Task One

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I am excited to get to know my agency, and do some evaluation of their services they offer. There were many options in Virginia Beach, however I tried to focus on what I believe my career opportunities will be in the future and base my decision on what agency to choose on that. I know that I have always wanted to work in the school system, and I can see myself wanting to be a guidance counselor within it. I have always wanted to work with kids as well, so an elementary school would be the ideal place to work and evaluate.

**Agency**

I have contacted Strawbridge Elementary School here in Virginia Beach, VA, in order to receive permission to evaluate their counseling services. I contacted Ms. Skylar Harrison who is the lead counselor at Strawbridge. Ms. Harrison has stated that I have permission to evaluate her program, and I am allowed to come in and shadow and conduct interviews within the school and program. I have worked with Ms. Harrison before and she is excited for me to conduct my evaluation to see what they could be doing better.

**Mission and Purpose**

The mission and purpose for Strawbridge Elementary School counseling services is to be readily available to every student, and to be there to listen and talk with students who are having problems. The problems these students could be facing can be within the school or home, and the counselors will be there to listen and talk through it all. They also strive to go into the classroom and teach about issues facing the school system such as, bullying, suicide, and abuse. They look to talk about these issues and let the students know that they are there for them for any reason, and the students shouldn’t be afraid to talk to them if something like this was going on.

**Population**

The population that Strawbridge Elementary School counseling services works with is a very diverse one. The students that attend this school are a very mixed group. There is low, middle, and high class kids. There are a variety of races among the students as well. If I had to give a more specific evaluation of the student body, I would say that about 75% of the students there are white middle-class kids. They other 15% would be collectively the diverse nature of the school, and different incomes.

**Location**

This school is located in Virginia Beach, VA in the Hunt Club area. Their services don’t reach past the students and their parents, however they have over 500 students within this school. As I said previously, they attract a diverse range of students who come from different neighborhoods surrounding that school district. The counselors work with other neighboring school systems as well. Sometimes the schools even share counselors among them. However, they all stay in Virginia Beach, and within neighboring schools.

**Reasoning**

My reasoning on choosing this agency is because I’ve always wanted to work as a guidance counselor in a school system. I attended Strawbridge Elementary School when I was of age, and most of my best memories come from me working beside the counselors here. I have again previously worked with Ms. Harrison, and am comfortable enough to do an evaluation at this school. I want to be able to help the elementary school that I went too, and figure out how to maximize their services to the students. Ms. Harrison is also a huge role model for me, and I am excited to see what her procedures are, and how they can be improved for both her and the students that she works with.