Research Plan

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HMSV 440W Task 5

**Evaluation**

For my evaluation, I have selected for my evaluation is the Family Preservation Services agency. I have chosen to take a closer look at their TDT (therapeutic daytime treatment) program. This program deals mainly with children that have behavioral or emotional issues and their families. Their main focus is to help children have a safe and stable household and make sure that they are well taken care of. I chose to evaluate this program because the program directors are very caring and loving people who want what is best for the children and their families.

**Stakeholders**

The first step in starting an evaluation is to first choose the place that you want to evaluate and then find the stakeholders of the agency. Stakeholders involve all of the individuals that are in the program, the individuals who provide and receive the services, and the individuals that support the program (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). In this case the stakeholders will consist of the parents, families, children, and program directors. All of the stakeholders play an important role in the evaluation process. Without the stakeholders there would not be an agency or program.

**Type of Evaluation**

The next step is to figure out which type of evaluation is best for evaluating the program. For my evaluation I have chosen to use the objectives-based model. This type of evaluation is used to figure out what degree the program has accomplished with the objectives that have been given (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). The program that I have chosen deals with family and children. Therefore, this model can help me to determine what the program has already accomplished and see if they are looking at any other plans to help improve the program. Even though a program has accomplished several of their plans it is always a good thing to have a backup plan in case the plan that they have chosen does not work. By using this type of evaluation, it will help me to address my evaluation question of what the need is for the program. It will allow me to find out what plans were successful for the agency and what plans were not as successful.

**Evaluation Question**

One of the evaluation questions that I have chosen deals with the overall need of the program that I will be evaluating. The question is what is the need for the TDT (therapeutic daytime treatment) program? What makes this program a good choice for the children that are dealing with behavioral or emotional issues? In asking the question, I will be focusing on the program itself and how it is helping the children that are in the program. I will be looking to see if the need for the program is efficient and effective for the clients that are in it. Then I will go more in-depth with the questioning to see if I can find the overall concept of the program itself.

**Alignment**

In relations to the type of evaluation and the question that I have chosen to use for my evaluation, the alignment of them compliment each other. By using the objectives-based model it allows me to take a look at the overall program and see what they have accomplished as a program. While the question of what is the need for the TDT program, still allows me to get an overall view of what they are looking to accomplish with the program and what they have already accomplished. In using both of them together, it provides me with the information that I will need in order to complete my evaluation.

**Data Collection**

By creating an evaluation, one must have some form of way to collect their findings. The ways that I have chosen to collect my data is by using interviews and surveys. In using those types of data collection, it will allow me to gather a better understanding of how the individuals feel and think about the program. It provides me with the information from different individuals that are in the program by either filling out a quick survey or answering a few questions in an interview.

When constructing an interview, it is important to keep in mind what the target audience is and what they will feel comfortable answering. There are some individuals that will not do an interview due to the questions or just simply not wanting to answer the questions. However, the advantage to constructing interviews is that the interviewer can follow up on certain aspects that were made by the respondent (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). Although this can be a difficult task, interviewing is a great way to get to know the individuals that partake in the program and allows for the interviewer to have different perspectives.

Surveys, on the other hand, are one of the methods that seems to have the most effect. It is considered to be the most widely used method when gathering data for an evaluation (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). By giving out surveys to individuals that have knowledge or have been in the program, they will most likely fill out the survey and provide me with a quick form of evaluation. It will allow me to see what their thoughts are and give a quick view of how they see the program and what they feel is the most effective about the program.

**Research Method**

As for the type of research method that I will be using, I have chosen to use the qualitative method. By using this type of method, it will allow me to ask open ended questions that are not structured to learn more about the program (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). Those who choose this method want to be able to freely ask interviewees questions about the program by using their own words instead of being scripted as to what to say (Linfield & Posavac, 2019). Therefore, I will be using questions that I have and adding to them to see if I can gather more information about the program that I have chosen.

**Research and Question**

In looking at the research method that I have chosen and the question that I would like to have answered, I find that the research method is a good fit to help me find the answer to the question. By using the qualitative method of research, it allows me to ask my interviewees open ended questions in regard to the question that I have. The question being what is the need for the TDT program, can be open to allowing the interviewees to give their honest opinions about their thoughts of the program. In using the qualitative method, it gives the interviewer more wiggle room when it comes to asking questions that may not be structured. Overall, the research method and question fit well together and will provide me a way with retrieving the answer that I will need for my evaluation.

Reference

Linfield, K. J., & Posavac, E. J. (2019). *Program evaluation: methods and case studies*. New York, NY: Routledge.