

Thanks to the following:

- Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
- District 200 High School
- District 90 River Forest Elementary Schools
- District 97 Oak Park Elementary Schools
- First United Church of Oak Park
- Gang and Drug Task Force of Oak Park and River Forest
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
- Midwest Bank
- Oak Park Public Library
- Oak Park Township
- OPRF Community Foundation
- Park District of Oak Park
- River Forest Park District
- River Forest Public Library
- River Forest Township
- River Forest Township Mental Health Committee
- Village of Oak Park
- Village of River Forest

**For more information about
this and other youth
programs and services,
please call -**

**708-445-2727
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**Youth
Intervention
Program**

**Oak Park
and
River Forest**

John FS Williams, M.Ed.C.H.
Director of Youth Services

Chair, OP & RF Gang & Drug
Task Force

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BEGINNINGS

The Youth Intervention Program is the product of eleven government agencies representing Oak Park and River Forest communities. These agencies include: two village governments, two townships, two park districts, two libraries and three school districts.

MISSION

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

TARGETED AREAS

1. **Gangs:** Youth suspected of involvement or at risk for involvement in an organized

group that participates in unlawful acts.

2. **Drug/Alcohol Abuse:** Youth suspected of dealing in or using illegal substances or consuming alcohol.
3. **Violence:** Individuals involved in or are victims of violence.

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. Depending on the needs assessment, a determination is made regarding whether to follow up with the referral and open the case.

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 gang involvement, drug or alcohol abuse or violence.
3. Maintenance, follow-up and ongoing assessment to meet the needs of the youth continues.