

What role can the library play?

- We need to help kids not feel like they are alone
- We could be a welcoming place in a world where they feel unwelcome
- The emphasis on children not being alone is something I think we could really help with.
- Having books for Trans people
- We need to offer safe and trauma informed spaces and services
- I'm big on librarians and library staff as trusted adults to teens
- Resources on mental health too.
- LGBTQIA+ awareness or support programs
- Giving them opportunities for connection and resources for mental health
- Develop personal relationships with teens
- Having a variety of books available that deal with depression, anxiety, transgender individuals
- Overt and subtle "signs" that show we are supportive and can be a resource
- Mental Health Workshop for staff.
- To provide a space for teens
- Books, programs, and materials for all ages that help kids know how valued and important they are
- I've told my foster kids that libraries and library staff are safe places to be real and to have questions answered in nonjudgmental ways.
- Give them outlets for expressing themselves maybe
- Mental health Q & A for adults?
- How to be approachable in the library for Teens dealing with these issues?
- Personal relationships can't be developed immediately. We could provide long term drop in programs that foster connections over time.
- Information about community resources. Hosting peer groups.
- I would love to try a spoken word program at our library because it encourages self-expression
- Program about mental health first aid for all ages
- My PLs offer programming and clubs for youth.
- Train all library staff about misconceptions about teens so that staff are less intimidated and put off by teens.

- Volunteer opportunities for teens that have volunteer hour requirements. If you're generous with the service hours it takes a burden off their shoulders, and you can form more personal relationships with them during the meetings.
- Offer a variety of programs that teens would be interested in and ask teens themselves what kinds of programs or events they would want to see offered in the future. Have a youth advisory board that can help with this and make teens feel involved
- We have posters on the back of the bathroom doors with the Safe 2 Tell phone/text numbers. We meet with counselors at the high school to try to stay connected. Youth service staff hold outreaches at the schools (with candy) mainly to build relationships.
- I've seen some work done with local public health that boils down to lecture events about risks to teens like suicide, vaping, et cetera. While the heart is in the right place, no teen is going to be "tricked" into going to an event like this. I think more subtle approaches like mindfulness and trusted teens are the way to go
- Partner with local mental health providers for added support.
- If staff is available, outreach to schools for programming. We've done lunchtime book clubs that have done well.
- I think, at least for my community, getting more teen programs in general, because our adult and kid programs greatly outnumber the teen programs
- I have heard from adults who have a real heart for teens and suicide prevention. I have wondered how to appropriately connect people? Any ideas?
- We recently had a panel discussion at our staff development day which consisted of representatives from five different community organizations which were relevant to the work we do at our public library. This included LGBTQ support, individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health support, substance abuse, etc.
- Programs aimed at parents to help them understand/support their teens can be really helpful. While we may not be able to produce them ourselves, we can host them at the library.