

**Task 5: Research Plan**

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### **Task Five: Research Plan**

This paper is going to outline a research plan for a program evaluation of Savida Health. Savida Health is a facility in Culpeper, Virginia that specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment, specifically Buprenorphine. This research plan will identify the stakeholders, the type of evaluation being conducted, two evaluation questions, the data collection methods being used, what research methods would be best to evaluate SaVida, and why these research methods would work best in addressing my evaluation questions.

#### **Stakeholders**

Linfield & Posavac (2018) define stakeholders as people who are personally involved with the program, derive income from it, sponsor it or are clients or potential recipients of the program's services. One stakeholder involved in my study is a counselor that works within the program. She will tell me about her experiences in the program and how effective she feels it has been for the clients she has seen. I also hope that she will be able to give me information on how the program handles participants that are not succeeding in the program. I will also include the program's participants to get an idea of how it is for someone receiving the services. Another stakeholder I will include in my study is the nursing assistants because they are the only ones that see the daily activities within the facility and can tell me what happens daily at this facility.

#### **Type of Evaluation**

The evaluation type that is most suitable for my evaluation is the one-group evaluation design, where I observe before and after the program. The purpose of the one-group evaluation design is to address if the participants meet a criterion, if the participants improved, and if the participants improved enough to demonstrate a real effect in their daily lives (Linfield & Posavac, 2018). This type of evaluation is better for my study because it involves a pretest-

posttest design, which is used when stakeholders want to know whether the participants improved while being served by a program (Linfield & Posavac, 2018).

### **Evaluation Questions**

The first question for my evaluation is, “How effective is Medication-Assisted Treatment in meeting the client's needs at this facility? The second question for my evaluation is, “How effectively is the program identifying and addressing potential barriers to the client's success in this program? I would like to focus on the outcomes and impacts of this program such as how well this program is helping people stay sober from alcohol and/or drugs. I would also like to try to see how the facility handles clients that relapse within the program. I think that it would be interesting to look at public records to evaluate if the overdose rate for the county has reduced since the company opened the facility.

### ***How the Type of Evaluation Aligns with Evaluation Questions***

I think that using the one-group evaluation design aligns well with the two evaluation questions that I am addressing in the evaluation. The one-group evaluation aligns with my evaluation questions because I am focused on looking at data from public records to see if the facility is making a numerical difference within the community when it comes to overdoses. Gathering data from the stakeholders from interviews and surveys about the program's effectiveness also aligns with the one-group method because I can give different perspectives about its effectiveness. I believe that interviewing some of the employees of the company and being able to interview and/or pass out surveys to the participants of the program will help me to answer the questions that I am asking within my program evaluation.

### **Data Collection Methods**

One of the types of measures used in an evaluation is written surveys and interviews with the program's participants (Linfield & Posavac, 2018). Other measures used in an evaluation are checklists, tests, and agency records (Linfield & Posavac, 2018). One of the measures that I will use in my evaluation is interviews with the program's participants. I feel like they are the people who can tell me information that no data will be able to tell me in the long run. I think that it will be a really interesting experience to be able to get another perspective besides the people who run the program itself or data that is already in black and white. Another measure that I plan to use is implementing a checklist. I will use this checklist to create a list of desired behaviors or things learned by participants to measure the program's outcomes. I believe having the clients play a significant role in my program evaluation is going to be key to getting accurate data and how this program is truly being run. I am considering using written surveys as a method in this evaluation, but I am not sure if that is the correct route to go with the type of program that I am evaluating because it is easy to just check boxes, but different if they are required to explain themselves.

If I use surveys, I will use them to evaluate how far the clients feel they have come since participating in the program. I think that gathering feedback from the clients is the best way to find out if the participants have improved from the program and how well they have improved. I am going to be interviewing a participant of the program if they are available and the two nursing assistants that see every client that walks into the facility. I hope the nursing assistants will give me valuable information on what goes on in the program and what the process looks like for a typical client. I will be leaving physical copies of surveys with the nursing assistants to hand out to clients that they see so that I pick them up when they are filled out. I would also like to observe what a client's usual appointment looks like at the facility when they meet with the

medical doctor and their counselor, but do not plan to sit in on the counseling session unless the client is willing to have me observe.

### **Research Method**

The research method that will be the best to evaluate the agency I am evaluating is a mix of both qualitative and quantitative methods. Quantitative methods emphasize objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques and focusing on gathering numerical data and generalizing it across groups of people or explaining a particular phenomenon (*Research Guides: Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Quantitative Methods*, n.d.). The most distinctive aspect of qualitative research is the evaluator's personal involvement in gathering data. Qualitative evaluation methods refer to procedures that yield nonnumerical information that helps evaluators to understand the program and the participant's relation to the program, (Linfield & Posavac, 2018).

### **Why This Research Method Works Best**

Using a mixture of both qualitative and quantitative research methods will work best for the type of evaluation that I am doing because when you use qualitative and quantitative methods to complement each other, you can gain more information to have a more successful evaluation because you are not limited to just one form of gathering information. I think this research method will help me with my evaluation questions. I think that the quantitative research method will help me with the question of how effective Medical-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is by looking at community indexes to see a comparison of overdose rates within our community. I can also use the qualitative research method to help me with the question of how effective MAT is at this facility by observing the clients that come into the facility while I am there. Using a

mixture of both qualitative and quantitative research methods for the question of how effectively the program has identified and is addressing potential barriers to client's success in the program would be beneficial because then I can get opinions from the participants on how the facility handles these problems and observe how the facility handles their client needs at their appointments.

## References

Linfield, K. J., & Posavac, E. J. (2018). *Program Evaluation: Methods and Case Studies*.

Routledge.

*Research Guides: Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Purpose of Guide*. (n.d.).

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