

THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

ISSUE NO 2 | OCTOBER 2023



News from Ada County's Youth
and Family Resource Center



JULY-SEPT 2023

62%
LE referrals

69 out of 112 youth were referred to The Bridge by law enforcement this quarter. Family/community referrals were the next primary source (19%) followed by schools (13%), Health & Welfare (5%) and medical personnel (1%).

OFFICIALLY OPEN

The Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony on August 21st was a great success, despite the rain! Governor Little, Meridian Police Chief Basterrechea, and Ada County Commissioners Daley, Beck and Davidson (R to L in the photo above with Director Tate) provided excellent remarks about the history of and hopes for this new program. We appreciate everyone who came out to support us including The Bridge Governance Board, Meridian Mayor Simison, and representatives from local law enforcement, the Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, schools, IDJC and many community partners.

The great publicity about the role of resource centers in keeping kids out

of the formal justice system resulted in a spike in referrals as well as calls and drop-in visits from families looking for help. We are thankful that we were able to start taking referrals at a temporary location in March but are finding that our ability to provide services in a welcoming atmosphere is enhanced by our beautiful new facility. We have four private assessment rooms and a kid-friendly waiting area to accommodate the entire family.

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
*evening and weekend hours
by appointment*

74%
participation

83 out of 112 youth and families referred to The Bridge are in screening and/or case management with us. Families who chose not to participate declined services or did not respond to our phone and email outreach attempts.

81%
screen-in

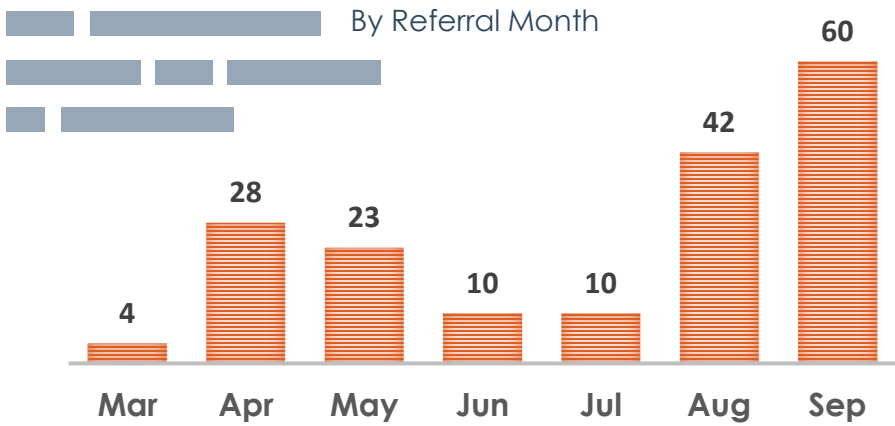
34 out of 42 caregivers assessed their youth as at-risk for possible emotional or behavioral problems. Only **37%** of youth identified themselves as at-risk using the same tool, the Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17.

42 youth and families received connections to community services in July-September. We made 72 referrals to 35 different community service providers for:

- ✓ **Counseling** – 30 youth/families (71%)
- ✓ **Basic needs** – 11 (26%)
- ✓ **Education support** – 5 (12%)
- ✓ **Peer activities** – 5 (12%)
- ✓ **Mentorship** – 5 (12%)
- ✓ **Parent education** – 3 (7%)

Some youth and families were referred to multiple providers for the same service category (i.e., basic needs).

177 Youth Referred to The Bridge



Assessment Center Outcome Reporting Network

We were recently selected as one of six centers from across the country to participate in the National Assessment Center Association's ACORN initiative. This group is focused on increasing the consistency of assessment center data, including outcome and performance measures. The Bridge was placed in the "advanced" category for its level of data capacity and will receive intensive technical assistance from the National Center for Juvenile Justice as part of the program. We look forward to working with and learning from experts as we build our program.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

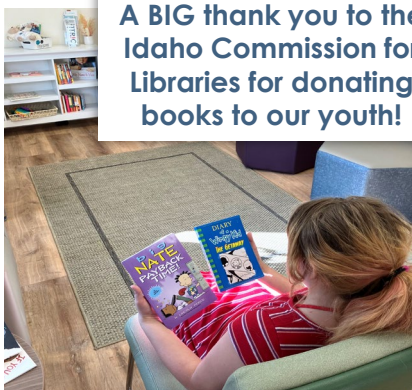
We are honing our communication plan and will always let partner agencies know if youth they refer to The Bridge choose to participate in our program. We may not share details regarding the community services they are accessing but will report if they are engaged as a family and working towards positive change.

Sometimes it takes a few weeks for a youth to get started with us. Families have a lot going on and some are challenging to contact, while others need to reschedule their orientation and screening session multiple times. If they say "no thanks" or we do not make a connection in 3 or 4 weeks, we will let you know that too. We have had several situations where families initially declined services, but reached back out later to ask if they could meet. Our answer was, "absolutely," because our door is always open.

Please be sure to include your email and phone number in any referral so we have your current contact information. In some cases, we haven't been able to report back because we lacked this information.



A BIG thank you to the Idaho Commission for Libraries for donating books to our youth!



621 N Liberty St
 Boise, ID 83704
 208-577-4820
 TheBridge@
 adacounty.id.gov



www.adacounty.id.gov/TheBridge