Task #5- Research Plan

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There are three stakeholders that will be included in this study; the agency employees, the agencies clients, and the community who keeps this agency running. For this study, I will be measuring the outcomes and impacts of the program, Mental Health America of Fauquier County. The evaluation question will be, “Is Mental Health America of Fauquier County effective at promoting and facilitating mental wellness in Fauquier County?”. I will be evaluating the outcomes that their resources and trainings have on the community and if the agency is really promoting and facilitating mental wellness.

The type of evaluation I selected aligns with my evaluation question because I will be measuring the outcomes of their mission which is to promote and facilitate mental wellness in the surrounding area. The fact that in this area alone there are many people who suffer from mental health crises or know someone who suffers from mental health crises it is important to educate the community of such. It will be interesting to see how effective their training workshops are and if the website is as resourceful as it is set out to be.

In order to implement my evaluation, I will need to collect data. I will be doing so by having an interview with two agency employees and by attending a workshop using observation. I have also been able to access the website and navigate the resources they offer and have taken a few of their surveys and observed where it recommended, I go and how I go about doing that, i.e. a doctor who specializes in mental health based on my insurance provider.

My method of research will be qualitative since there are only two employees at the site I went to and also, I will most likely not be able to interview the participants in the training workshops just observe. I will describe what I have observed so that my evaluation will be understood and will give a sense of validity based on my observations. I will also incorporate qualitative data into my evaluation to help with what can be gained from the trainings and community resources offered. I will be considered a non-participant observer by gathering information from the training workshop on what is implemented, taught, and how the participants adhere to the information.

References

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

Mental Health First Aid Courses - Mental Health Association of Fauquier County Fauquier and Rappahannock. (2019, October 13). Retrieved from https://www.fauquier-mha.org/mental-health-first-aid/.