Juvenile Justice Correctional Facilities

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Juvenile offenses have increased substantially over the last few years, and because there are more juvenile offenders there must be correctional facilities prepared to house and attempt to rehabilitate these offenders to help steer these young people away from crime (University of Phoenix, 2014). A program must be implemented to identify where juvenile correctional facilities must be built, how big the juvenile facility should be, and what programs are available within the correctional facilities to aid in the youth’s rehabilitation. Currently, the Juvenile Justice Review Committee is established by individuals who wish to evaluate and research current issues within the juvenile justice facilities (University of Phoenix, 2014). Members of this committee must conduct field studies in various areas of the country to identify where the issues are most prudent regarding juvenile justice correctional facilities. Various field studies must be conducted for the program to understand the issue regarding juvenile justice correctional facilities, and to have the ability to evaluate the study to ensure the problems get resolved.

Processes used to Identify Problem

To come to a solution, program advisors must first identify the problem. There is a very real possibility that there is not only one problem when discussing juvenile justice correctional facilities. For starters, since the juvenile crime rate has risen so significantly over the last several years, the biggest concern is to evaluate the housing situation. A qualitative evaluation method will need to take place to determine if current juvenile justice correctional facilities are sufficient enough in certain areas, or if changes need to be made. The evaluators of this research method will be tasked with taking the data of inmates at each facility and determine whether the numbers warrant additional action. These evaluators must take into account the number of boys housed in the facilities, and then the number of girls housed in the facilities. The data indicates that there is simply not enough room to house juvenile offenders in the current facilities because of the increase in juvenile crime (University of Phoenix, 2014).

Collection Methodologies

One of the more significant collection methodologies used would be placing evaluators across the country to count how many inmates are housed in each juvenile justice correctional facility. This is known as the observational method which puts the members of the evaluation team physically at the site getting firsthand knowledge from within the field study (Posavac, 2011, Chapter 8). Each member of the qualitative evaluation team will need to gather the data stating how big each cell is, how many people are in each cell, how long each inmate is housed for on average in that area, and the safety of each juvenile offender housed in the facility.

Another collection method for the data will be to interview the staff at the juvenile justice correctional facilities to understand their daily duties and to determine whether the staff is in danger of being overrun at the facilities. The increase in juvenile offenders stresses the need for correctional officers to run the correctional facilities, and the lack of officers increases the risk of danger to the staff and inmates. This is not physical, numbers based data, but this information gathered will certainly hold significance because safety is a concern for the inmates of staff.

The causes of crime and research behind why more juveniles are committing crimes today is also data that has to be looked at and considered. The types of crimes juveniles are committing, and whether these crimes warrant incarceration must be evaluated. A quantitative evaluation approach can be taken here because each juvenile offense will be documented so the evaluators can look at the hard numbers of each offense to see where the numbers add up for which crime. The qualitative evaluation method is strengthened by the quantitative evaluation method as the qualitative method places team members directly into the field study, and then the quantitative method provides the hard numbers to support the observations.

Key Personnel Involved

The qualitative evaluation aspect of the field study alone may seem a little subjective which may not gain the attention needed to involve key personnel. The qualitative evaluation which puts the evaluation team directly into the field study collecting data through interviews and observations compounded with the quantitative evaluation data have hard numbers should provide enough information to gain the support of key personnel within the system. If necessary, additional juvenile justice correctional facilities would need to be built or renovated to house the growing number of juvenile offenders. This means taxes would need to be raised to fund the projects. Public opinion becomes crucial at this point as the key people have to build a plan to present to the public to get the necessary votes to fund the projects.

References

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