Agency Selection

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**Agency description**

The agency that will be discussed in this report is the Rappahannock area community service board (RACSB). The RACSB offers numerous services such as day programs, group homes, mental health services and many more. The RACSB is a well-respected organization in the community and helps a ton of people. Even though the RACSB offers numerous services, the service that I will be focusing on is the day support program. This report will go into more detail about the RACSB mission, population it service and geographic locations.

**Mission**

The purpose of the day support part of the RACSB is to help families with special needs individuals. They help these individuals and their families by doing many educational activities. The day support program gives special needs individuals a place where they can be safe and have fun during the day. The day support program also teaches these individuals life skills and communication skills. The staff takes these individuals out and teaches them how to interact with the community. They try to work with families to better improve a special needs individual’s behavior. This is a very important service for the community because it relieves many struggling families. I am hoping to learn more about this Agency’s purpose and mission during my evaluation.

**Population Served**

As noted above, the population that the day support program serves is the special needs community. The day support program helps individuals with both physical and mental disabilities. The day support program has specially trained staff members that can handle all kinds of disabilities. This is very important because these types of individuals need special attention. In order to serve this population, this agency needs to understand the characteristics of these individuals. Understanding the persons characteristics can be tricky because everybody is vastly different. Understanding the population is probably the most important part of this evaluation.

**Geographic locations**

The RACSB is a popular organization and they have numerous locations across Virginia. There are several day support programs, group homes and mental health facilities within 50 miles to my household. All of these programs do great work for the community. The specific day support program that I will be evaluating is located in Stafford Virginia. This day support program is located near the Stafford courthouse which is a high-volume area. The day support program in Stafford is a great location. I have noticed from my personal experience, there is a lot of special needs individuals in Stafford. Having a day support program in Stafford has helped many families, including my own.

**Personal Reflection**

I chose to evaluate the day support program ran by the RACSB because I have a personal relationship with them. Due to my personal relationship with this program, I was able to get permission to evaluate but they made it clear that they need to keep some information private. The day support program has helped my family in numerous ways. My oldest brother has autism and is currently attending the day support program during the week. He is flourishing in this program and his behavior problems have gotten significantly better. Seeing how my brother has reacted to being in the day support program made me interested in seeing how this program functions. I also have a younger sister with autism that will go to this day support program after she graduates from high school. Another reason why I chose to evaluate this program is because I’m hoping to work with special needs people in the future. Evaluating a day support program will help me have a deeper understanding of what day support programs go though. Evaluating this program, will also help me understand what typed of services are available for the special need’s population. I am excited to dive deeper into my evaluation and learn a lot more about this program.