

Thanks to the following:

Funding tax bodies:

- River Forest Township
- Oak Park Township
- Village of River Forest
- Village of Oak Park
- District 200 High School
- District 90 River Forest Elementary Schools
- District 97 Oak Park Elementary Schools
- River Forest Park District
- Oak Park Park District
- River Forest Public Library
- Oak Park Public Library

Other Partners:

- Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
- River Forest Mental Health Committee
- Gang & Drug Task Force of Oak Park & River Forest
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- OPRF Community Foundation
- First United Church of Oak Park
- Midwest Bank
- Youth Network Council

Intervention Team:

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For more information about this and other youth programs and services please give us a call.

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Youth Intervention Program

Oak Park & River Forest



John FS Williams, M.Ed. LCPC

Director of Youth Services
Chair, OP & RF Gang & Drug
Task Force

708.445.2727

MISSION

The mission of the Youth Intervention Program is to intervene in the lives of school-age youth who are involved with violence, drug and or alcohol use or abuse, or gang activity. Youth clients may be involved directly or affected by any of the targeted areas.

BEGINNINGS

The Youth Intervention Program is a collaboration of eleven government agencies representing the Oak Park and River Forest Communities.

These agencies include: two village governments, two townships, two park districts, two libraries, and three school districts.

TARGETED AREAS

1) *Violence*

Individuals involved in or are victims of violence.

2) *Drugs/Alcohol Use & Abuse*

Youth suspected of dealing in or using illegal substances or consuming alcohol.

3) *Gangs*

Youth suspected of involvement or at risk for involvement in an organized group that participates in unlawful acts.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Once referred to the program an Interventionist assesses the youth's needs. Referrals are typically received from schools, parents, area agencies and peers. Some youth even refer themselves.

1) An Interventionist conducts an initial interview to gather information necessary to assist in assessing the client's needs.

2) Based on the needs assessment, a determination is made regarding follow-up, referral, and opening the case as indicated.

INTERVENTION/ CASE MANAGEMENT

Once a case is opened a youth becomes an active client and a three-step process is followed:

1) Identification and management of any immediate crisis by linking the youth and family with community agencies necessary to diffuse the crisis.

2) Assessment of the environment in order to understand the factors contributing to the increased risk for violence, drug or alcohol use or abuse, or gang involvement.

3) Meeting the needs of the youth via maintenance and ongoing case management in the following ways; Following up on assessments, crisis management, counseling, court mandated issues, and IEP meetings.