Samaritan House Children’s Program Evaluation Research Plan

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**Stakeholders**

There are many stakeholders in the Children’s Program at the Samaritan House, but for the purpose of my evaluation, I will be working with the program supervisor and the two staff members who work with the children within the program. The program supervisor name is Rebecca Headings and she has agreed to work with me for the purpose of my evaluation. The program supervisor will be able to provide information about how the program is run and the purpose of the program. She also has detailed information and access to records and documentation. Rebecca would be the person who is able to provide me access to those records and pertinent information that is needed to conduct my evaluation. The two staff members will be able to provide pertinent information about the program and the clients and how the program is actually running. The staff works directly with the children and is able to provide information of what they have seen within the agency, specifically the Children’s Program.

**Evaluation Type**

My intention is to complete a summative evaluation for the Children’s Program. More specifically, I am going to complete the impact type of summative evaluation. The summative program evaluation measures the effectiveness of the program which is the ultimate goal of my evaluation question. The type of summative evaluation I will use is an impact because it’s broader and it assesses the overall or net effects of the program, whether they were intended or not intended. This is better for my study because I am trying to observe what the program is actually doing with the clients to lower signs of trauma and to see if overall that the services that are being provided are effective.

**Evaluation Question**

My evaluation question asks, "How does the Children's Program at Samaritan House effectively provide services to reduce the effects of trauma in their clients". I believe this will address my research and the evidence received will reveal if what they are doing works as a whole within the program or are there some improvements to be made to help the program become efficient.

**Data Collection**

In order to get the necessary information, I plan to use interviews, surveys, and observation for my evaluation data collection. All of my methods of data collection are considered cost-effective. I will establish a day and time convenient for the program supervisor Rebecca, where I can meet with her and interview her about the program while obtaining the required data on how the program is ran, the policy and procedures of the agency and what practices are implemented when trying to reduce the signs of trauma in the children. In addition to interviewing the program supervisor, I also plan to interview the two staff members who work directly with the clients. The staff members possess critical information about the program and the clients, being that they are employees who work directly with the clients daily. The staff completes the documentation of progress or regression of the clients. I also plan to use surveys as another method of data collection where I can survey the staff to see how well they think their program is being implemented. My last method of data collection is observation. I plan to observe the program supervisor and the staff members in action with the children and the way they interact. During the observation, I will only be recording what I have observed.

**Research Method**

For my research methods, I will use mixed methods when conducting my research. Qualitative research is where I use the data collected and described in a narrative form. The questions used in the interview will be broad and open-ended questions that will give me detailed information about the methods used to reduce signs of trauma. The qualitative information that I have obtained by interviewing and observing the supervisor and staff will be presented in narrative form. The quantitative data will represent the results of the surveys that were completed by the program staff and supervisor to address the overall effectiveness of the program. These research methods will work best in addressing my research question as to how the staff and program supervisor is actually reducing the effects of trauma in the children they serve.