**Latabitha Davis**

**Task 1 Agency Selection**

**HMSV 440W**

**Agency**

The Agency I plan to evaluate is Forkids founded 33 years ago, they started off in Norfolk, VA on Colley Ave but later expanded opening by opening a new location in the Hampton Roads area Chesapeake and another in Suffolk, VA. They have locations in 14 cities and counties in Southeastern Virginia where they support clients from. ForKids is agency that provides emergency shelter to families and children in the Southeastern Virginia. The thrive on housing placement, promoting education, and achieving stability and job coaching. I have contacted and spoken with the Director of Shelter and Housing Services Jessica Milloy via telephone and email who has given me permission to conduct an evaluation at ForKids. I have been instructed to send an email requesting a date for a tour and other visits also, I must submit my questions, surveys, and interview questions prior to my visit to ensure the privacy of the organization and to be sure there is someone who can answer them. In others words they want to cover themselves. I have also submitted my application for my internship for next semester as well with ForKids.

**Agency mission and purpose**

ForKids agency mission for serving is “Breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children”. They are an organization put together to help prevent homelessness of families. They are there to help families stabilize and grow roots to their future. They say they are geared toward thriving not just surviving. The purpose of this organization is they believe all children deserve a home and a chance for success. The focus on three main areas to help families have long lasting stability housing, education, and critical services. Helping families stay off the streets providing a safe place rest their heads each night so they can focus on takin care of their family. Keeping families from be homeless could help prevent more mental illness situations from occurring. Children with stable homes can focus better in school and reach their highest potential. Breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children

**Population the agency services**

Forkids non-profit agency geared to helping people in crisis The Forkids Housing Crisis Hotline is the central way people contact the agency when experiencing a housing crisis in Southeastern Virginia area. They assist families including children their services touch over 70,000 individuals each year. They also serve homeless families, counseling, after school programs for children, tutoring, field trips, sump camps, budgeting, GED tutoring. The organization helps any individual regards of race, sex, ethical background. However there are rules regarding clients who stay at the shelter for the safety of everyone.

**Geographic locations**

Forkids Inc. has several locations in 14 cities and counties in Southeastern Virginia. Primary location is at 1001 Poindexter St. Chesapeake, VA 23324. 60,000-square-foot facility, including an education center, with five classrooms, four tutoring rooms and a capacity to serve up to 120 children. It also includes an onsite shelter space, with 96 beds for short-term stays, a 75-seat dining space and adjoining kitchen, a rooftop garden and a vastly expanded area for the Housing Crisis Hotline, as well as administrative offices.

**Rationale for choosing this agency**

Choosing to evaluate ForKids Inc. will help me learn the optimize for my future success and discover the story behind the organization. Helping families and children from becoming homeless is very important to me. Being able to witness the work of helping families find safe shelters brighten my heart. Being able to witness people heal from their fall and recover back what they lost is priceless. I will be able to practice, see what works and what could use an outside eye’s opinion. Evaluating Forkid Inc. will provide me with an understanding of how the day to day looks while working in crisis atmosphere. I’ll be able to see if the staff is provided mental support after taking crisis calls or helping clients. Does the higher level management support the staff, and determine if the staff is concerned with helping the clients fulfill their needs for visiting or calling the center. I chose Forkids Inc. to future my horizon when working in Human Service field to help families in crisis avoid or come out of homelessness making sure children are protected and cared for.

**References**

*mission*. ForKids. (n.d.). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://www.forkids.org/contact