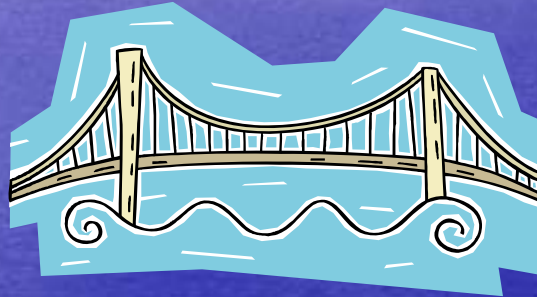


Bridge Center Report



Barbara Cheswick, Principal

February 14, 2006

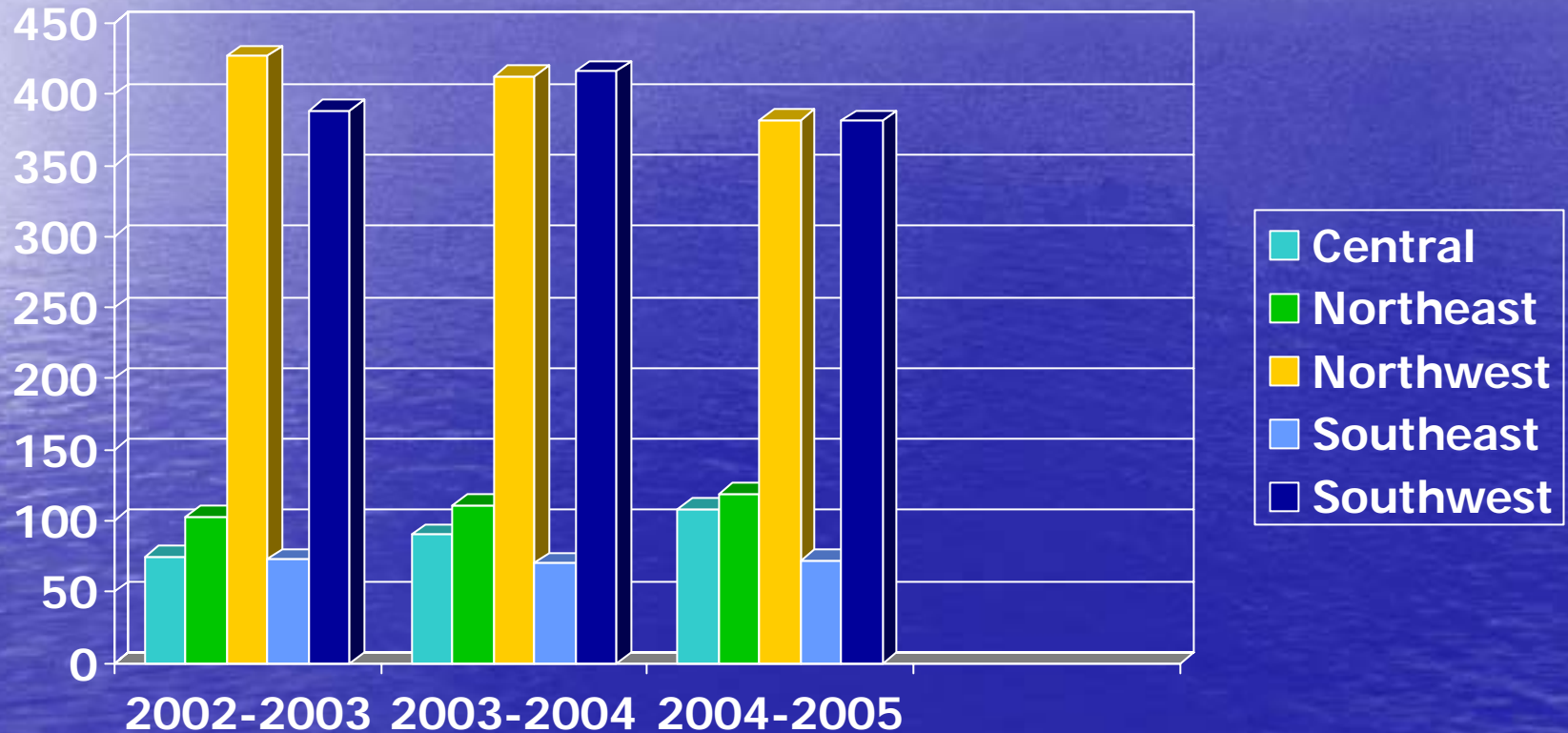
Why do we need Bridge Center ?

- Problem identified as high number of agency placed students and lack of school records making appropriate educational recommendations and placements challenging for students and schools
- Collaboration between the county school system and government to address these challenges
- Response was a center designed and staffed to provide and support learning for these students
- Establish a bridge between the Center and the home school through itinerant staff



Why NW/SW?

Non-Resident Agency Placed Foster Students (Official Dec. 30 count)



Risk Factors Considered Through the Referral Screening Process



- Not enrolled in school for several months or more
- Multiple school settings (>2 in 1 year)
- Below grade level in reading and/or math (> 3 years)
- Record of consistent academic failure
- Repeated at least one grade
- History of significant behavior problems in school
- Not age appropriate for grade level
- No school records
- Other

Primary Reason for Referral

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005 *68 students

Description	Percentage
Behavior problems	29%
Not appropriate age for grade	21%
Multiple school settings	9%
Gaps in education	9%
Out of school 6 months or more	16%
Repeated at least one grade level	3%
Other reasons (health; new group home, home schooled)	10%
Consistent academic failure	1.5%
DSS/DJS/Caregiver concerns	1.5%

Instructional Program/Outcome Mission

- Intensive three week full day academic program to prepare students to meet with academic success in their community schools
- Four 75 minute classes per day (Reading; English; Math; Skills – study skills, technology skills, social skills, personal development, substance abuse education)
- Informal assessment of strengths and needs
- Wellness Center
- Educational support plan developed to address specific academic, behavioral, and therapeutic goals
- Support plan provides the “bridge” into the community school
- Plan implemented by Bridge Center itinerant teachers and social workers
- Bridge Center prepares students to meet with academic success in their community schools

Itinerant Teachers

- Facilitator of registration into home school
- Instructional support for student
- Monitor of student attendance
- Monitor of academic performance
- Communication link among home school, Bridge Center, and caregivers
- Cases individually assessed to determine continuation vs. termination of service, dependent upon established goals

Itinerant DSS Social Worker

- Counseling services and programming continue during summer months to maintain therapeutic relationships and to provide ongoing opportunities for students to learn social skills and participate in team-building activities
- Provide integrated, collaborative services within Bridge Center and the community schools
- Provide support, counseling and social skills students need to succeed in their school, home, and community environments
- Services include individual counseling, family counseling, home visitation, referrals to community resources, and consultation/case management

Data

- August 2004 - March 2005
 - Caseloads determined by identification of students who may have been referred to Center had we been opened
 - 305 students received direct support from itinerant teachers (22 middle/high schools NW/SW areas)
 - 90 students received individual and family counseling from itinerant social workers

Data

- April 4, 2005 – January 6, 2006
 - 98 students received direct instructional support at Center and itinerant services

Bridge Center Data

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Demographics *68 students

Description	Percentage
Male	63%
Female	37%
African-American	82.5%
Caucasian	16%
Pacific Islander	1.5%
High School	59%
Middle School	41%
NW Area	31%
SW Area	69%

Bridge Center Data

August 29 2005 – December 31, 2005

Agency Placement *68 students

Description	Percentage/(Number)
DSS:	29%/(20)
Baltimore County	15%/(3)
Baltimore City	85%/(17)
DJS:	16%/(11)
Baltimore County	10%/(1)
Baltimore City	45%/(5)
Other MD counties or other states (DC, NY)	45%/(5)
* <u>Non-agency placement</u>	55%/(37)

Bridge Center

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Residential Status *68 students

Description	Percentage
Living with Parent(s)	37%
Living with Relative(s)/Guardian(s)	26%
Living in Group Home	28%
Living in Foster Home	8%

Nurse Practitioner Data

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005 *68 students
(in partnership with Baltimore County Health Department)

Description	Percentage
Vaccinations ordered/administered	63%
Comprehensive physicals	67%
Comprehensive screenings	40%
Diagnosis/Treatment of acute /chronic illnesses	19%
Sports Physicals	4%

Substance Abuse Counselor Data

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005 *68 students

- 4% assessments completed during this period
- 95% received Education classes (session 1)
- 95% received Education classes (session 2)
- 91% received Education classes (session 3)

In partnership with Baltimore County Department of Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse

Placement Upon Leaving Bridge Center

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005 *59 students

Description	Percentage
Entered Comprehensive School (home school)	83%
Entered Alternative School	3.5%
Other programs (Job Corps)	3.5%
Moved out of Baltimore County	5%
Withdrawn from Bridge Center	5%

DSS Social Worker Data

August 29, 2005 – December 31, 2005

(in partnership with Baltimore County Department of Social Services)

Description	Number
Students receiving social work services	67
Individual counseling sessions	533
Family counseling sessions	74
Home/Group Home visits	73
Collaborative meetings with staff in home schools	252
Collaborative meetings with professionals outside the Bridge Center (DSS, DJS, etc.)	171

Some Student Accomplishments

August 29, 2005 – November 30, 2005

- All As and Bs at Lansdowne High
- Enrolled in Honors classes at New Town High
- Lead role in school play at Lansdowne Middle
- Officer in SAAD Club at Southwest Academy
- Two students returned to city, interviewed at St. Francis Academy and received full scholarships
- Several students enrolled in AVID (Achievement Via Individual Achievement) at Woodlawn High, wait list at Lansdowne High
- On JV football team at Catonsville High

Evaluation Plan

- Monitor and analyze data collected after students have been enrolled for at least one full quarter
- Data points
 - Grades
 - Attendance
 - Suspension rates
 - Customer satisfaction surveys

Qualitative Data Survey Responses

- Students
- Caregivers
- Comprehensive School Staff

Comments by Caregivers

2005-2006

- "Excellent staff of caring people. Everyone embraced my son and made him feel like he belonged. I can see the change in his spirit in this short period of time. The Bridge Center is a great asset for this short period of time. My son was fortunate to be a part of their program. They have so much more to offer than just academics. I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity for my son."
- "I was pleased with the program, the staff, and the careful attention given to students."
- "I think the Bridge Center program is an excellent program for today's children."
- "This program needs to be extended to 6 weeks, better, a full quarter...."

Student Comments 2005-2006

- "...helped me with reading fluency that helped me read better."
- "...counselors to help you with your problems at home."
- "... at the Bridge Center I have done a lot of growing in many ways, such as: academically, socially, and personally."
- "... learned new things about Edgar Allen Poe, expository writing,..."
- "... it came to my mind that the Bridge Center was my second home."
- "... got a physical... made sure I was healthy and treated me like a real medical patient..."
- "... learned how to interact in positive ways with other students."
- "... teachers showed respect for my problems..."
- "... when I am in a bad space...social workers helped me calm down..."
- "... helped me get back in my right grade..."
- "... helped me to work on achieving my goal to be a chef..."
- "... made me feel like I had a family..."
- "... helped me realize I was intelligent..."
- "... when I graduate I'll call the Bridge Center and say thank you."

Comments by Comprehensive School Staff

- Math teachers at Lansdowne High appreciate the way students from Bridge Center fit right into the current lessons.
- "... I thank you for all you are doing for all the kids. It's hard work ... but only people with the truest of character can accomplish what you do."
- "The two teachers that you have at Woodlawn HS from the Bridge Center, Donna Shockett and Sheri Glasser are not only tremendously helpful, but they are making a great difference in the students' lives, and making our school more efficient and successful."

Where?

SW Area

1740 Twin Springs Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21227
410-887-6832

Visit our school web site
<http://bridgecenter.bcps.org>

