

Youth Engagement Program and OPRFHS

Megan Traficano, MSW, LCSW- Director

Dominique Hickman, MA- Assistant Director

**Laura Devitt, MSW, LCSW- Youth Engagement Program
Manager**



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Brief History Of the Youth Engagement Program IGA

- **The Youth Engagement Program (formerly the Youth Interventionist Program) started in 1996 as a collaboration between all 11 taxing bodies in Oak Park and River Forest to address youth gang involvement, substance abuse and violence in the communities. Currently 9 taxing bodies support the program.**
- **In 2019, the program shifted models and become focused on Youth Mental Health. The program hired Masters Level Social Workers and clinical supervision was provided by the Director (a Licensed Clinical Social Worker: LCSW). Program Manager is also a LCSW as of 2021.**
- **In 2022, the program changed names based on community feedback from partners, youth, and families to the Youth Engagement Program to be more in sync with the services provided, which is FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING for youth.**
- **Current Staff of Program:**
 - **YEP Program Manager: Laura Devitt, MSW, LCSW**
 - **YEP Specialist: Sofie Fernandez, LCSW * *Bilingual in both English and Spanish***
 - **YEP Specialist: Marti Aranda, MSW, LSW (preparing for her clinical exam)**
 - **YEP interns: Master's Level Social Work students (2nd year or advanced standing)**

Annual Report Statistics

(April 1, 2025-March 31,
2026)

- **76 Total Unique Youth Clients**
 - **62 Oak Park residents**
 - **14 River Forest residents**
 - **21 District 200 students**
- **81 Total referrals**
 - **37 Anxiety/Depression**
 - **13 Crisis/Trauma**
 - **26 Behavioral Issues**
 - **5 Mentoring**
- **42 Total Discharges**
 - **28 youth met their goals**
 - **6 youth were referred out**
 - **5 lack of youth contact**
 - **2 youth refused services**
 - **1 moved out of OP/RF**
- **980 Youth Counseling sessions conducted**



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OPRFHS statistics for May 2026

- **41 Total Youth on Caseload currently**
 - **12 OPRFHS students**
 - **2 -9th graders**
 - **4 -10th grader**
 - **3 -11th grader**
 - **3 -12 graders**
 - **2 -total 8th graders from D97 and D90 (will be freshmen 2024-2025 school year)**
 - **2 pending referrals of current 8th grade students, freshmen in 2026-2027.**
 - **9 OPRFHS students are seen in Township offices**
 - **2 OPRFHS students are seen in OPRFHS student center**
 - **1 OPRFHS student seen in the school psychologist's office**



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Additional work with OPRFHS

- **YEP team participates in the monthly “Well Fun Fridays”, providing wellness activities for the students to participate in.**
- **YEP team attends a yearly OPRFHS Student Services Department meeting to speak with the social workers, counselors and deans.**
- **YEP Team worked to expand their office hours for high school students only 2 days a week until 6:00pm, based on OPRFHS staff feedback.**
- **YEP Team is also able to help Park District of Oak Park and Oak Park Public Library with high school aged youth displaying inappropriate behavior at their facilities and collaborates with OPRFHS staff to address these youth through the IGA.**



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Questions and Conversation

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