

# Youth Engagement Program and District 90

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> year or advanced standing)

# Annual Report Statistics

(April 1, 2025-March 31,  
2026)

- 76 Total Unique Youth Clients
  - 14 -District90 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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# District 90 Statistics for May 19, 2026

- 41 Total Youth on Caseload currently
  - 5 District 90 youth
    - 3- Roosevelt MS
    - 2- Lincoln ES
- 5 total pending referrals
  - 1 Crisis/Trauma
  - 4 Anxiety/Depression

# Additional Work with District 90

- YEP Team attends collaboration meetings with District 90 staff (1-4 per year), outside of normal collaborations on referrals.
- YEP Team is also able to help River Forest Public Library with middle school-aged youth displaying inappropriate behavior at their facilities and collaborates with staff to address these youth through the IGA.



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# Questions and Conversation

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