Agency Selection

Old Dominion University

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**Agency**

The agency that I have chosen for this project is Family Preservation Services (FPS). I have contacted the agency and they have allowed me to observe and interview them for this project. The person that I spoke to, Ms. Kathy, sounded very excited to have me come and find out what the agency was all about. Therefore, when I went to speak to the agency, they were very friendly. I could definitely tell that everyone was happy to be there and I never heard someone complain. The atmosphere in the office was very warm and welcoming.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this agency is to is to help families, children, and individuals who are dealing with traumatic issues in their lives or dealing with internal or external issues. They have therapeutic daytime treatment, out-patient treatment, substance abuse counseling, crisis intervention, and foster care treatment. One of the agency’s goals is to help individuals with their daily issues whether it is behavioral, emotional or having complications in their everyday life. There main focus is to make sure that children are provided with safe and stable homes. They want to make sure that children are being raised by two parents.

**Population**

Family Preservation services all families, children, and adults. The agency does not discriminate, and they will provide anyone services as needed. They currently service children of all ages, families of diverse cultures, and adults. Family Preservation services children that are not in a two-parent home. They work to make sure that the child has a good and stable home. The agency also deals with improving parenting and families functioning.

**Location**

The agency services within rural and mountainous locations in southwest Virginia. The agency that I am evaluating is located in Cedar Bluff, VA. They service in the surrounding areas of Buchanan, Russell, and Tazewell counties. In some of the locations are remote and the road conditions are not ideal for travel.

**Goals**

In the decision making of choosing my agency, I thought about what type of clients I would like to work with, and I started looking in the surrounding area. That is when I found Family Preservation Services. They work with children and families along with other individuals. I have always wanted to work with children ever since I started my college career. When I started college in the teacher program, I knew it was not the right fit for me and that is when I found out about all that human services had to offer.

There are several programs in this agency that deals with children and their families and I instantly fell in love with that side of human services. So, when I found the agency, I knew it would be a good idea to find out more information about what they do and what their goal is to help children and their families. After finding the agency, I found out that they had a TDT program that works with school age children that have behavioral or emotional issues and I was very intrigued. I hope to find out more information about what TDT counselors do and possibly, one day, become a TDT counselor.