Week 10: Assessing a Healthcare Program/Policy Evaluation

Student Name

Program Name or Degree Name (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Psychology), University

COURSE XXX: Title of Course

Instructor Name

Month XX, 2024

Assessing a Healthcare Program/Policy Evaluation

Policies and programs in nursing help improve outcomes and can be directed towards nurses or patient populations. They help direct efforts and resources toward achieving desired goals in care facilities and educational institutions. Black et al. (2019) note that program/policy evaluation helps determine their effectiveness and thus plans for improvement to eliminate resource wastage and promote better outcomes. Nurses are vital professionals in policy/program evaluation. They contribute important information and conduct activities for effective course evaluation. This essay evaluates the evaluation of a policy/program and the nurses' roles in program/policy evaluation.

Describe the healthcare program or policy outcomes.

The article at hand discusses the evaluation of the Feasible and Sustainable Culture Change Initiative (FASCCI). The healthcare program was focused on improving person-centered mealtime practices in a long-term care home.

How was the success of the program or policy measured?

A single-group time series design was used in this article. The differences in these scores were analyzed using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. There were 21 participants in this study. Observations were also conducted to determine treatment fidelity and the participants' process perception and outcomes of the FASCCI. Both qualitative and quantitative interviews were conducted.

How many people were reached by the program or policy selected?

The program was implemented in a West Canadian Designated Supportive Living Services with 152 residents. The program was implemented in the ensure organization but for evaluation purposes,

How much of an impact was realized with the program or policy selected?

The program selected led to an improvement in the "physical environment, social environment, relationship-centered care, and the overall quality of dining environment" (Caspar et al., 2020)

At what point in program implementation was the program or policy evaluation conducted?

The program's success was assessed using a questionnaire with mealtime environment scales and observation pre-implementation at the baseline, two, four, and six months.

What data was used to conduct the program or policy evaluation?

The data used to conduct the program was analyzed from questionnaires presented to the patients and observation by the researchers.

What specific information on unintended consequences was identified?

Further analysis of the study results showed that the model demonstrates the value of supportive team environments for improving dementia patients' care.

What stakeholders were identified in the evaluation of the program or policy? Who would benefit most from the results and reporting of the program or policy evaluation? Be specific and provide examples.

The stakeholders identified in this study were the administrator, staff members, recreation staff, the program manager, two dietary staff, six licensed practice nurses (LPNs), nine healthcare assistants (HCAs) and the research and innovative practice manager. The beneficiaries of the program evaluation are the patients. The program evaluation results are positive, which will lead to support for the program, hence better patient care and subsequent outcomes. For

example, mealtime practices affect patient satisfaction, and the further implementation of the program will enhance care outcomes in the facility.

Did the program or policy meet the original intent and objectives? Why or why not?

The program met its intended outcomes because the study results showed that the FASCCI model led to a positive change in long-term care by "improving the physical and social environment, relationship-centered care, and the overall dining environment, the overall quality of dining environment, improved leadership, enhanced communication, improved decision-making."

Would you recommend implementing this program or policy in your place of work? Why or why not?

The program was specific to long-term care facilities, but I work in a hospital, and it would thus not be easy to implement at my place of work. However, I would recommend using the program to improve care delivery for patients with underlying mental health issues and promote quality outcomes.

Identify at least two ways that you, as a nurse advocate, could become involved in evaluating a program or policy after one year of implementation.

As a nurse advocate, I would participate in program or policy evaluation by collecting and analyzing data. Nurses are vital professionals close to patients whose roles, such as patient data collection, can override program evaluation activities. As a nurse advocate, I would also help prepare evaluation tools to ensure the evaluation is robust and addresses all vital aspects of the course (Adams & Neville, 2020). Planning for evaluation is an integral aspect of project evaluation and dictates the efficacy of the evaluation process. As a nurse advocate, I would also

participate in developing policies that support policy evaluation practices by availing resources required for evaluation processes.

Conclusion

The researchers in the article of interest evaluated the effectiveness of a staff engagement program implemented in a long-term care facility to improve mealtime practices. The program demonstrated effectiveness in the physical environment, social environment, relationship-centered care, the overall quality of the dining environment, improved leadership, enhanced communication, and improved decision-making. The study results also showed that supportive team environments can improve dementia patients' care. The evaluation results will be significant to the patients because they will help improve care delivery interventions. Nurses should play advocacy roles in program evaluation and improve care outcomes.

References

Adams, J., & Neville, S. (2020). Program evaluation for health professionals: What it is, what it is not and how to do it. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, *19*, 1609406920964345. https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406920964345

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