

Youth Services Director Report Summary for March 7, 2018

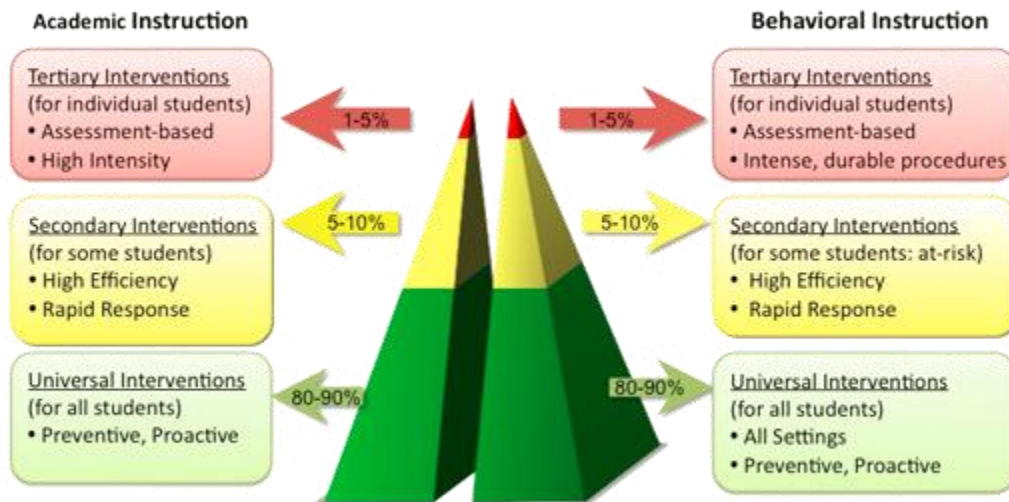
1. Contracts and Program Development:

This meeting, the Committee is to continue reviewing and discussing the contract requests for consideration in making their recommendations to the Township Boards.

- a. Subcommittee of OP YS met on Sunday afternoon February 25 to continue discussion/review of OP only contracts. Had several questions of contractors, John following up on those to get clarification.
- b. Received additional YS Contract Request forms for FY2019 that were past due date. Consistent message is that we are accepting them and that the Committee will not review them until after they have completed recommendations on those received on time.
- c. Additional items received have been emailed via “drop box” to all YSC Members in advance of meeting.
- d. We will have hard copies available at the meetings.
- e. Please review prior as best you can to facilitate discussion and consideration.
- f. Summer Empowerment and SMART Programs
 - a. As per direction of YS Committee, John met with Deacon Wiley Samuels and had joint phone conference with he and Dr. Veronica Richards of CUC regarding summer programming. Have had several meetings with D97 regarding an MOU for data sharing. Continue to meet with D97 to try and resolve space and transportation challenges.
 - b. John and Deacon Samuels have continued to meet with Dr. Helen Wei regarding planning for this summer. We have offered to host the same day long programming with CUC working academics targeted to the needs of youth rising into grades 5-8, begin engaging with the students and families in February, provide testing to evaluate reading level, and set goals and curriculum tailored to individual needs and attach to group projects for the summer with FCS providing for lunch and social emotional and recreational activities in the afternoons including games, exercise, and Cargo Circles provided from Youth Services.

- c. Informed end of January that D97 is not providing for space for the previously agreed upon time frame. Working on alternative site and plans. Working on a data sharing agreement with D97. Meeting this week March 8 with Dr. Kelly to discuss further.
- d. John, Deacon Wiley Samuels (FCS/FCP), Dr. Veronica Richards continue to try and obtain data from D97 from last summers program.
- e. We have 41 releases of information and thus far have this information: 32 students in D97, 4 students transferred out, 4 students weren't enrolled in D97
- f. Awaiting more data specifically confirmation of what tier students are considered in within D97. Tiers 1-3 with 3 being the highest at risk reference PBIS. See below.

Designing Schoolwide Systems for Student Success



From D97 website at: <http://www.op97.org/teach-learn/multi-tiered-system-of-support>

- g. History: Oak Park Elementary School District 97

Recall: we had contracted with Concordia University of Chicago (CUC), Fellowship Community Services (FCS), and provided direct services through the Youth Interventionists Amanda Mueller and Dominique Hickman to 71 youth hosted out of Julian Middle School, District 97 for the Summer Empowerment Program. For 5 weeks this summer, students attended 2 hours of educational enrichment with Professors, staff and students from Concordia, Lunch on site, weekly Cargo Circles and afternoon recreation activities run by FCS who also attended to sign in/out, parent communication, addressed transportation issues, etc. All involved benefitted from regular intense debriefing among and between groups.

Cargo Circles were led by YS Director John FS Williams YS Committee member George Bailey with facilitation for half the group by Amanda and Dominique and half led by George and John. YS hosted two follow meetings with the partnering agencies performing a large group SOAR analysis led by one of YS Committee member Sarah Mayeda in August and a follow up meeting on 9/12. There are recommendations for consideration for the YS Committee as a whole regarding focusing the YS mission on grades 5-9. The outcome of those discussions at following committee meetings is that we have focused our contract requests on grades 5-9 for Fiscal Year 2019 (April 1, 2018 – March 30, 2019.)

2. Restorative Justice

FACE-IT – Jennifer Roth.*Note the last week of March there will be no session as it will be spring break.

- FACE - IT had a very busy month with 6 new families and a snow day thrown in for a last minute curveball. With bad storms on the horizon we decided that we should cancel the session on Thursday February 8.
- All families were alerted via the Oak Park Township Website, email from Jennifer, text and a phone call if we did not receive confirmation of the alert from the other methods. We acted quickly and for the safety of our staff and participants.
- Oak Park Adjudication is seeing changes in their administrative judges so we look forward to working with them.
- Over the month FACE-IT went over: ***building healthy relationships; making healthy choices; and conflict resolution.***

FACE – IT STATISTICS February 2018

Statistics start when school year starts. Includes continuing students in the running totals.

New for the Month:

	B	W	A	H	2+	Male	Female	OPRF	Trin	Fen	O	TTL
Oak Park =		1		1		2		2				
River Forest =		4				2	2	3		1		
Other/Paid =												
Total =												

Running Totals:

	B	W	A	H	2+	Male	Female	OPRF	Trin	Fen	O	TTL
Oak Park =	1	5		2	1	5	6	11	9			9
River Forest =		13				5	8	13	9	4		13
Other/Paid =												
Total =								23				23

Referring Bodies

New for Month:

	OP Adjudication	OP Police	RF Adjudication	OPRFHS	Trinity	Brooks	Julian	Voluntary/Other
Oak Park			2					
River Forest			4					
Other/Paid								
Total			6					

Running Tally:

	OP Adjudication	OP Police	RF Adjudication	OPRFHS	Trinity	Brooks	Julian	Voluntary/Other
Oak Park	4		6					1
River Forest			13					
Other/Paid								
Total = 6	4		19					1

TIME Program - Susan Stearns

February 25, 2018

- Susan attended the River Forest Adjudication Court on Feb. 2nd
- Susan attended the Oak Park Adjudication Court and was informed there had been some personnel changes for the Court program at the Village. Met one of the three new judges. He was the judge for the February 22nd court session and is a former judge who spent some time sitting on the bench at Maybrook.
- Met with three new youth from the River Forest court
- Susan assigned 5 youth who are 16 y/o to attend the orientation for the OPRF Food Pantry and then instructed them to sign up for shifts that worked for their schedules (youth must be 16 or older to volunteer for the Food Pantry and must attend the orientation).
- Susan will be filling out a full schedule of youth under 16 to finish their hours at the Oak Park Library
- Susan will be making an appointment at the River Forest Library to ask if they could use some volunteers (those attending Roosevelt school). As Time Manager, Susan would be willing to help supervise as needed
- Susan is still taking youth to volunteer at Housing Forward shelter on the first Wednesday evening of the month during her volunteer shift: another example of a site where youth under 16 cannot volunteer on their own.

3. Youth Development and Advocacy

a. Cargo Circles

- At request of Principal Jim Doyle at Whittier, John and George co-lead a Cargo Circle with a grade 1-2 cohort.

- Finishing up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) With Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Equity at D97 for an expansion of Cargo Circles for the fall of 2018 to include grades 5 and 6.
 - We have finished the first cohort of grade 5 classrooms in District 97 providing 10 Cargo Circles per class as follow:
Mondays at Longfellow in four 5th grade classrooms/week
Wednesday at Holmes in four 5th grade classrooms/week
Thursdays at Whittier in three 5th grade classrooms/week
Monday afternoons at Irving four 5th grade classrooms/week
 - A survey instrument of the Teachers and Students created in collaboration with Dr. Kamm, Dr. Bailey, and John was sent out in February with a due date of March 2nd.
 - The dates have changed several times and we are adjusting to now hosting the training of the next cohort of 5th grade teachers from Beye, Hatch, Lincoln, and Mann schools on Thursday afternoon March 21.
 - John led a training and refresher for facilitators in February and welcomed Psychiatrist Dr. Susan Scherer, MD to the group.
 - Dr. George Bailey, David Yamashita and John at request of staff from Brooks will provide a Cargo Circle demonstration for teachers on March 14th.
 - John continues to lead Cargo Circles Wednesday at Beye in one 3rd grade classroom and works with the teacher, special education teacher, and students to continue to develop nuances of the Cargo Circle process. The 5th grade Teachers at Beye are demonstrating application of the Cargo Circle with their fellow teachers and have been holding monthly Cargo Circles for the 4th grade classes at Beye to good effect.
 - John has been asked to present Cargo Circle demonstrations at Rotary International Peace Summit on June 2, 2018 at the S. Shore Cultural Center.
- b. Financial Assistance Scholarships:** Youth Services continues to process financial need based FAS - *numbers will be updated for the

meeting this week. We have begun to receive requests for funding of spring and summer programs.

90 thus far since April 1, 2017 \$1,685.96 in RF and \$8,707.00 in OP.

c. Youth conference 2018

The three area high schools sponsors have agreed upon the Keynote speaker who this year is Jim Bloch (see link for more information)

<http://www.theteamleadership.org/meet-the-team/jim-bloch/>

This is an annual event sponsored by Youth Services and has been going on since 1918. Students gather and attend a keynote, 3 seminar presentations, and share a lunch.

4. Youth Interventionist Program

- a. School shootings in the news this year having an impact locally in increasing awareness of the tragic intersection of disaffected youth, guns, and schools.
- b. Concerned about factors of increasing violent crime, youth involved, disaffected youth, systems operating with less coordination than previously, increased drug use, and the background of increased tension politically, racially, and economically as a nation, state, county and village. The water we are all swimming in now is turbulent and it effects adults and youth and very young children all. Working with multiple systems to interrupt, cool down, and stop growing tension and violence between groups of youths.
- c. See the recently reformatted data summary (Thanks Ashley!)
- d. Staff training of updated and upgraded data base took place on Thursday, February 22. Will monitor and see how system shakes out as we progress. Added set of data to begin inputs on ACE Scores (Adverse Childhood Experiences).
- e. All three Interventionists involved in group work increasing the number of youth with whom we are engaged.
- f. *Note: Cases is total # opened current Cases/Interventionist. Active indicates at least one face to face meeting with client per week with several on caseloads requiring multiple contacts per week with youth and family and related support providers and school staff. Passive*

indicates youth and families that have made significant progress, are stabilizing and don't necessarily require face to face every week but maintain contacts and check-ins with family and providers. Home visits are successful in home sessions with family members and youth at their home. 2 staff are participating in leading or co-leading Cargo Circles in multiple schools and are held weekly for 10 times/semester. All 3 are leading groups with middle school youth.

Amanda Mueller (Interventionist)

Active cases:	15
Pending cases:	2
Passive cases:	3
Closed cases:	3
Home visits:	2
Groups:	4 (42 Youths)

February continued to bring in referrals and has kept this interventionist busy with an influx in high school students and elementary students. Amanda has continued her work with youth at Percy Julian, Roosevelt, students from OPRFHS, Washington Irving and Hatch. The continued concern of **drug use among youth in the community and the misuse of technology** have remained at the forefront this month. Many youths have been reporting the use of marijuana and are having difficulties seeing the long-term effects that marijuana use will have throughout their lives. Changing one's behavior is one of the most difficult things to achieve and with a lax attitude on drug use, this challenge becomes even more difficult for this interventionist and those working with youth. Having the youth involved with correcting their own negative behaviors is the beginning to changing the youth's point of view on their own life and where they fit into this community/world.

Susan Mura, social worker at Hatch Elementary, has been a great help this month. Susan has provided this interventionist with a private and safe space to meet with youth at Hatch each week. She continues to provide productive communication and feedback that is intricate in working with the students at Hatch. Susan works well with the students and is continuously accommodating. This interventionist began an intensive training this month on the Neurobiology and Treatment of Trauma and Attachment by Dr. Bessel A. van der Kolk, an expert in the research

and treatment of Trauma. This training will be crucial when working with youth to regain their voices and places in their own lives. Several of our youth experience underlying trauma that they have not confronted and some that do not even realize they are carrying with them every day. Learning these new techniques and practices will help this interventionist to better assist the youth within the community.

Brison Blackwell

Active Cases	16
OPRFHS students	8
students outside of OPRFHS (Britten & Menta)	2
Julian Middle School	3
Brooks Middle School	1
2 Elementary students (1 at Holmes, 1 at Hatch)	
1 boys group at Julian	
Home visits: 3	

This Interventionist has continued to work with clients in the Oak Park River Forest area. Brison has stayed in constant contact with parents and meeting with clients on the regular. Clients open up to/confide in him about situations that are going on in their life. While this interventionist's clients haven't been involved recently in any major situations, Brison did learn of a mob action that happened at OPRFHS and brought it to the Interventionist team.

This interventionist added two clients in the month of February. Both are 8th grade males with one at Julian and one at Brooks. Both clients were referred due to situations that the boys are going through currently as they transition from middle school to high school.

The boys group at Julian that Brison facilitates is still going. The most recent topic that they discussed was on **mass school shootings** and why they happen and what they should do if it happens at their school. This interventionist and the group discussed ways to stop mass school shooting from happening and what measures should be in place.

Dominique Hickman (Interventionist)

Cases: 15

Home Visits: 8

Groups:

Girls on the Rise Brooks Middle School 10 students

Cargo Circles at Irving Elementary School 1 Circle 23 students

This Interventionist continues to meet weekly with students at Holmes, Willard, Roosevelt, Brooks and in the community.

In addition to meeting with students weekly, Dominique continues to run a Girls Group at Brooks Middle School.

This Interventionist conducted a final cargo circle with the students at Irving Elementary School. The students shared what they enjoyed about cargo circles and their hopes for middle school. The children seem at ease when this Interventionist mentions to them Youth Services are present in both Brooks and Julian Middle Schools.

In a week this Interventionist caseload jumped significantly with referrals for very young children who fit the requirements for the program. There are several trends in Oak Park amongst the youth in Oak Park. Along **with drugs, violence, and gangs; risky sexual behavior is on the rise.** Youth sexual behavior is critical not only because of the possible reproductive outcomes but also because of sexually transmitted infections. This interventionist has been working with parents to begin having the conversation with their children about sex. Parents shouldn't make the assumptions of what their kids know when we turn a blind eye to things that's how we lose control. Sometimes you have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable especially when it comes down to talking about sex with children.

Girls on the Rise Brooks Middle School

10 students

February was the month of loving your beauty for Girls on the Rise. Each week students participated in assignments geared toward loving themselves. Tasks such as writing love letters to themselves, discussing the importance of self-care

especially when it pertains to their hair textures they even participated in making shea butter whip to take home. Girls on the rise plan to conclude the loving your beauty series with a self –love meditation. Meditation can help us to eliminate negative thoughts, worries, anxiety, and all factors that can prevent us from feeling happy. It has been proven that the practice of meditation, carried out on a regular basis, will mitigate the symptoms of stress and anxiety. This interventionist ***has seen some changes with the students based on their decision making and improves behaviors in the classroom. A strong sisterhood is forming with Girls on the Rise.***