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HMSV 440W

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February 24, 2023

 **Research Plan**

The stakeholders that are included in my study are the educators, clients, employees, mental health professionals, and the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The type of evaluation that relates to my study is objective based approach. This approach’s goal is to figure out how does this program achieved their objectives. In order to get off on a good start, I would have to go to my agency’s specific objectives and goals in their formal documents and statements. From this, I will see what is done to achieve their objectives within their programs. While I use this approach, I cannot criticize already established objectives. It would be inappropriate to judge their objectives in this setting. The two questions that I will be asking are “How effective are the psychiatric services being offered to current clients?” and “How effectively does the program address clients with extreme behavior issues?” I will evaluating their behavioral health program and components of their treatments.

**Type of evaluation**

This type of evaluation aligns with my two evaluation questions because I want to know what are the methods and steps that must be taken for their goals to be met for their clients. This approach would be the best way because I can observe exactly how they do it without additional bases for finding out the appropriate outcomes unlike the other approaches. The strength of doing this method is that it is fair because programs are evaluated based off what they intended to achieve. The weakness of this approach is that it does not discuss agreement on objectives in their program. This evaluation would have to stay within the agency’s objectives and goals.

**Data collection methods**

The data collection methods I would use are interviews, observations, and archival research. Interview method would consist of gaining an in-depth comprehension of perceptions on a topic. I would ask participants in the area open-ended questions in either focus groups or individually. Challenges I may face doing interviews would be it may take too time and difficulty in examining and comparing. Observations would consist of understanding the agency in a natural setting without doing anything directly or affecting anyone. It is more flexible for data collection, and I can mix quantitative and qualitative data together. I will ask question like “Who? What? Where? How many? Or how much?” The challenge that I may face when using this method could be having problems interpreting behaviors. The last method I would consider would be archival research and this means to understand historical events, conditions, practices, or current events. I would collect this data by accessing records and documents through the internet or related books. I can look up scholarly articles about topics and services that are related to my agency such as behavioral health, cognitive functioning, and more.

**The best method**

The research method that would be best suited for my agency is qualitative data. This is defined by procedures used in a nonnumerical way to help evaluators to comprehend the agency’s program and the clients’ relation to the program. It would also help me understand the exclusive aspects of different program’s settings. I will gain insight into the behavior and experience within the agency and some of my findings may answer questions that I do not have to ask. I think this research method would best work in addressing my evaluation questions because I can better interpret the agency ways of collaborating with their clients and they diverse ways they achieve it. I can have my questions answered directly and efficiently.

Resources

Linfield, K. J. Posavac, E. J. (2019). Program Evaluation: Methods and Case Studies. 9th edition.