Task 4: Research Plan

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**Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are defined as “those people who are personally involved with the program, derive income from it, sponsor it, or are clients or potential recipients of the program’s services” (Posavac, 2011). An evaluation on a unit of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America will be used to gather data to support the research question. It is important to consider the stakeholders when conducting an evaluation. Therefore, the program manager, staff, and youth members will be included. The program manager and staff will play a role in the interviews in which information will be gathered on their skills, goals, and objectives they have for the children and being a part of BGCA. The youth members will play a role in completing surveys and being observed during a day spent at the center.

**Type of Evaluation & Research Question**

Gathering data for an after-school program like the Boys and Girls Clubs of America can be complex. Utilizing the Success Case Method will help best with evaluating the program. This method can be described as “finding those participants who are achieving the goals of the program and contrasting them with those who clearly are not” (Posavac, 2011). BGCA seeks to discover interests, improve behavior, and develop or improve personal expectations and goals of youth. The Success Case Method will assist in identifying if BGCA is reaching these goals, how they are being met, and in what ways can the program be improved to increase its success rates in youth. This method will also address the question “is the Boys and Girls Clubs of America effective in improving personal development”? Factors such as self-confidence, building and keeping relationships, integrity, and responsibility will be addressed. Considering that BGCA wants to give its members an opportunity at a successful life, it is critical to understand what lessons and activities are involved in this process. It is also significant to get the perspective of the members to see what is working for them and what is not. Although this may not gather all of the specifics to learn which factors generate the best results, it will provide insight on how BGCA can move toward more success rates in its members.

 In addition to personal development being evaluated in BGCA’s members, personnel and staff quality of work such as effort, communication, warmth, and professionalism will be included as well. These are all key factors in delivering the proper services to the youth as staff should serve as role models, have a passion for the well-being of the members and guiding them on the right path. A child’s success is not only connected to internal factors such as self-confidence, but also external factors such as their social networks like friends, family, teachers, and counselors. These networks play a role in how youth view the world and how they should react to it. In turn, they can be linked to a child’s personal development.

**Data & Research Method**

This evaluation will utilize a collection of data sources. Identified beneficiaries of the program such as, individual participants, that being the members, will be observed and instructed to fill out a survey. Providers of services including program staff will also be used to gather data. Staff members will be asked to complete an interview. For ethical purposes, they will be asked for permission to record the interview, so that all of their answers will be accurately represented in the evaluation. If allowed, an annual report from the unit would be appropriate as well. This will provide a summary of the program since all information cannot be gathered in a short period of time. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods should be used to address the research questions. There will be a comparison between successful and unsuccessful members of BGCA which should be shown numerically. The qualitative method will address if services are being provided in a helpful, yet effective.

References

Posavac, E. J. (2011). *Program Evaluation: Methods and Case Studies* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.