

To: Oak Park and River Forest Councils of Government Member Units

From: F. David Boulanger, Supervisor, Oak Park Township
Gavin W. Morgan, Oak Park Township Manager
John FS Williams, Director Youth Services, OP and RF Townships

Re: Intergovernmental Agreement for Youth Interventionist Program

Date: May 7, 2012

Dear Collaborative Partner:

The current Intergovernmental Agreement between the eleven taxing bodies in Oak Park and River Forest that supports the Youth Interventionist Program expires on June 30, 2012. Attached, please find the updated agreement with budget projections for the next two years of the program and a brief overview of Interventionist activity since the River Forest (January 13) and Oak Park (March 6) COG reports earlier in the year.

The agreement budget is based upon a July 1st – June 30th program year. The agreement incorporates the provisions of the one-year Amendment signed last summer and adds a “hold harmless” clause.

While you are encouraged to budget the amount indicated for FY13, this past cycle we have again managed to bill under the budgeted amount. We bill only for what is spent and strive for efficiencies to reduce costs to the collaboration.

A signing ceremony will be held on June 1 at the Township Board Room to allow as many as units as are ready to sign the multiple copies at one social occasion. This will signify our united stand, collaboration and common purpose to intervene to help our youth avoid involvement with gangs, drugs and violence. The challenge to our youth may change face, tactics and location, but by standing together, we can prevail.

If you have any questions about the program or agreement, please contact John Williams at 708 445-2727 x130 or jwilliams@oakparktownship.org. Supervisor Boulanger and Manager Gavin Morgan are also available for consultation on program policy, general oversight and specific management issues.

Thank you for your attention and continued support.

May 7, 2012

Oak Park and River Forest Townships

Overview of Youth Intervention Team Activity, January- April 2012

Team Caseloads have ranged from 50 to 54; the maximum expected is 50.

Overview

There was no post holiday jump in crisis situations. Youth substance abuse and youth violence were the major focus challenge in early 2012. Outreach and crisis management has kept the Police and the Intervention Team busy responding to violent and drug-using youth. Youth runaways were reported in both communities in January with some girls gone several days. There were several high-risk referrals for weapons related matters. Summer strategy was discussed with other service providers in the community and decisions made on which clients need to continue on active status. The team worked with several clients on their graduation from high school and continuing to college. Youth preparing for summer jobs are being referred to Roberta White to attend the Job Readiness Program at the Township.

Bert Patania (13 years as Interventionist/Supervisor)

Bert's clients struggle with substance dependence that is denied by parents with a ripple effect in their families/communities. Mental health issues combined with substance abuse and poor attitudes often means aggressiveness toward parents and youth going untreated. Police have referred several requiring detoxing, assessment and treatment. Bert worked with the RF M.O.B. group (Mom's of Boys) to provide a group experience for the boys. Work with the IMPACT Law Committee and Village governments is expected to bring change to local marijuana, tobacco and alcohol ordinances to emphasize educational and therapeutic consequences for youth offenders. The FACE IT substance abuse education program will move to the new Township facility on Oak Park Avenue in the fall.

Melissa Potrawski (2 years as Interventionist)

OPRFHS, Julian, Roosevelt, Longfellow, Hillside Academy and the RF Library were Melissa's major areas of work this winter-spring period. She has worked with hospitalized clients due to violence in the home and running away. She has seen a pattern of female clients being discharged with disorders difficult to control. Several clients are doing very well with improving grades and two graduating. Melissa continues training working with emotional and behavioral problems.

Robert Simmons (7 years as Interventionist)

Robert's focus has been life skills and eighth grade transition with the most at-risk students, middle school bullying prevention, working closely with community members on a mentoring and motivation program at OPRFHS and helping facilitate at parent cafes. Substance abuse and chronic runaway referrals have increased at the high school level, with concern about running away to gang and drug infested locations. Several clients are doing very well – improving grades and graduating.