Agency Selection: LifeWorks BHS

Chanelle Dunson

Old Dominion University

Agency Introduction

The agency I have chosen to evaluate is Life Works BHS’s Peer Support Services. This agency relates to my interest because am from Cleveland, Ohio. There we have a lot of issues with drug abuse, homelessness of people and vets, and mentally ill people out on the street with not enough programs and support to help them. With my main goal to be a mental health counselor or substance abuse counselor, this agency aligns with both my interest because they offer mental health to substance use disorders, these being some of the many services they offer and advocate for. Life works goal is to help Peers who have current or a history of Mental Health or Substance Use Disorders, find ways to stop the devastating impact of addiction and addictive behaviors, also to reduce harm associated with mental health disorders through Peer Support by offering an authentic approach to help the individual find their own personal pathway of recovery (Life Works BHS, 2018).

The program I plan to evaluate is Life Works SUD (Substance use disorder), I want to step outside and explore my second option to better understand when people are diagnosed under multiple situations. Such as when I volunteered at an inpatient clinic with veterans. A lot of them were diagnosed with many mental disorders but also substance use disorders. Life works not only counsel’s substance use disorders but advocate for those in prisons with these disorders and works with them on many things falling under this situation.

Population and Geographic’s of Agency Services

 The population they serve is the city of Cleveland, Ohio mainly the homeless, those with substance abuse problems, veterans, and inmates and former inmates with these issues. With Cleveland being made up of a little more then half of African Americans (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018) most of the clientele demographics being just that, African American’s. With the main location being in Euclid they are among their clientele as this is a very urban area so much so the building does have a door guard at all times. With this agency being fairly new I believe my evaluation will be all the more helpful in seeing things they need to work on and allow them to fix them quick. I wanted to work and evaluate this agency because they are setting out to do some real good in a dying city that can use a little help and hope and that is what I too wish to give to my clients in the future.

# References

# Lifeworks BHS: Certified Peer Recovery Supporters for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. (2018). Lifeworks BHS: Certified Peer Recovery Supporters for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Cleveland, OH.

# U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Cleveland city, Ohio. (2018, July 1). Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/clevelandcityohio