Criminal Justice Program Proposal, Part 1

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Combating criminal narcotics activity along the Southern border of the United States is extremely tough. The counties in Texas which share the border with Mexico are under siege by drug dealers because how easy they can get drugs into United States. This proposal will identify the problem that requires intervention, will identify the type of program that would resolve the problem, describe the processes used to identify the problem, describe data collection methodologies, identify data that must be collected to identify the problem, and ways to involve key personnel in collecting and analyzing data.

Counties along the South Texas that share the border with Mexico have a technology problem. Law enforcement agencies are behind the criminals because they do not have equipment to combat the drug trade in the area. The police agencies do not have secure communication, data-link systems in the patrol cars, enough sworn officers, and someone to analyze the data collected by the officers in the field.However, this proposal must;

Beware of the activist bias: the notion that we already know what to do, so let’s get onwith it. In almost all cases, the personwho expresses such a viewhas a vague definition of theproblemand its causes, and little knowledge of successful interventions (Welsh & Harris, 2013, p. 31).

The problem is known because of the out dated technology used by law enforcement agencies along the Mexican border. The best way to determine the type of technology the agencies need is to have a participant observation. Law enforcement personnel are territorial and will not like an outside observer looking at their equipment and deciding what technology they should use and improve. The police agencies can give their members surveys to fill out to collect data about the technology they currently use. The data collection is quantitative instead of qualitative because at the time no observation is going on. The departments are collecting data to determine how the rank and file officers feel about the equipment.

There is no need to collect data to identify the problem because the problem is already known. The law enforcement agencies need updated technology so they can better perform their jobs. Surveys will be used to get an idea about the performance of the current equipment and gather information not known by police management, county supervisors, mayors, city council, and local businessmen. These people are also the key personnel who will collect and analyze the data collected. The key personnel will make the determination on what technology to purchase and set goals and the budget on when the equipment will get purchased. The key personnel will prioritize which equipment to purchase first based on need.

The key personnel will assign members of the different police departments to collect the surveys to determine the needs for the different departments. Some departments will need more sworn personnel while another department will need better communication equipment. Once the data is collected and analyzed police management for each agency will do a qualitative evaluation of the problems identified from the surveys collected. The evaluators are invaluable because;

A participant observer has a legitimaterole in the program. An assistant in an emergency room would understandemergency room practices. A secretary in a personnel office or a dispatcher ina local police station could provide rich information about the effectivenessand the problems of the service being evaluated (Posavac, 2011, p. 151)

Additional, the people who are being observed must be made aware of the observation so they can perform their duties as they would if no one was watching. Once the evaluation is completed the findings are given to the key players or personnel for analyst. Based on the analyst by the key players the next phase is to come up with a budget and which equipment has a higher importance than the other.

The methods used to collect data are individual interviews, focus groups, observations, and surveys. Each of these methods have their own unique propose and the data collected will help give a better picture of that is needed to improve the technology used by the counties that share a border with Mexico. The individual interviews and surveys will gather the most information. Surveys will be used to gather information from the personnel interviews are not conducted because of their work schedule, vacation, or illness. Focus groups will gather the data and discuss it with the key personnel and come to a consensus on what equipment and when to purchase the equipment.

References

Posavac, E. J. (2011). *Program Evaluation: Method and Case Studies* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Welsh, W. N., & Harris, P. W. (2013). *Criminal Justice Policy and Planning* (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Anderson Publishing.