Task 5- Research Plan

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There are four stakeholders that will be included in this study; the local agencies executive director, the local agencies community outreach coordinator, a local resident, and the facilitator of the mental health aid workshop. 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 substance abuse treatment and facilitating substance awareness training in Fauquier County and surrounding cities?”. I will be evaluating the outcomes that their resources and trainings have on the community and if the agency is effectively promoting and facilitating substance treatment and awareness.

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. Right now, in the Fauquier County area, there is a major opioid crisis and this agency is offering a highly needed service by educating the community on overdose and substance use. 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 interviewing with two agency employees, having a phone interview with a local resident who utilized the agencies website to obtain a helping professional, and by attending and observing a workshop on mental health first aid which helps raise awareness and teaches interventions on overdose or withdrawal from substance use. I have also been able to access the website and navigate the resources they offer. After taking a few of their surveys, it gives different agencies and providers information and you can call book an appointment with like a local agency/substance abuse counselor and the insurance provider is also taken into account.

My method of research will be qualitative since there are only two employees at the site and also, I will not be able to interview the participants in the training workshops but will just observe. After attending the workshop and interviewing the three stakeholders I will explain my findings and also any discrepancies that I may have noticed. This will ensure 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/.