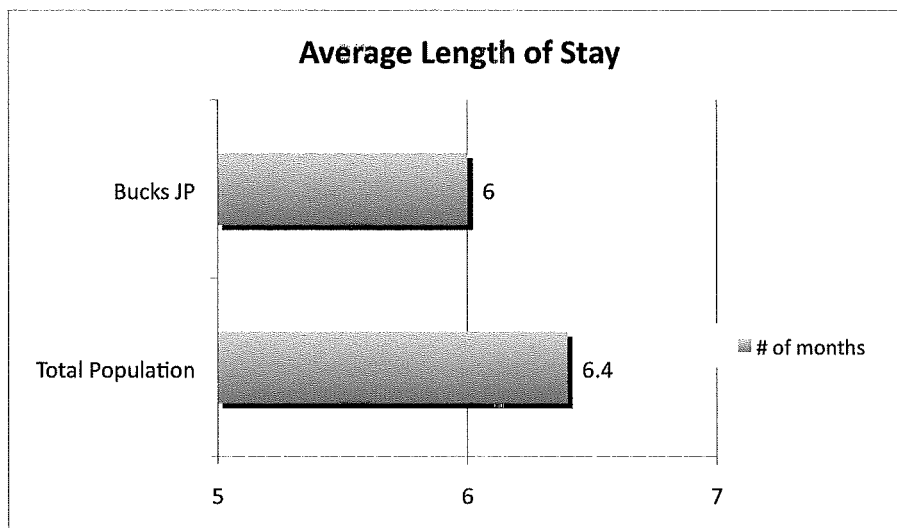
Outcome data is used as a means to understand trends and provide numerical data. CSF has conducted evidence-based studies that measured effectiveness of programming that include findings that reduced offending and increased self-esteem and pro-social attitudes (see McCold and Chang, 2002; 2005; 2008 - <http://www.csfbuxmont.org/research-and-articles>)

2013-2014 Outcome Data:

FOSTER CARE

Average Length of Stay

The chart below shows the average length of stay (in months) for the client population in CSF's foster care program and the average length of stay for the Bucks JP clients.



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

Discharge Type

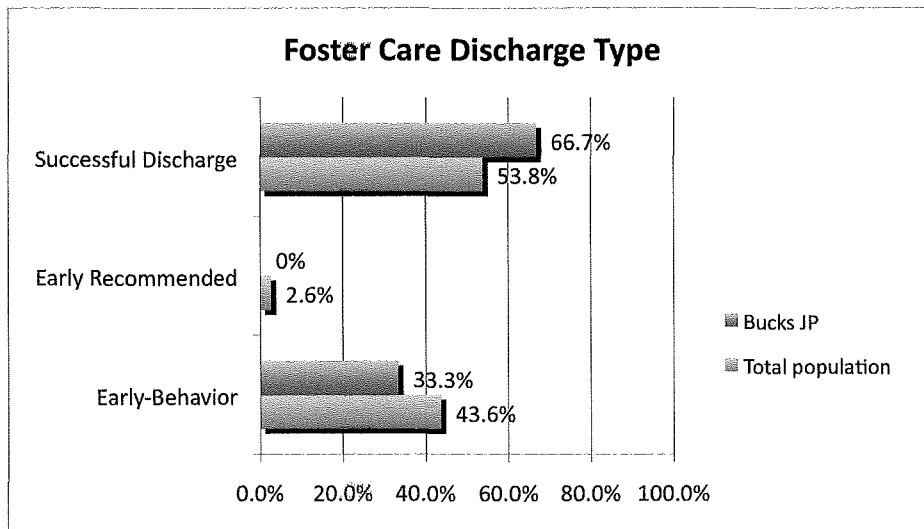
The total number of youth in our foster care and day treatment program between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 served from your county was 9 clients. Of these 9 clients discharged, 3 (33.3 %) were early due to behavior and 6 (66.7 %) were successful discharge.

When CSF discharges a client we have created several categories to best define the reason for discharge. There are three choices: Successful Discharge, Early Discharge – Behavior, Early Discharge – Recommended. The definitions for each reason are below.

Successful Discharge: Successfully completed the program (returned to public school, graduated or GED)

Early Discharge — behavior: Did not complete for behavioral reasons (repeated misbehavior, failure to attend, re-arrest, violate probation, failure to cooperate, sent to detention, death by suicide or drug overdose, sent to another program because of their behavior, or client decided to drop out of school before turning 18). This decision is then broken into category one if CSF recommended the discharge or category two if the county worker or judge made the decision for discharge.

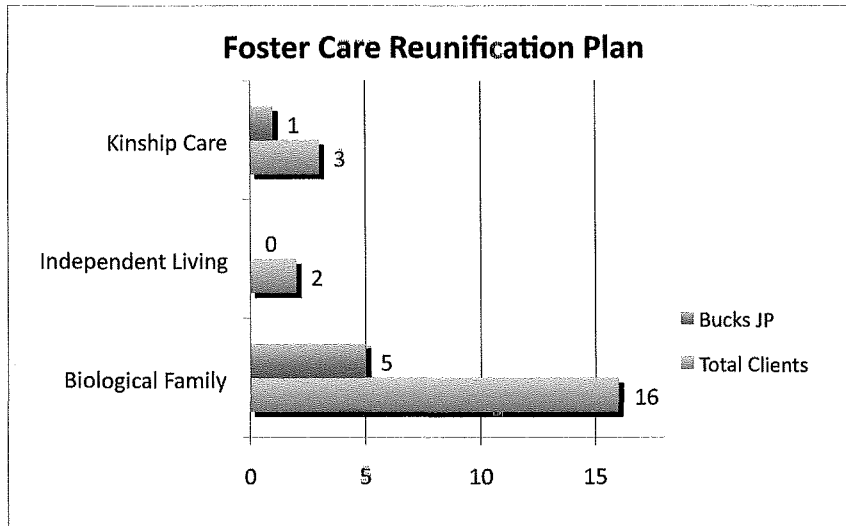
Early Discharge — recommended: Did not complete because client went voluntarily to another program deemed to be more appropriate with the support of CSF staff (client voluntarily entered rehab, mental hospital, etc).



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

Reunification Plan

Of the 21 total clients who were successfully discharged from our foster care program, 16 returned to their biological family, 2 went to independent living and 3 went to kinship care as shown below. Bucks JP had 6 clients with a successful discharge.

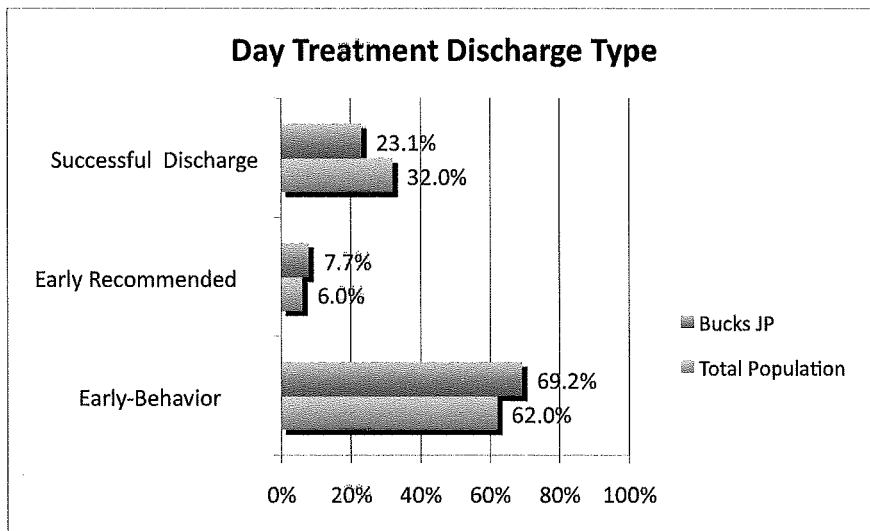


Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

DAY TREATMENT

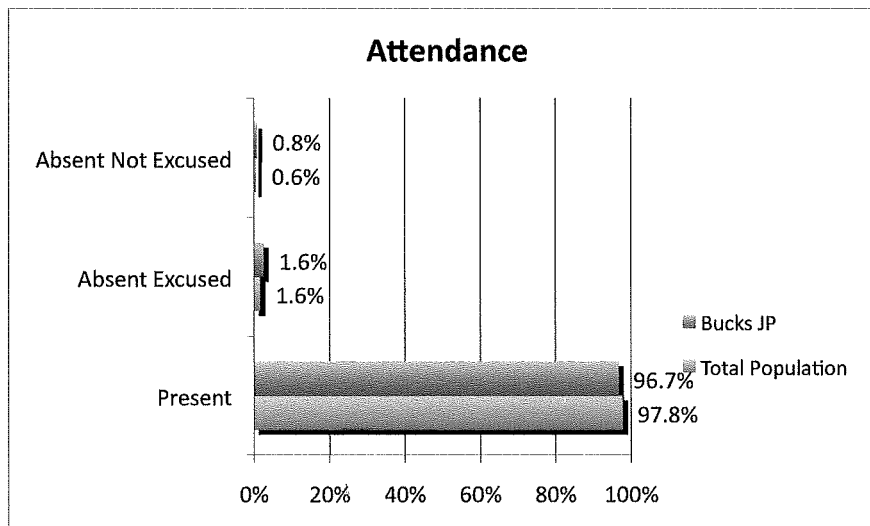
Discharge Type

There were 50 total day treatment clients discharged between 7/1/2013 and 6/30/2014. There were 31 with early discharge because of behavior and 6 of those were recommended by CSF. Three discharges were early recommended and 16 were successful. Bucks County JP had 13 clients discharged as seen in the chart below (9 early because of behavior, 1 early recommended and 3 successful).



Attendance

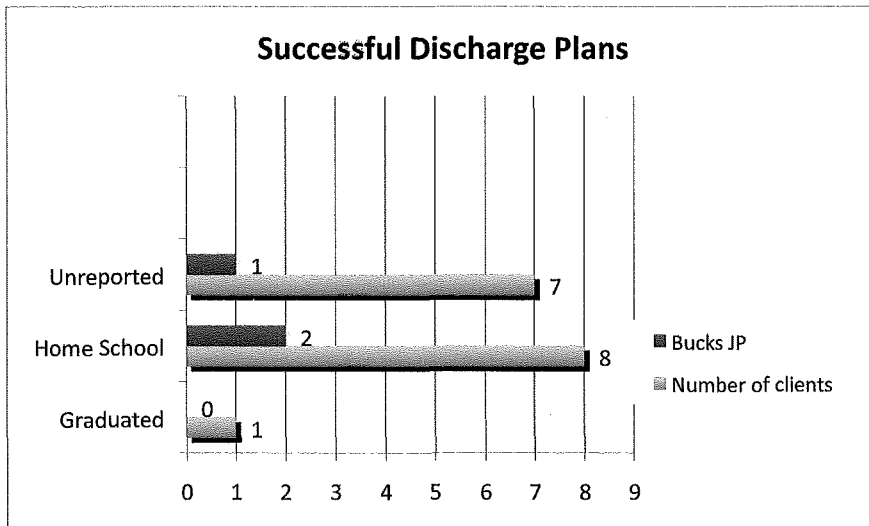
There were 129 total clients served in the day treatment program and 99.4 % were present or had excused absences and .6 % have absences that were unexcused. There were 43 Bucks JP clients and 99.2 % were present or had excused absence.



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

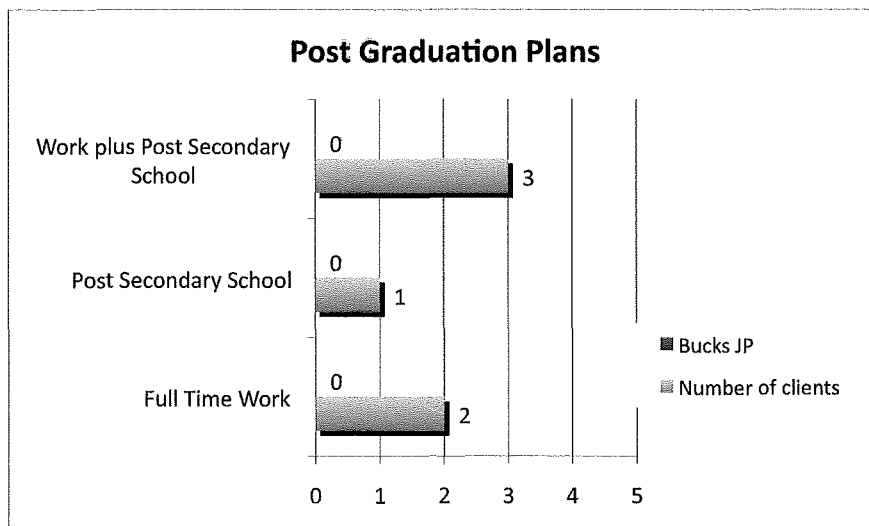
Discharge Plans

There were 16 total day treatment clients successfully discharged and as shown in the chart below. Eight returned to their home school. Bucks JP had 3 successful discharges.



Post Graduation Plans

The last outcome measured is the post graduate plans which is shown in the chart below. There were 6 graduates in total and there was 0 Bucks JP graduates.

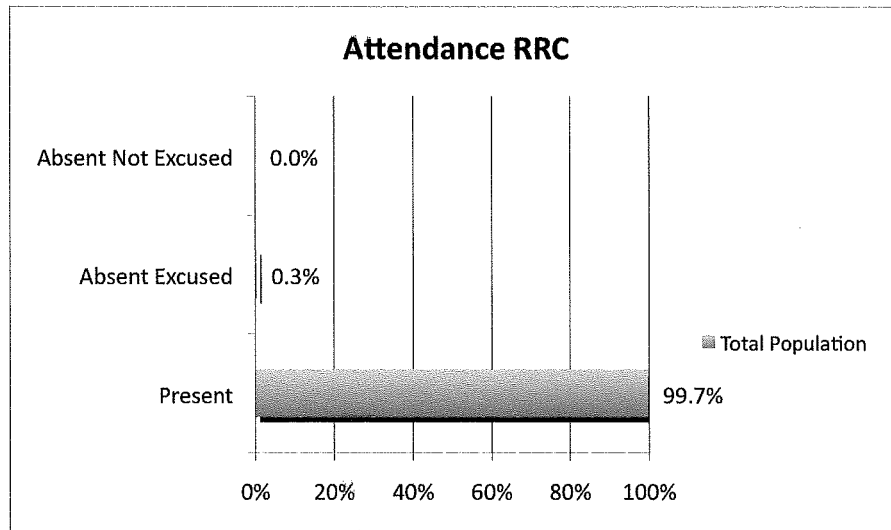


Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

RESTORATIVE REPORTING CENTERS (RRC Program)

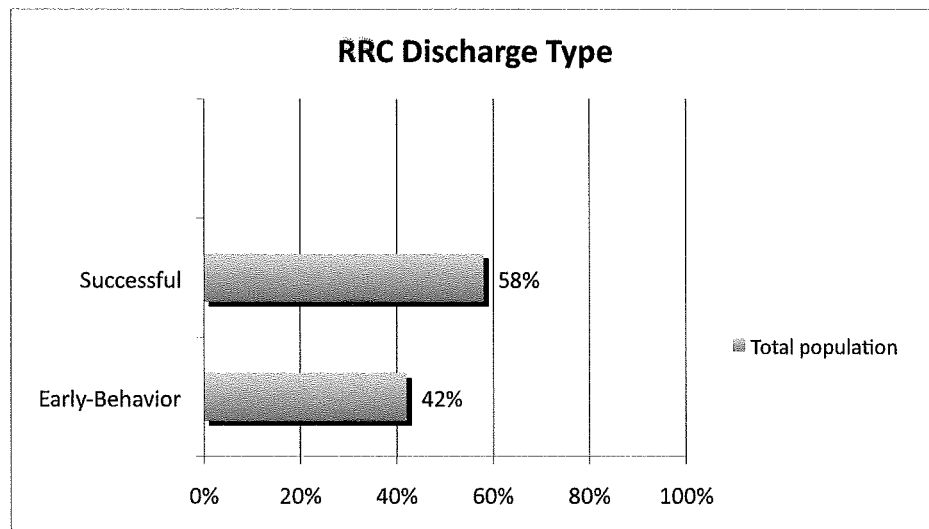
Attendance

The attendance rate for the RRC Program was 99.7% present, .3 % excused absence and 0% unexcused.



Discharge

Out of the 86 discharges, 50 (58 %) were successful and 36 (42%) were early behavior (unsuccessful).



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

COMMUNITY SERVICE

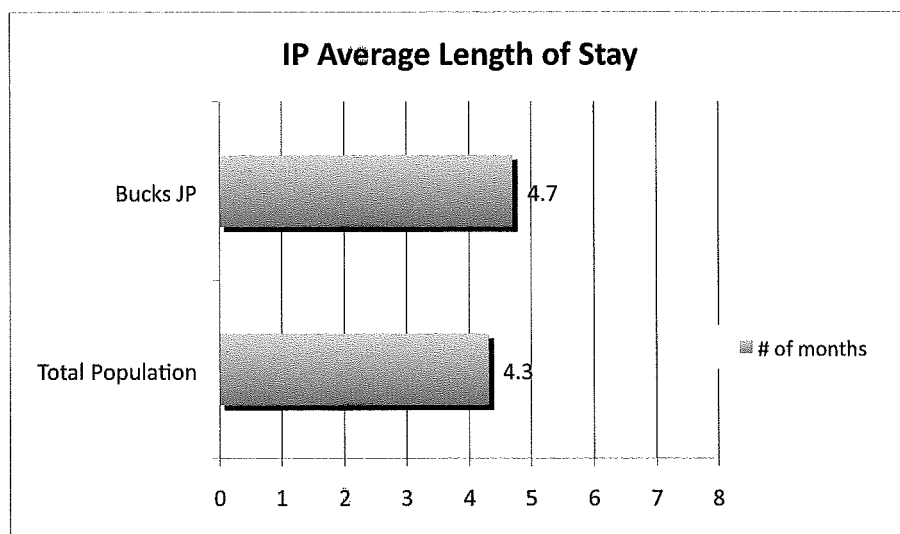
Youth in the RRC program completed 5698 hours of meaningful community service at a wide range of sites. Please see the last section of this report which lists the sites.

INTENSIVE PROGRAM

The total number of clients served in the IP program in fiscal year 2013-2014 was 211 for a total of 21,337 days. The IP program served 140 clients from Bucks County JP, for a total of 14,519 days.

Average Length of Stay

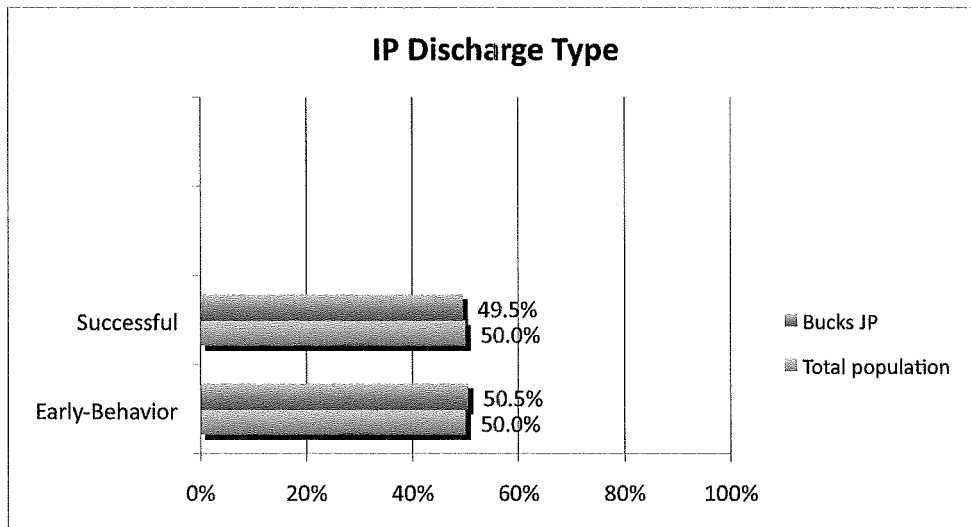
The average length of involvement for a youth in the Intensive Program was 4.3 months and 4.7 months for Bucks JP clients.



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

Discharge

There were 156 clients discharged from the IP Program from 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014. Out of the 156, 78 were successful discharges and 78 were discharged early because of behavior, 3 of those, a CSF decision. Of the 97 youth discharged from Bucks JP, 48 were discharged successfully, 49 were early because of behavior.



Community Service Foundation Outcomes Report 2013-2014

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Youth in the IP Program performed a total of 600.5 hours of meaningful community service.

Community Service Sites and Projects- 2013-2014

- CSF Feasterville School
- Park Ave Clean Up- Warminster Township
- Feasterville Community Clean Up
- Tamanend Park
- Neshaminy Manor
- Native American Pow Wow
- Churchville Nature Center
- My Life Teen forum
- Friends of Ralph Morgan Park
- Main Street Clean Up- Doylestown
- Equine Retirement Farm
- Special Equestrians
- Re-use a shoe
- Bailiwick office campus
- International Spring Festival
- Warminster Baseball
- Lower Southampton Athletic Association
- Silver Lake Nature Center
- Playwicki Park
- Knowles Ave Clean up- Upper Southampton Township
- Davisville and Street Road Adopt Site- Warminster Township
- Peace Valley Park
- Operation Helping Hand
- Chester County SPCA
- Lenape Park/ Perkasië Dog Park
- Grove Park
- Phoenixville Farm Market
- Upper Providence Dog Park and Canal Walk