Welcome!

Welcome to the first Southern Maryland BRIDGE (Building Resiliency for Infancy through Development, Growth and Empowerment) newsletter. This quarterly publication is an informational resource, designed to provide perspective, highlights, and advocacy within our collective endeavor. We are advocates for children, parents, social workers, heads of government agencies, researchers, policy-makers, case managers, and health practitioners - and all others concerned with making sure all children in Maryland have a healthy and mentally productive start to life.

Please enjoy this newsletter and those to come, as we hopefully “de-stigmatize” and “de-mystify” the growing issue of the importance of supporting parenting and the individual needs of children in childcare and early education settings.

So, welcome – we are happy for your partnership, participation and feedback!
Family Spotlight

“My name is Christina Hall and I live in Calvert County with my husband and our 5 children. My youngest son, Joe is enrolled in the BRIDGE program. BRIDGE has been amazing for my family. My team is so supportive to me, and I know I can call on them whenever I need help or guidance and someone on my team will be there for me.

We’ve worked together to come up with strategies to help our home run more smoothly. They’ve helped my family get connected with resources in my area – some of them were things I never even knew existed. One of the biggest tools I’ve gained from BRIDGE is the assistance learning the terminology that the school and doctors use to talk about my son and the other children.

I now feel confident to walk into any meeting and now understand what is being discussed. I only wish the BRIDGE program would have been around with my older kids. Joe is already in such a better place than they were at this age. Our entire family has benefited from the BRIDGE program and I’m happy to be a part of such a great resource for families in our community.”

Southern Maryland Honors BRIDGE Builders

On Tuesday, May 15th, 2018 the Southern Maryland BRIDGE Project held its Second Annual Southern Maryland BRIDGE Builders Awards for Championing Children’s Behavioral Health. The Southern Maryland BRIDGE Project honored two Charles County advocates for young children and families: Dr. Dianna Abney and Judge Helen I. Harrington. The event was held at the Waldorf Jaycee Community Center.
“With the support that we are able to give parents by pulling the systems together so parents can access what is available, we have people who are turning their lives around, getting their children back, and having strong healthy families. It is amazing” Judge Harrington told the crowd about the value that comes from a coordinated system of care.

Partners on the BRIDGE project include Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary’s County Governments, Charles County Department of Health, Calvert County Health Department, the Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, Center for Children, Maryland Family Network, Maryland Coalition of Families, and The Promise Resource Center. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

“I grew up in a time and a place where mental health just wasn’t discussed and people didn’t get help with it. So to be able to be a part of the BRIDGE Project, and the Charles County Department of Health which has one the largest substance abuse and mental health clinics in the county, is amazing,” Dr. Abney said during the event.

Maryland Senator Thomas ‘Mac’ Middleton also spoke at the event and presented official citations to the honorees on behalf of the Charles County House Delegation. Other speakers included Scott Travers, Regional Director of Senator Chris Van Hollen’s office; Eric Lulow, Public Health Advisor, SAMSHA; Todd Elliott, Coordinator Local Management Board, Charles County Department of Community Services; Angie McRae, Family Peer Support Specialist, Maryland Coalition of Families; and Kate Wasserman, Program Director, Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of MD School of Social Work.
September 13th & 14th DC: 0-5 Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood is designed to help professionals in mental health and other/related fields.

Registration link will be disseminated in the weeks following this newsletter.

You now have a friend to call in Southern Maryland!

Southern Maryland BRIDGE System of Care has launched a warm line that families can call if they have any concerns about their children from birth to their 6th birthday.

- **Who answers the phone:** A parent who has worked to address their own child’s developmental and behavioral needs.

- **How can they help:** They listen to your concerns about your child and family and then connect you to a range of family and child-focused services to meet your family’s and child’s needs.

- We are working over the course of the next month to refine messaging about the service, focusing on engaging and informing families, but if you have families that would benefit from support now, please call or have them call the number here: **(443) 546-0617**

- Follow BRIDGE social media for more information! Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter @somdBRIDGE

BRIDGE in the News!

The BRIDGE Project was featured in three different newspapers during the month of April: The Maryland Independent, The Calvert Recorder, and Southern Maryland News Net.

Check them out below and make sure to share with friends and family!

“BRIDGE Project Offers Mobile Support For Children With Behavioral Needs”

"Project aims to help children with behavioral health needs"
Her daughter was suicidal, but this mother was told the...

LELAND, Miss. - Jennifer Townsend was shocked when she found a note written by her oldest child, a 14-year-old: The teen was planning to commit suicide. Townsend, a mother of four who lives in the rural Mississippi Delta, wanted to get help for...

Read more hechingerreport.org

"Your child's social skills in kindergarten are more important than their academics"
Your child's social skills in kindergarten are more...

Parents of young children tend to worry a lot about whether or not their kids are making adequate gains as they launch into their academic careers. "Can Johnny read the list of 100 high-frequency words?" "Does Betty know how to count to 500?" "Is ...

Read more
www.mother.ly

Podcast: "Baby Talk" by NPR's Hidden Brain

Baby Talk

Babies are speaking to us all the time, but most of us have no clue what they're saying. To researchers, though, the babbling of babies is knowable, predictable, and best of all, teachable to us non-experts. This week, we'll get a primer on how to...

Read more
itunes.apple.com
**Featured Resource**

**Judy Center**

The Judy Center is a collaboration of many public and non-profit agencies in St. Mary’s County Maryland dedicated to providing comprehensive, community based early learning services for children birth through kindergarten and their families. We believe that all children should enter school ready to learn, and that families are the foundation for their children’s school success. The Judy Center provides many learning opportunities and fun family activities to promote school readiness.

For more information visit: [www.smcps.org/ssp/judy-center](http://www.smcps.org/ssp/judy-center)

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**Local Events**

**10th Annual Early Childhood Day**

Saturday, August 4, 2018  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Capital Clubhouse, 3033 Waldorf Marketplace Waldorf, MD

Charles County is having their 10th annual Early Childhood Day. The goal of this day is to provide a day of fun for the children while connecting parents and caregivers to the numerous resources in the area. They are still taking applications for sponsors and vendors. See flyer for more information.

**Sponsorship & Exhibitor Registration Form**

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**The Promise Resource Center’s Drive-In Movie Event**

Saturday, August 25, 2018 (rain or shine)  
4:00 pm — 9:30 pm at St. Mary’s County Fairgrounds

The Promise Resource Center invites local businesses and individuals to participate in our 3rd Annual Drive-In Movie Event Fundraiser at the St. Mary’s County Fairgrounds to support our programs.
children’s movie on a 40’ theater-sized movie screen and drive-in style parking, our Drive-In Movie Event will also feature live music, concessions, arts and crafts, and many other pre-movie activities to create a truly memorable experience for our local families.

Those interested in participating as an exhibitor or vendor must fill out the following form: 2018 Exhibitor/Vendor Application

Share your ideas or questions with us!

Click here to share

This newsletter was prepared for BRIDGE and the Charles County Local Management Board under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Grant # 1U79SM062471-01. The views, opinions, and content expressed on this website do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).