STARRY Problem Analysis

Sample Cohort

Tarleton State University
Defining the Problem

The problem can best be defined as a definite need for education about crisis prevention and crisis resources universally. Crisis prevention means to educate the general public about what a crisis is as well as how to prevent crisis situations in their own lives whereas intervention is when a person comes into the crisis situation through one or more family members and aids them through a crisis. Often times organizations, churches and schools will offer services to aid those in crisis however a clear and accurate definition of what it means to be in the midst of crisis is not stated. There are “approximately 15.5 million American children [living in] households in which intimate partner violence” takes place (Roberts, Campbell, Ferguson and Crusto 2013). In addition, 75% of children experience trauma in the home while another 27% of children between the ages of 3 and 5 have witnessed family violence (Roberts, Campbell, Ferguson, and Crusto 2013). Many of those families walk around daily without the education needed to break the cycles of family violence, abuse or even addiction. Preventing any type of crisis would result in less families and children ever finding themselves in need for counseling or crisis intervention. The medical based model often works to treat the symptoms and illness of people who have suffered from a crisis. However, social work often uses the strengths based framework on top of person-in-environment model. The strengths based framework places emphasis on the strengths a person has that will enable them to overcome crisis situations and have resilience. The person-in-environment model ensures that each crisis is intervened in with the acknowledgment that each situation and person acts, reacts and responds differently based on their life experiences and upbringing.
Prevalence of the Problem

The prevalence to the problem stems from the lack of awareness and education on prevention and intervention on crisis. Violence is a form of crisis the Center from Disease Control (CDC) discusses violence under the Division of Violence Prevention in Prevent Multiple Forms of Violence (DVP). As stated victims who experience one form of violence are likely to be victim to another form, and those who are violent in one form are likely to be violent in other forms. The common factors in both can lead to physical, mental, and emotional issues. The CDC formed the DVP after studying violent behavior patterns such as the one stated above. A survey given by the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence published in 2015, on the exposure children had to violence, crime, and abuse was given to children and caretakers. The results showed 1 in 12 children have witnessed family violence in the past year, 2 in 5 children who were surveyed were victims of at least one assault in the past year, while 1 in 10 were injured in an assault. Additionally, 1 in 4 children witnessed a violent act, and 1 in 12 witnessed family violence (National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence Series September 2015).

The Population Affected

The population affected by the lack of education about crisis prevention and intervention are those who have experienced a crisis, or those who have come into contact with a person who has experienced a crisis. More specifically, the youth and families within Stephenville, Texas. These families receive help and support through the crisis prevention and intervention services provided by STARRY Incorporated. If these youths and families have little to no education or awareness about the crisis prevention and intervention services offered by STARRY, they are less likely to receive the professional support provided through STARRY that can aid them
during the experience of a crisis. Though the individuals and families in need of STARRY’s counseling services are the main population affected, the populations served through STARRY’s other programs also share the need for education about crisis prevention and increased awareness about crisis intervention. These populations include those apart of the group programs, and those also in need of the foster care and adoption services offered through STARRY. The community of Stephenville, Texas is impacted by the need for a significant increase in education and awareness about crisis prevention and intervention, so that less families are affected by a crisis.

**Community Efforts to Address the Problem.**

Rural communities like Stephenville often struggle to engage the community in restorative activates that may benefit its members and cohabitants. A few of the prominent churches of the Erath County-Stephenville area include FBC Stephenville, Cottonwood Baptist Church, Timber Ridge Church, and Valley Grove. Included in those churches are staff personnel who are equipped to direct and instruct members and non-members where to find assistance in counseling, and the financial needs that may arise as well as parenting classes and childcare services. Unlike many of the churches who have existed in the area for decades are newer organizations such as STAR Council, STARRY, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and Foster Homes. These organizations offer a wide range of services included counseling, advocates for children and their families, as well as resources the community may have to offer the person in need. STARRY is a nonprofit organization focused on aiding children and their families as they encounter and handle crisis situations. STARRY is working to become more active on the crisis prevention side of situations. STARRY is also trying to make a community effort with partnerships with STAR Council to emphasize the need for education prevention on a macro and micro level. To do so, STARRY is currently in need of a functional and organized
resource files to offer to clientele as they enter the office in search of everything from food, clothing, financial aid, and even counseling ranging from child bullying, to runaway youth, and intimate partner violence cases in the home.

**Current Available Services**

The STARRY organization located in Stephenville is focused on outreach in Erath County, as well as all the other 11 counties that STARRY Stephenville serves, and letting the community know exactly what the organization has to offer clients. STARRY offers classes, workshops and groups to help with prevention, and the most successful class that is offered at the mezzo level of practice is Love and Logic. The class is shaped around relationship skills. After implementing Love and Logic to their services, “76.5% [of parents] reported improvements in their children’s behavior” (Clark, 2003). Two other programs offered through STARRY are Girl Power and STARRY Adventure Club. Both programs are intended to increase youth skills.

Contact Us - Student Counseling Center - Tarleton State ... (n.d.). Retrieved October 24, 2016, from http://www.tarleton.edu/counseling/contact.html


