

# Youth Services Annual Report | FY22 April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

## YOUTH INTERVENTIONIST PROGRAM:

Total number of referrals - 54

**Reasons:**

- Anxiety/depression - 19
- Crisis/trauma - 17
- Behavior - 15
- School refusal - 3

Total number of Tele-Health sessions - 482

Total number of Face to Face sessions - 196

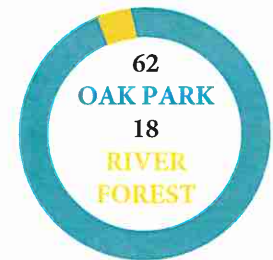
Total number of Home Visits - 3

Total number of Community Outreach Events - 16

Total number of discharges - 29

**Reasons:**

- Met Goals - 10
- Lack of parental Contact - 3
- Refusal of Services - 9
- Moved Out of Area - 1
- Hospitalization - 2

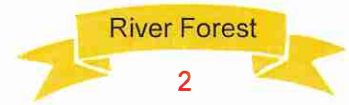
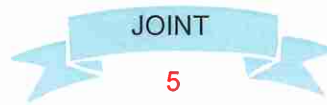


TOTAL HOMESCHOOLED: 1

TOTAL PRIVATE SCHOOLS: 2

**CONTRACTS - TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS OVERALL: 13**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED OVERALL = \$183,775.00



## FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Total OP FAS - 39
- Total RF FAS - 11



## GIRLS ON THE RISE:

- Total number of Girls: 81
- Total Number of Sessions: 115
- Total number Brooks: 67
- Total number Julian: 39
- Total number HS: 9

- Total number of programs OP - 15
- Total number of programs RF - 8



Youth Services Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022  
Submitted by: Megan Traficano, MSW, LCSW  
Youth Services Director

Youth Services supports programs and services that address youth through the implementation of prevention techniques, crisis intervention, restorative justice, therapeutic involvement, case management and coordination of wraparound services with other community partners and agencies. Youth Services also advocates for programs and services which enhance the social/emotional development of youth and their families. Youth Services is committed to promoting positive opportunities for youth and families and to helping the youth and their families access needed services.

### **Youth Interventionist Program**

9 local tax bodies provide funding via an Intergovernmental Agreement. Fiscal Year 2022 also had funding for the Youth Interventionist Program from the Helen Brach Foundation for **\$5,000**. The Youth Interventionist Program saw **80** individual youth for services this past fiscal year. These youth received individual counseling, mostly around mental health issues. The Youth Interventionist Team also provided many community outreach events, including attending youth programming at the Oak Park Public Library and River Forest Public Library and assisting the Park District of Oak Park and River Forest Park District with staff trainings.

### **Contracts:**

This year **13** Programs received funding from the Oak Park and River Forest Youth Services Committee. The Youth Services Committee re-did the RFP document this past year for programs and hosted a Contractor Night, which gave current and future programs the chance to dialogue with committee members, ask questions, and learn about the processes. The Youth Services Committee is a group of community residents who volunteer their time to the Youth Services Department to assist in RFP planning, reviewing RFP submissions, and making funding recommendations to the Oak Park and River Forest Boards of Trustees. The Youth Services committee also assists in the Youth Services Hygiene Closet and other Youth Services Department initiatives.

### **Financial Aid Scholarships:**

Financial Aid Scholarships were awarded to **50** youth this past year, with a total of \$8,485.00 spent for Oak Park Youth and a total of \$2,076.67 spent for River Forest Youth. We saw an increase in Financial Aid Scholarships this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Girls on the Rise:**

Girls on the Rise reached **81** girls this year for their custom group curriculum. Girls on the Rise is a social/emotional group that is specifically designed for Black and Brown Girls. The girls focus on topics such as self-esteem, self-advocacy, communication and leadership skills all from a cultural perspective. Currently groups are embedded during the school day at both District 97 Middle Schools and the High School girls group is run after school at Oak Park Township.

## **AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, 2022 - 2024**

This agreement is between OAK PARK TOWNSHIP and the enumerated participating local governments: River Forest Township, School District 90, School District 97, School District 200, Park District of Oak Park, River Forest Park District, Oak Park Public Library, and River Forest Public Library, hereinafter referred to collectively as PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT UNITS.

### **OAK PARK TOWNSHIP agrees as follows:**

- To work with any youth who are residents of Oak Park and River Forest or attend the community schools. The engagement specialists will work with youth who need help with depression/anxiety, crisis and trauma, gang involvement, and behavioral/aggression problems as well as with youth who need individual mentoring.
- To closely monitor youth, through individual counseling which focuses on the individual strengths and needs of clients and their families and helps in providing individual counseling, linking to services as needed, managing those services, and tracking outcomes.
- To respect and maintain the confidentiality of registered Youth Engagement clients and their families and share information about clients with partner agency staff as appropriate and only when a Release of Information has been signed by the appropriate party.
- To report program outcomes, such as reasons for discharge, demographics, referral reasons, and assessment information, in the aggregate only.
- To continue to provide intense engagement by employing support staff and two Youth Engagement Specialists for the positions as described in Appendix I and one Youth Engagement Supervisor.
- To act as the administrative agent of the Youth Engagement Program, hiring, training, supervising, insuring and providing office space to the Youth Engagement Program staff.
- To provide the necessary support, services, materials and equipment, such as, duplication, printing, postage, telephone and computers.
- To distribute monthly reports via email on the activities of Youth Engagement staff to all board members and the chief administrators of each participating government unit.
- To work with participating government units to establish additional meaningful outcome measures based on shared client data.
- To report on program activities and outcomes at least annually, or more often as needed or requested, at the Council of Governments meetings in Oak Park and in River Forest.
- To offer services listed in Appendix II: Menu of Services to partner agencies and to work responsively with partner agencies to develop other specific services based on emerging needs.

**AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
FOR THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, 2022 - 2024**

- To maintain an appropriate level of liability insurance and provide certificates of insurance to partner agencies as requested.
- To bill each participating government unit on a quarterly basis at the quarter amount listed in this IGA.
- To establish agreements with partner agencies to share confidential information that will allow the Township to report on program outcomes for the Youth Engagement caseload in the aggregate.

**The other participating government units agree as follows:**

- To support the Youth Engagement Program through referrals, offering space to meet with youth and families (including virtual access during e-learning school days), sharing information about youth behaviors and situations, participating in training events and planning meetings, and by providing outcome data.
- To bring policy and operational concerns and recommendations to the Youth Services Director or Oak Park Township Manager or Supervisor and then, as needed, to the community's Council of Governments for discussion and response.
- To work collaboratively and cooperatively in the common interest of helping youth develop, learn problem solving skills and to become engaged positively in the community.
- To enter into data sharing agreements, where appropriate, so that the Township may collect and analyze data in the aggregate for youth that are participating in the Youth Engagement program.
- To support the cost of this joint endeavor in an amount listed to be billed Quarterly in four equal amounts. The total budget for the Youth Engagement Program for the first year of this agreement is \$307,718.00. Please see Table of Agency Amounts and Quarter Payments on next page.

**AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
FOR THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, 2022 - 2024**

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>2022-23 Amount</b>	<b>Qrt. Payment</b>	<b>2023-24 Amount</b>
OP Elementary D97	\$32,130	\$8,032.50	\$33,093
Park District OP	\$13,923	\$3,480.75	\$14,341
OP Public Library	\$13,923	43,480.755	\$14,341
OPRF High School D200	\$36,414	\$9,103.50	\$37,506
Village of Oak Park*			
River Forest Township	\$19,814	\$4,953.50	\$20,408
RF Elementary D90	\$9,103	\$2,275.75	\$9,376
RF Park District	\$4,820	\$1,205.00	\$4,965
RF Public Library	\$4,820	\$1,205.00	\$4,965
Village of River Forest*			
Helen Brach Grant		-	-
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$134,947</b>	-	-
Oak Park Township:	\$172,771	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$307,718</b>	-	-

\*We will be approaching both the Village of Oak Park and River Forest to participate in funding the Youth Engagement Program again.

- To promptly reimburse Oak Park Township upon receipt of a quarterly bill in the amount shown in the table above.

It is understood by all signatories of this agreement that the supervision of all Township employees, including any addition to the Township staff as a result of this agreement, is the responsibility of Oak Park Township. To the extent permitted by law, each party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other parties, their elected officials, employees, officers, directors and agents from and against any third-party claims, demands, losses, damages, or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or relating to any claim for harm, injury, or death to any person, or damage to tangible personal property arising out of or in connection with the performance of the services under this Agreement to the extent of the negligence, fault, or willful act or omission of the indemnifying party, its personnel or agents during the course of performance of the services hereunder or otherwise in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

This Intergovernmental Agreement will be in force for two years from July 1, 2022.

**AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
FOR THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, 2022 - 2024**

**OAK PARK TOWNSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**RIVER FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 90**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 97**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
FOR THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, 2022 - 2024**

**OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

_____ Signature	_____ Title	_____ Date
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**RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY**

_____ Signature	_____ Title	_____ Date
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**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**

_____ Signature	_____ Title	_____ Date
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**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST**

_____ Signature	_____ Title	_____ Date
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**APPENDIX I**  
**Engagement Specialist Job Description**

CLASS. TITLE:	Youth Engagement Specialist	FLSA: Non-Exempt
DEPARTMENT:	Youth Services	DATE: 03/2022
DIVISION:	Town	
REPORTS TO:	Youth Engagement Manager	

Job Summary: The Youth Engagement Specialist builds collaborations between systems and agencies to prevent, intervene, and combat negative youth behavior in Oak Park and River Forest Communities. The interventionist assists youth and families, and implement programming geared toward youth in the Oak Park and River Forest Communities. This is an ideal position for recent grads!

**Job Functions:**

- Ability to show knowledge or ability to gain knowledge in the following areas: youth mental health, specifically anxiety and depression, substance abuse, trauma, aggression, and behavioral problems, gangs.
- Carries a caseload of 20 individuals for counseling and interventions. Performs crisis intervention, making social diagnostic assessments, and assists in developing a comprehensive treatment plan for clients.
- Run groups during school year that focus on current events, trends, and needs.
- Collaborates closely with families, school personnel, mental health professionals, and other agencies associated with client. See clients in the office, their homes, school, and other areas outside of the office. Transport youth, if necessary.
- Help provide wraparound services by encourage and referring youth, families, parents/ guardians to other community services and activities.
- Knowledge of the DSM 5.
- Able to maintain and complete documentation related to job duties in a timely manner. Must have good time management skills.
- Initiate and maintain in contact (via phone, email, or in person) with youth, parents/ guardians, families, mentors, therapist, police, and other community agencies involved in youth's case.
- Maintain relationships and partnerships with current agencies and organizations that serve youth in the Oak Park and River Forest Communities
- In the summer, carry a small park caseload (around 7) to visit weekly looking for gang graffiti, drug paraphernalia, litter, and other suspicious acts to help keep parks safe.
- Assists agencies in developing long term community based strategic plans to help with village wide prevention efforts regarding youth; including implementing goals/strategies.
- Keeps Supervisor informed regarding community issues and sensitive topics.
- Participate in weekly supervision with Interventionist Supervisor and participate in weekly Youth Services Team Meetings.
- Performs other duties as assigned.
- Supervision for LPCs and MSWs available.

Job Type: Full Time

Minimal Qualifications:

- Master's in counseling, psychology, social worker.
- Working with youth and families (preferred).

Education:



## APPENDIX I Engagement Specialist Job Description

- Master's (Required)

### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

#### Knowledge of:

- Social Work, counseling, psychology
- Criminal Justice and approaches used by law enforcement in local, state, and federal environments; juvenile law and court systems
- Ethical standards and codes of conduct in dealing with clients and public
- Crisis Intervention Techniques
- Conflict Resolution

#### Skill In:

- Time management and prioritizing work
- Verbal and written communication and organization
- Facilitation and group leadership
- Mediation and collaboration building

#### Ability To:

- Maintain relationships with community organizations and administrators
- Facilitate presentations and trainings for youth, parents, community associations, and other public groups.
- Remain calm in stressful and crisis situations

#### Physical Abilities:

- Sit, keyboard, read, write, add, hear and speak for extended periods
- Drive automobile to meet with clients in their homes or other locations, and meetings with other agencies, committees and councils, etc.
- Lift up to 10 pounds on occasion.

## **APPENDIX II Menu of Services**

### **Youth Engagement Program – Services March 2022**

The Township's Youth Engagement Program staff are Masters Level Social Workers and Counselors, all with backgrounds in working with youth on a variety of issues. The Youth Engagement Program is constantly conducting needs assessments to address youth issues within the communities. Through the Youth Engagement Program, they provide the following services to individuals, families, agencies, and community organizations in Oak Park and River Forest.

#### **TRAINING-in person or virtual**

- ◆ Anti-bullying training
- ◆ Any training as requested by a partner agency for staff or youth who they service, based on issues and needs they are seeing at their locations.
- ◆ Other training programs tailored to different entities' needs examples include, but are not limited to, Restorative Justice and Practices, community issues (Street Safe Workshop).

#### **CONSULTING**

- ◆ Consult with private therapists, agencies (public and private, profit and non-profit), parents, schools, law enforcement, courts, probation officers, the States Attorney's office and city, state and federal agencies on issues of youth, including gangs, crisis and trauma, school refusal/attendance, behavior and aggression, anxiety, depression and other mental health topics.
- ◆ Community and neighborhood problem solving, education, and training, including virtual training.
- ◆ Work with partner agencies to help address staffing patterns, incident response, facility security, and safety procedures and protocols

#### **INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE**

- ◆ Work with various bodies to "connect-the-dots" to identify patterns of behaviors and incidents regarding youth
- ◆ Assist in identifying and locating individuals representing a threat to youth

#### **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT-in person or via tele-health models**

- ◆ Individual/family crisis intervention
  - hospitalization assessment
  - suicide assessment
  - trauma and grief counseling
- ◆ Incident-related crisis intervention (for example; school violence, suicide, etc.)
- ◆ On-site engagement or "tele-health" services at partner facilities in conjunction with partner staff
- ◆ Group work with grade, middle and high school students after needs are identified with community partners
- ◆ Engagement work specifically with youth who are experiencing trauma/crisis and mental health needs
- ◆ Individual counseling with youth regarding issues with gang involvement, trauma/crisis, behavior/aggression, and anxiety and depression
- ◆ Casework-including referrals, family assessments, and connecting youth and families with partner agencies and organizations based on needs