

2022 Annual Report





One of the most important things
you can do on this earth is to let
people know they are not alone.

— Shannon L. Alder

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Our Leadership

The Board of Directors of the Bridge Center for Hope is made up of a diverse group of individuals whose skill sets compliment the organization's mission. The board is represented by behavioral health professionals, health care leaders, patient and consumer advocates, and justice system officials. Board members serve staggered two- and three-year terms.



Charlotte Claiborne
Executive Director

2022 Officers



Patrick Seiter
Chair



Murphy Paul
Vice Chair



Sharon Robinson
Treasurer



Lauren Crump
Secretary

Our Mission

The mission of the Bridge Center for Hope is to provide pathways to treatment for people experiencing behavioral health issues and to link providers to create an integrated continuum of care from prevention to rehabilitation.

The Bridge Center for Hope was created to fill the void of quality care for individuals in crisis and to develop and implement a model for crisis services in East Baton Rouge Parish.

2022 Board Members at Large



Charles Abboud
Board Member



Denise Amoroso
Board Member



Lewis Blanche
Board Member



Dr. William Clark
Board Member



Charles Abboud
Board Member



Dr. Kathleen Crapanzano
Board Member



Greg Dicharry
Board Member



Dennis Grimes
Board Member



Carolina Bergeron Jones
Board Member



Kathy Kliebert
Board Member



Dr. Jan Laughinghouse
Board Member



Donna Collin-Lewis
Board Member



Michael Mitchell
Board Member



Hillar Moore
Board Member



Christine Nichols
Board Member



Dr. Tiffany Pitts Simpson
Board Member

In Memory of Christine Nichols

The Bridge Center would like to honor Christine Nichols, a fearless community advocate who never faced a problem without becoming the solution.

Chris spent her life dedicated to developing and providing quality services for those living with mental illness. She was passionate about serving others and used her own experiences with mental illness to guide her career and inspire others to do the same. As the Owner and CEO of Medical Management Options (MMO), she boldly pursued her goals and took great pleasure in identifying strengths in others and helping them to recognize those strengths in themselves.

When she saw a need in the community, she acted, especially with the needs of those living with mental illness and struggling with homelessness. Her stewardship was instrumental in the formation of the Bridge Center, and she served on the Board of Directors.

Chris was a native of Fort Payne, Alabama, and though she spent thirty-one years in Baton Rouge, she always kept Fort Payne close to her heart. While she experienced many successes in her professional life, her greatest love was for her sons, Robert “Rob” Miller and James “Chip” Miller.

Thank you to Chris for her unwavering dedication to assisting people who suffered from mental illness and homelessness.



Christine Nichols

Message from the Executive Director

As humans we are often faced with many challenges throughout our lives. Yet as a community, we don't have to face those challenges alone. When one person in our community has a crisis, we are all impacted. Any event or experience that leads to an unstable or dangerous situation that affects us as individuals or as a group can result in a crisis. And when these events occur abruptly or with little or no warning, the impact can be compounded.

The Bridge Center for Hope was established to fill the void of quality crisis care that was lacking in our community. As more and more mental health facilities closed, our community and the nation began to experience a decline in mental health services as the need increased dramatically, resulting in the suffering of individuals. In the United States, mental illnesses are prevalent on a national scale, and one-fifth of adults suffer from a mental disorder. Financial instability, illness, deaths, an increase in overdoses, and a pandemic can all have detrimental effects on mental health, and the number of residents seeking mental health and/or substance use services is staggering.

Mental health crises can occur at any time, and because mental illness and substance use do not discriminate, everyone is susceptible. The Bridge Center provides care without a referral 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We eliminate every obstacle to access care and allow the person in crisis to focus solely on recovery because no one should have to face their struggles alone.

The Bridge Center for Hope is always open and always here!



Charlotte Claiborne, MBA
Executive Director

A Community in Crisis

As Louisiana's first crisis receiving (stabilization) center, the Bridge Center for Hope is a pioneer in the healthcare industry. Despite facing numerous obstacles and challenges in its first two years of operation, the Bridge Center has remained dedicated in its mission to provide East Baton Rouge residents with person-centered, comprehensive crisis care.

Through hard work, perseverance and dedication, the Bridge Center, along with RI International, its service provider, and the many men and women who work at the facility, we offer hope to those who thought all hope had been lost. To quote Tonja Myles, a community mental health advocate and leader, "The Bridge Center encounters people on their worst days, but it is our job to get them to better days."

The mission of the Bridge Center—to provide pathways to treatment for people experiencing behavioral health issues and to link providers to create an integrated continuum of care from prevention to rehabilitation—remains unchanged. The number of citizens in our community requiring mental health and substance use treatment services has drastically increased over the years while the number of qualified providers is steadily on the decline. The people in our community are constantly being shepherded from one traumatic experience to another without reprieve, making a crisis all but inevitable for some. Per the CDC, when the demands placed on a person exceed their resources and coping abilities, their mental health could be impacted.

“ The Bridge Center encounters people on their worst days, but it is our job to get them to better days.





According to the Federal Communications Commission, “Too many people experience suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress without the support and care they need. There are urgent mental health realities driving the need for crisis service transformation across our country. In 2020 alone, the U.S. had one death by suicide about every 11 minutes.” In East Baton Rouge Parish, the calls for service among first responders and the number of overdoses in the parish have also been steadily on the rise. With the creation of 988 replacing the previous ten-digit number, the nationwide suicide and crisis lifeline has seen an increase in calls. In the first six months of operation, 988 has received over 2.1 million calls, texts and chats which were routed to a response center.

The decline in mental health coupled with the pandemic only intensified the need for people seeking behavioral health services. People seeking mental health and substance use services are still at an all-time high with more and more scarcity of providers. The rate of overdoses in 2022 declined only 4% from the record-high total in 2021, and the number of individuals seeking help has only risen.

Through the support of voters, the Bridge Center has been able to step in to help address this growing need. We have helped over 5,300 individuals in crisis since opening our doors on February 11, 2021.

Louisiana Crisis Response System

In an agreement with Louisiana Department of Justice, the Louisiana Department of Health launched its Louisiana Crisis Response System in March 2022. This coordinated comprehensive crisis care system expands services to Louisiana Medicaid members experiencing a mental health crisis.

Under this new plan, Louisianans who are experiencing “emotional distress” ages 21 and older who are served by one of the Medicaid Healthy Louisiana plans will have access to voluntary crisis services. The Bridge Center for Hope still covers East Baton Rouge residents 18 years and older and those who are voluntary and involuntary. The services offered by LDH are similar to that of the Bridge Center in that it aims to divert people from unnecessary hospitalization and institutional levels of care (<https://ldh.la.gov/news/6593>).

Bridge Center Financials

The Bridge Center for Hope is dedicated to providing essential crisis care and treatment for those facing a mental health or substance use crisis. Through the generous support of donors, in 2022, the Bridge Center received \$17,012 in donations. In addition, the Bridge Center received \$6,682,842.08 in parish funding. Ninety percent of the Bridge Center's budget is allocated to programs and services, with the remaining 10% used to cover operational expenses, salaries and benefits, and professional services. Prior to March 2022, reimbursement for crisis services were not promulgated. With the implementation of LDH's Crisis Response system, crisis services are now covered allowing RI International, the Bridge Center's provider, to receive reimbursement for guests who are Medicaid recipients.

The funding source for the Bridge Center for Hope is comprised of Medicaid, Medicare, commercial, and parish funding. The Bridge Center provides crisis services regardless of race, sex and economic status.

The cost of services for East Baton Rouge Parish residents for 2022 was \$7,205,884.01. The total cost for services across all parishes served at the facility was \$8,894,800.54. The Bridge Center does not fund out of parish residents or above contract maximum. Out-of-parish associated costs are covered by RI International and in some cases LDH. Please visit the Bridge Center's website's [reports page](#) for a more comprehensive report.

The figure on page 11 depicts the parish-level and monthly total cost of service. The totals are reflective of what has been billed per parish, not of earned revenue, and do not necessarily guarantee reimbursement.

PARISH	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	YTD TOTAL
Acadia			\$2,690.81		\$1,595.64	\$20,231.44					16,200.00		\$40,717.89
Allen		\$10,800.00											\$10,800.00
Ascension	\$22,439.48	\$10,122.56	\$9,461.81	\$4,292.06	\$5,693.26	\$37,677.68	\$6,382.56	\$23,292.24	\$7,537.50	\$10,800.00	\$33,750.00	\$5,400.00	\$176,849.15
Assumption								\$3,191.28					\$3,191.28
Avoyelles					\$2,310.00	\$1,386.00	\$611.44				\$5,400.00		\$9,707.44
Beauregard	\$6,750.00				\$5,213.84						\$2,700.00	\$16,200.00	\$30,863.84
Bienville												\$2,103.62	\$2,103.62
Bossier			\$8,337.01			\$9,331.44	\$7,630.00						\$25,298.45
Caddo	\$5,900.76								\$5,250.88	\$871.44	\$2,741.32	\$6,200.60	\$20,965.00
Calcasieu	\$5,400.00				\$3,852.37							\$800.60	\$10,052.97
Denver, CO								\$1,090.00					\$1,090.00
East Baton Rouge	\$627,118.56	\$825,576.80	\$654,101.65	\$448,194.18	\$534,208.09	\$615,840.01	\$694,755.30	\$551,615.64	\$576,598.62	\$644,256.58	\$563,611.04	\$470,007.54	\$7,205,884.01
East Feliciana	\$1,350.00	\$1,516.92		\$1,914.12		\$7,340.61	\$850.66	\$2,312.88			\$20,250.00		\$35,535.19
Evangeline								\$611.44		\$9,450.00		\$1,350.00	\$11,411.44
Florida						\$2,101.28							\$2,101.28
Franklin									\$2,606.92			\$4,050.00	\$6,656.92
Grant Parish			\$2,472.57										\$2,472.57
Iberia	\$9,450.00	\$21.00						\$2,128.36		\$5,400.00		\$4,050.00	\$21,049.36
Iberville	\$4,889.48	\$7,422.56	\$957.12	\$4,228.84	\$1,321.16	\$611.44		\$6,942.36	\$9,610.88	\$2,700.00	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00	\$53,096.84
Jefferson Davis Parish			\$6,280.00		\$4,360.00		\$3,112.56		\$3,270.00				\$17,022.56
Jefferson	\$4,722.56		\$1,027.97	\$360.97	\$7,630.00	\$3,270.00	\$6,303.84	\$5,213.84	\$3,539.48	\$5,834.20	\$5,854.86	\$2,150.60	\$45,908.32
Lafayette			\$1,350.00	\$2,261.47		\$1,090.00	\$11,326.92	\$7,685.63		\$10,800.00		\$2,700.00	\$37,214.02
Lafourche Parish				\$478.56			\$2,606.92	\$5,197.28	\$611.44	\$10,800.00		\$800.60	\$20,494.80
Livingston	\$30,894.32	\$31,216.92	\$53,207.36	\$13,648.92	\$9,663.40	\$22,094.96	\$40,245.28	\$20,179.12	\$20,713.24	\$5,441.32	\$21,600.00	\$20,381.36	\$289,286.20
Mississippi								\$7,180.84					\$1,516.92
Missouri											\$1,350.00		\$1,350.00
Morehouse Parish			\$3,323.35							\$5,400.00			\$5,400.00
No Entry			\$25,819.42	\$91,771.11	\$36,151.08				\$17,866.92				\$171,608.53
Ohio						\$16,462.04							\$16,462.04
Oklahoma								\$7,630.00					\$7,630.00
Orleans	\$2,361.28				\$5,719.48	\$5,663.92	\$611.44	\$7,882.52	\$4,360.00	\$6,750.00	\$18,900.00	\$13,700.60	\$65,949.24
Ouachita					\$3,281.01	\$1,090.00		\$611.44		\$13,500.00		\$10,800.00	\$29,282.45
Plaquemine	\$8,100.00		\$3,801.91	\$1,870.12									\$13,772.03
Pointe Coupee		\$5,228.20	\$8,212.08		\$4,996.69	\$850.66	\$5,266.29	\$5,213.84	\$1,090.00		\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00	\$40,307.76
Rapides	\$3,033.84	\$5,900.76	\$333.50			\$611.44			\$1,701.44	\$12,418.75			\$23,999.73
St. Charles			\$1,290.62				\$1,472.14				\$1,350.00		\$4,112.76
St. Helena								\$611.44					\$611.44
St. James							\$9,731.28	\$6,540.00				\$1,350.00	\$17,621.28
St. John the Baptist								\$6,061.44			\$4,111.98		\$10,173.42
St. Landry		\$1,350.00	\$5,034.32		\$6,407.36		\$1,090.00	\$4,360.00	\$11,753.84	\$5,400.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,700.00	\$39,445.52
St. Martin						\$1,887.43						\$1,350.00	\$3,237.43
St. Mary		\$1,350.00	\$1,435.68				\$611.44	\$783.58		\$1,350.00	\$4,050.00		\$9,580.70
St. Tammany	\$2,866.92	\$7,083.84	\$2,419.76	\$2,361.28	\$6,146.40	\$6,730.70	\$6,540.00	\$3,824.48	\$5,135.12	\$2,700.00	\$1,350.00	\$6,750.00	\$53,908.30
Tangipahoa		\$8,100.00	\$10,183.37	\$4,614.12		\$6,382.56		\$14,596.92	\$4,892.72	\$7,455.99	\$8,575.52		\$64,801.20
Tensas						\$4,971.44							\$4,971.44
Terrebonne	\$1,516.92	\$5,400.00	\$13,220.00	\$5,872.68	\$2,606.92	\$3,033.84		\$8,562.56	\$1,462.10	\$17,071.44	\$6,271.44	\$13,500.00	\$78,518.40
Vermillion	\$2,866.92				\$1,595.64				\$5,450.00			\$6,750.00	\$16,662.56
Washington			\$4,246.56			\$783.58					\$2,700.00		\$7,730.14
West Baton Rouge	\$8,100.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,065.44	\$7,830.24	\$12,891.17	\$16,776.92	\$11,990.00	\$16,961.44	\$8,241.44	\$4,050.00			\$96,256.65
West Feliciana		\$1,855.64	\$2,361.28	\$1,855.64		\$2,128.36		\$5,582.88		\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00		\$16,483.80
Winn Parish		\$1,350.00											\$1,350.00
Month Total	\$747,761.04	\$925,645.20	\$829,634.09	\$591,556.51	\$656,556.51	\$788,347.75	\$811,138.07	\$725,863.23	\$691,692.54	\$783,799.72	\$731,566.16	\$611,241.90	\$8,894,800.54
YTD Out of Parish Total (excluding East Baton Rouge Parish)													\$1,688,916.53
YTD All Parish Totals (including East Baton Rouge Parish)													\$8,894,800.54

The totals are reflective of what has been billed per parish, not of earned revenue, and do not necessarily guarantee reimbursement.

A Growing Concern for East Baton Rouge Parish

Mental health and substance use are still on the rise, both locally and nationally. On a local level, East Baton Rouge residents have seen an increase in the total number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses, suicides, and attempted suicides for the third year in a row. The reported figures do not provide an accurate picture of exactly how many people are truly struggling because many go unreported.

Fentanyl has been implicated in a significant number of overdoses, with many drugs being laced without the user's knowledge. Many efforts have been made by community advocates, local leaders, and nonprofits, such as the Bridge Center, to combat this issue head on by providing resources, education, and in some cases supplies to those in need.

Furthermore, many East Baton Rouge Parish residents are still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic, as well as a variety of other factors that can wreak havoc on behavioral health. The number of people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis continues to increase. Even after the establishment of the Bridge Center, local hospitals continued to see a steady influx of patients in their emergency departments.







Emergency Room or Crisis Receiving Center – Which One is Appropriate?

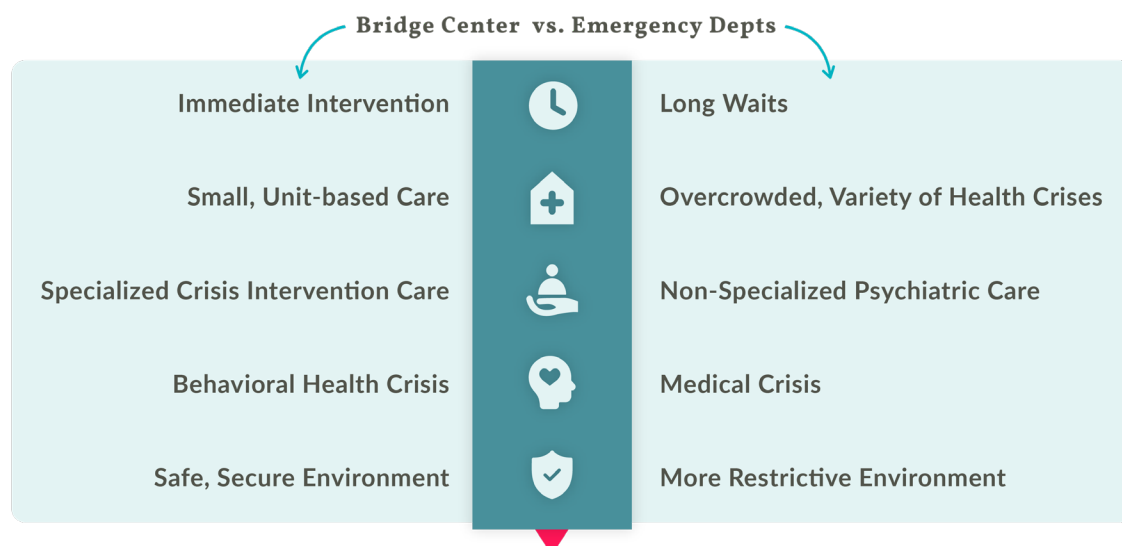
When faced with a crisis, individuals must decide if and where to seek treatment. It is crucial to understand the distinctions between a crisis receiving center and an emergency room for mental health and substance use crises. Emergency rooms treat all types of illnesses, including those considered a serious medical emergency, and frequently leave people waiting for treatment. A crisis-receiving facility provides crisis stabilization services to people in need of urgent care for mental health issues or substance use disorders, or both. Similar to an emergency room, a facility-based, walk-in crisis center provides short-term, behavioral health crisis intervention, offering a community-based, home-like environment as an alternative to more restrictive settings. In addition, crisis stabilization services provide an alternative to costly, overcrowded emergency rooms. The purpose of the Bridge Center for Hope is to provide **immediate** help for those in distress, reduce the cost of care, and reduce the strain on emergency rooms, prisons, and law enforcement. The charts on page 15 describe the differences between a crisis-receiving facility and an emergency room.



SYMPTOMS

		
Behavioral Health Crisis	✓	✓
Mental Health Crisis	✓	✓
Substance Use Crisis	✓	✓
Detox Services	✓	✓
Mental Health with Physical Health Issue	✓	✓
Immediately Crisis Intervention	✓	✗
Physical Health Issues	✗	✓
Open 24 Hour 7 days a week	✓	✓
No Referral Needed	✓	✓

The Bridge Center for Hope or the Emergency Department?

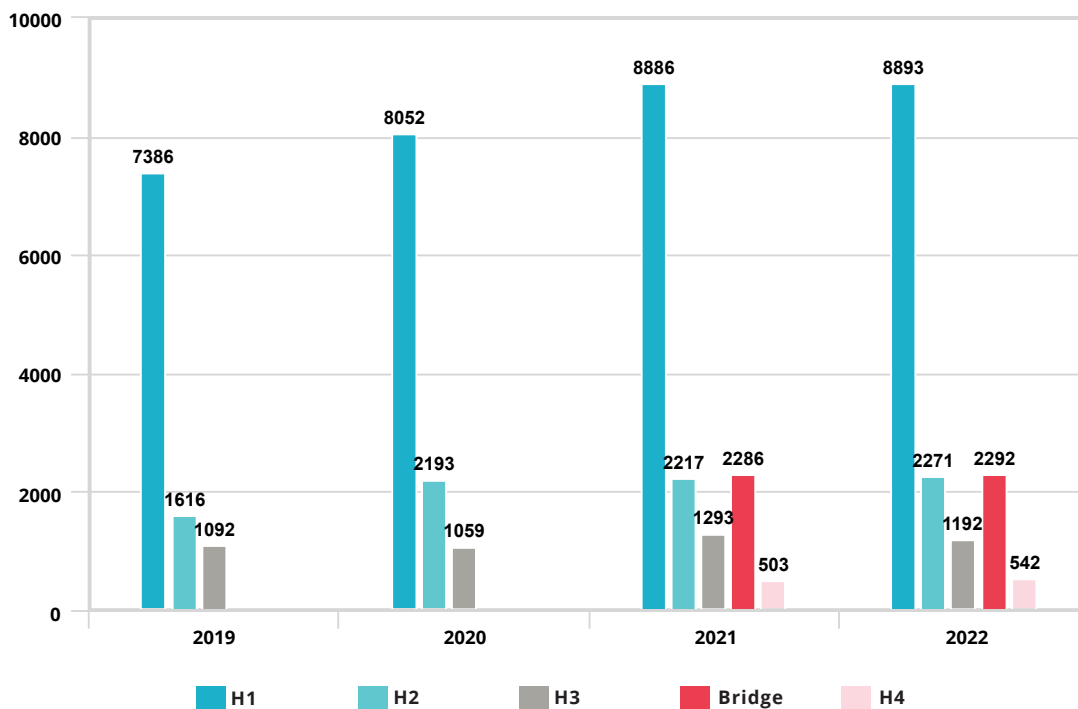


Crisis facilities offer a **person-centered** approach to crisis designed to get patients **back into the community**.

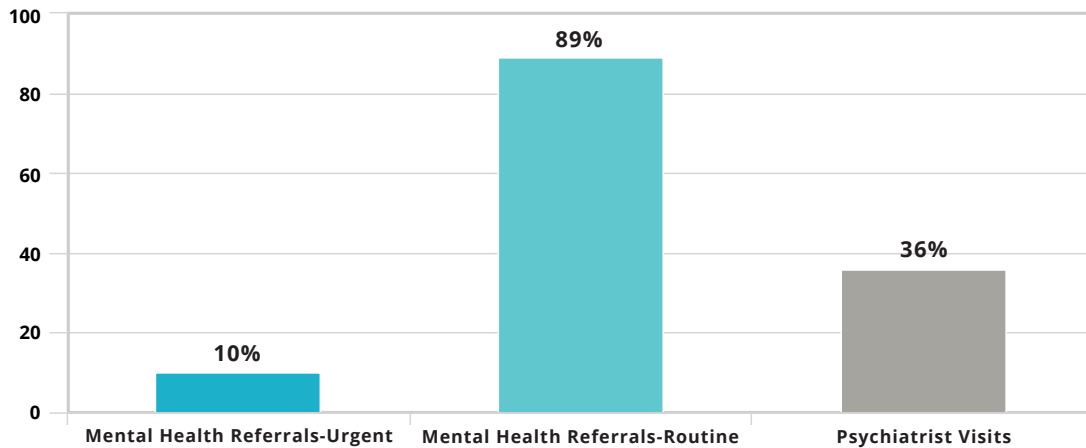
Psychiatric Presentations Across the Parish

The graph below depicts psychiatric (substance use) presentations across all local emergency rooms and the Bridge Center for Hope. The fact that the number of individuals seeking emergency mental health services has increased by 28 percent (excluding Bridge Center totals) indicates that mental health services are desperately needed.

Psychiatric Presentations per Year



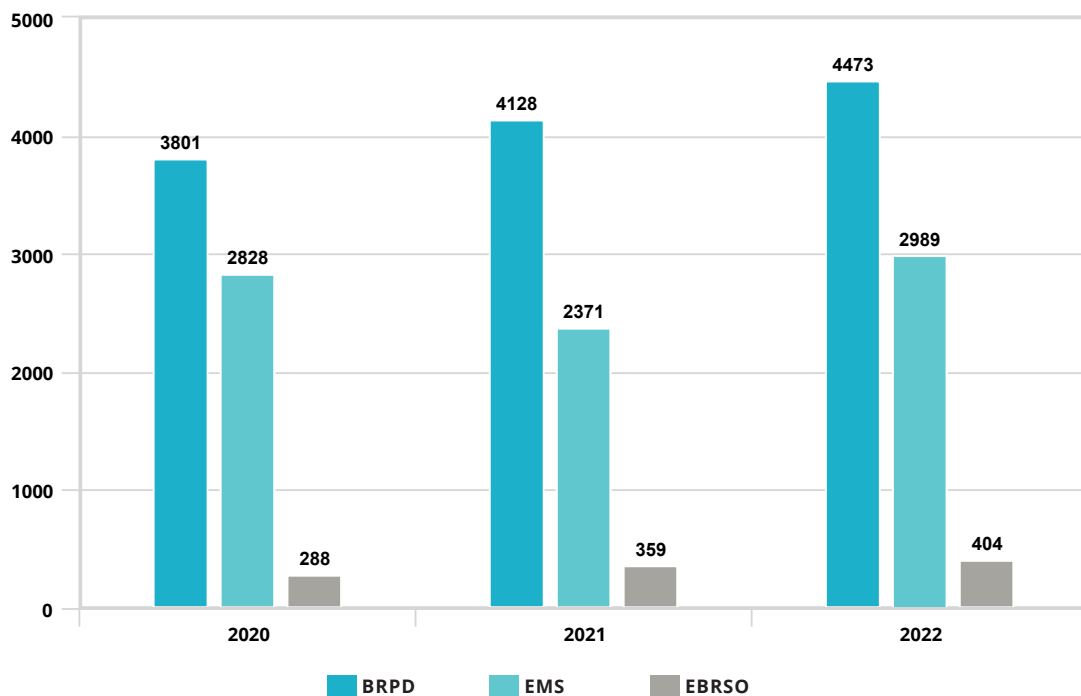
Although the parish prison made strides in reducing the population, there was a 7% population increase in 2022. In 2022, approximately 89% of those incarcerated reported needing routine mental health services, while 10% required immediate mental health assistance and 36% need medication assistance with a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner.



In addition, in 2022, over 1,000 incarcerated persons reported on their intake that they had seen a mental health profession for emotional or mental health problems, over 500 reported being hospitalized for depression or mental health problems within the past 7 years, and over 300 reported receiving in-patient or out-patient treatment for substance use related issues.

Every day, first responders encounter individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Over the past three years, the number of calls to law enforcement and emergency medical services has continued to rise. The chart below depicts the number of emotionally disturbed or psychiatric calls for service among law enforcement and EMS within East Baton Rouge Parish.

First Responder Calls for Service



WALK-INS OR FIRST RESPONDER ESCORTS

Always here for you

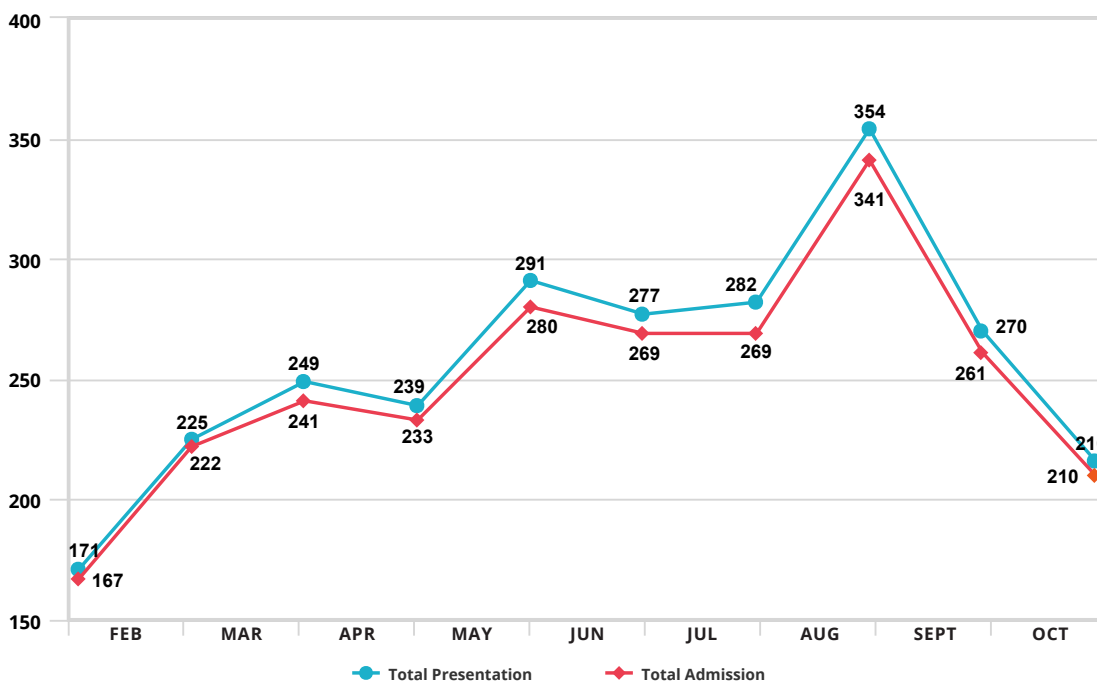


Providing the Crisis Care Our Community Needs

The Bridge Center for Hope provides vital assistance to ALL individuals in our community who are experiencing a mental health crisis. We recognize that anyone can experience a mental health or substance use crisis, which is why there are no barriers to accessing services at the Bridge Center. Self-harm, panic attacks, suicidal ideation, getting in trouble with the law, planning or considering hurting oneself or others, or an addiction crisis are all examples of mental health or substance use crises.

The Bridge Center had 2,992 guest presentations, 2,897 admissions, and a 17 percent readmission rate in its second year of operation. The number of presentations increased by 31%, while the admission rate increased by 35%. In its two years of operation, the Bridge Center served a total of 5,278 presentations and admitted 5,038 guests.

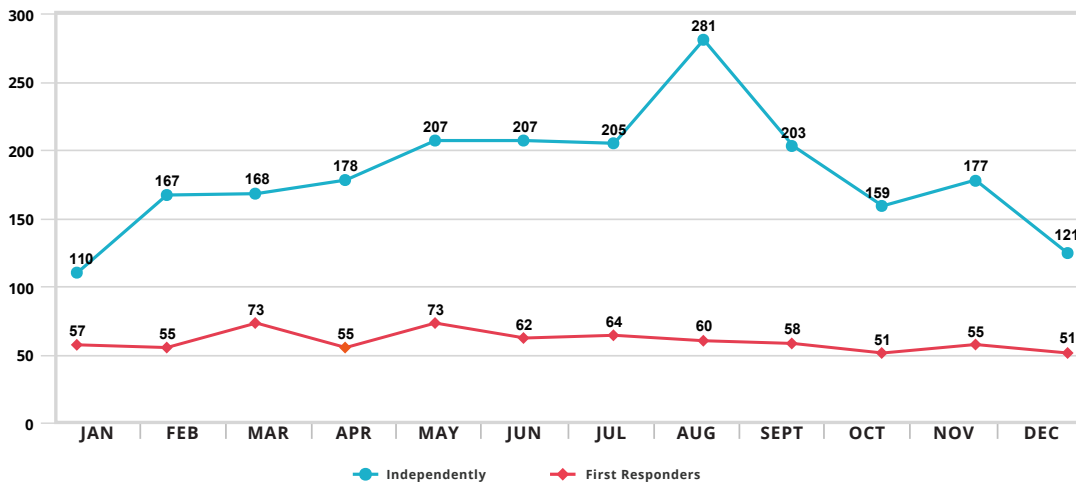
Monthly Admission



It is widely accepted that jails and prisons are not appropriate settings for people experiencing a mental health crisis, which is why the Bridge Center serves as an alternative to overcrowded emergency rooms and a diversion to jails, creating a safety net to catch people in crisis and offer treatment.

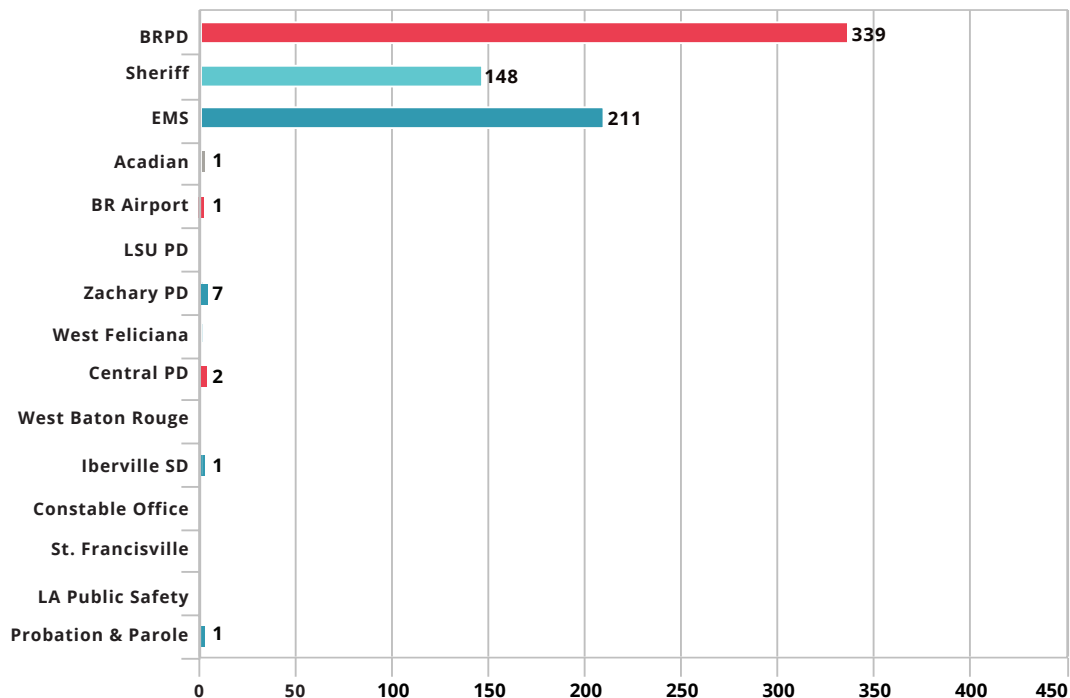
While many guests of the Bridge Center arrive on their own, some are accompanied by first responders from law enforcement and EMS. First responders have their own entrance, making it easier for residents to receive immediate care and for first responders to return to duty. In 2022, 75% (2,183) entered the facility on their own, while 25% (714) were escorted by first responders, with an average handle time of 3.15 minutes.

Bridge Center Entrance Type



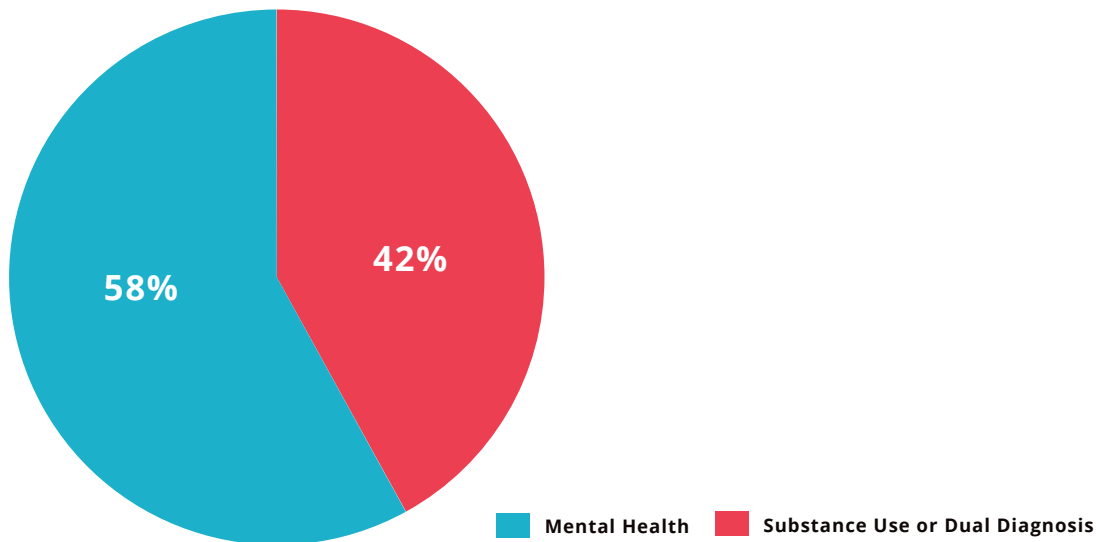
In 2022, Baton Rouge Police Department accounted for 47% (339) of first responder escorts, followed by EMS at 30% (211), East Baton Rouge Sheriff Office 21% (148), and other law enforcement agencies at 2% (16).

Bridge Center First Responder Detail



In 2022, majority of the guests served at the Bridge Center had a mental health primary diagnosis and substance use as a secondary diagnosis. The Bridge Center for Hope provided over 1,613 (58%) for mental health services and 1,158 (42%) for substance use or dual diagnosis.

Primary Diagnosis

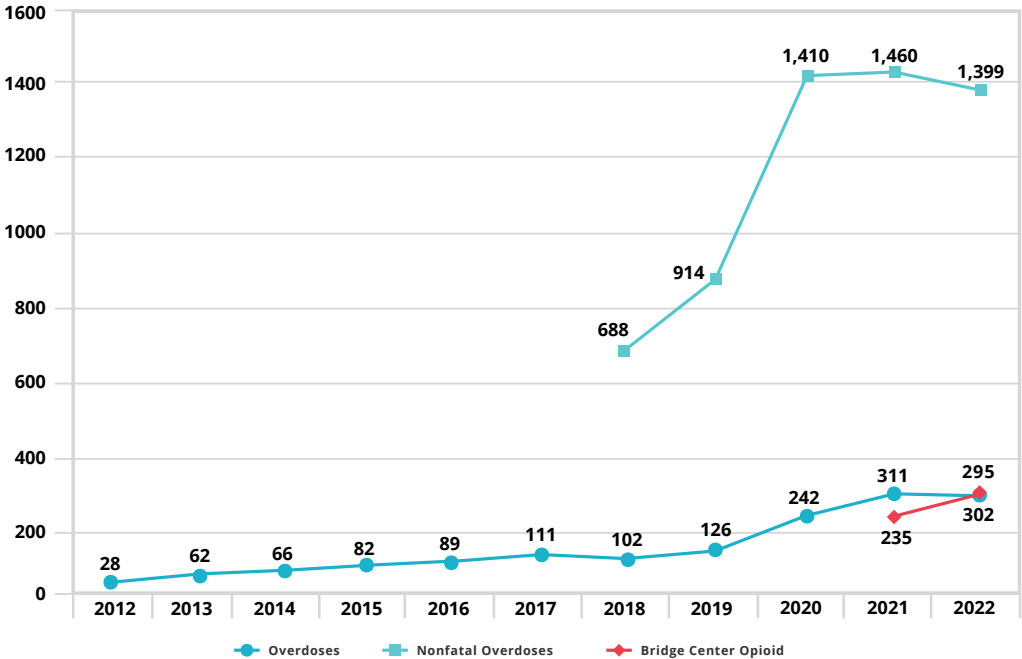


Sadly, when confronted with a crisis, some people seek self-medication, while others attempt suicide. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of suicides in East Baton Rouge Parish increased by 11 percent, before decreasing by 21 percent between 2021 and 2022. Despite a decline in suicides, the number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses has increased. The number of accidental overdose deaths increased by 1011% from 2012 to 2021, from 28 to 311.

The number of overdoses in the parish reached a record high of 311 in 2021, then decreased to 295 in 2022. The Bridge Center for Hope seeks to address these issues by providing resources, detoxification, and medicated-assisted treatment (MAT). To gain a better understanding of the parish's opioid epidemic, the Bridge Center also analyzes the number of people receiving opioid treatment compared to the number of opioid-related deaths. In its first two years of operation, the Bridge center has treated 537 people for opioid addiction.

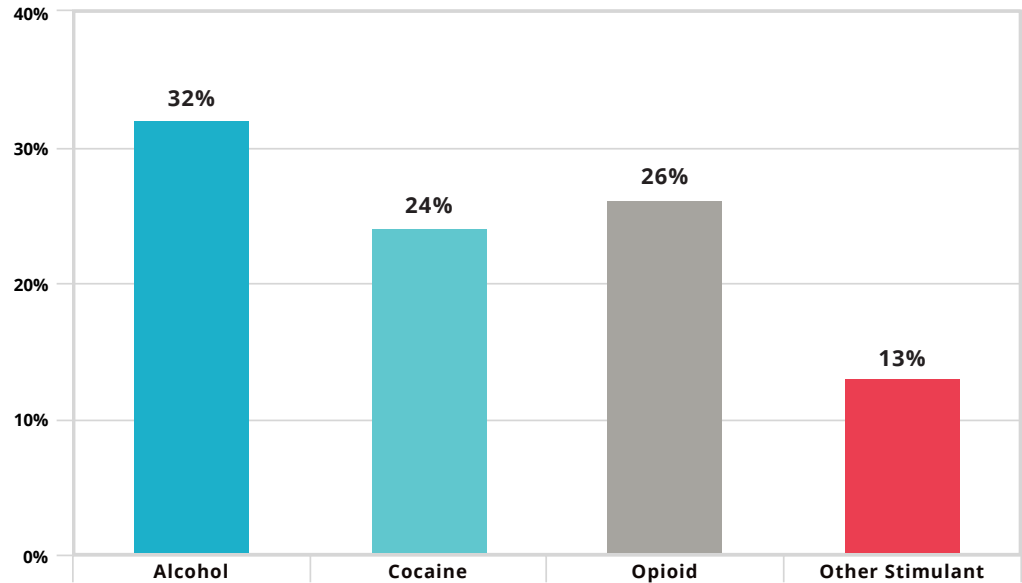
The graphs below compare the fatal, nonfatal overdoses in the parish and the number of guests treated for opioid at the Bridge Center.

Fatal and Nonfatal Overdoses in EBR Parish vs Number Treated at Bridge Center for Opioids



In 2022, 42% (1,158) of the Bridge Center guests were treated for substance use with the top four substances being alcohol 32% (375), opioids 26% (302), cocaine 24% (279), and other stimulants 13% (150).

Top Substances Treated at the Bridge Center







How We Help

The Bridge Center facility offers a range of crisis stabilization and crisis care services. The Bridge Center for Hope is a short-term inpatient care facility consisting of four units and five programs. At the Bridge Center, guests will receive the help they need in the best possible recovery environment. The facilities include healing spaces with recliners, soft colors and a home-like atmosphere to put guests at ease.

The Bridge Center partnered with RI International to operate our facilities. RI offers exceptional crisis care that uses best practices for crisis stabilization programs. Services focus on recovery orientation and trauma-informed care, with the significant use of peer staff and a deep commitment to Zero Suicide/Suicide Safer Care.

RI's service provider team, comprised of doctors, nursing staff, and peers with lived experience weave recovery, clinical, and medical services together, providing a comprehensive care experience for guests.

RI makes every effort to eliminate seclusion and restraint and to serve all people regardless of level of acuity to the best of their ability, without resorting to physical interventions. Peer-operated "Living Room" programs ensure that participants are paired with a team of Peer Support Specialists in recovery. Each guest is encouraged to work with the team and empowered to develop their own recovery plan.

Our Services

The Bridge Center facility offers a range of crisis stabilization and crisis care services, including our crisis observation unit, a short-term psychiatric unit, a withdrawal management and detoxification unit, and a mobile crisis unit. Our goal is to create the right pathways to treatment for people in crisis and to link providers to create an integrated continuum of care from prevention to rehabilitation so that you or your loved one can get much-needed help.



Crisis Observation (BHCC)

All guests coming to The Bridge Center for Hope enter through the 23-hour Observation Unit. The observation unit is designed for guests to stay 23 hours or less and contains 16 recliner chairs set up for optimal observation. In this unit, all of the initial assessments are conducted here, and guests are monitored every 15 minutes for acuity. Assessments and treatment include, but are not limited to, clinical assessments, nursing assessments, psychiatric evaluations, individual and group therapy sessions, and peer engagement.





Short-term Psychiatric (Crisis Stabilization)

The short-term psychiatric unit is designed for guests who require additional stabilization and treatment. This unit contains 16 beds (8 double occupancy bedrooms) and the average length of stay is 3 to 5 days. In this unit, guest treatment includes a robust daily schedule with daily treatment sessions with providers, individual and group therapy sessions, and peer engagement.





Withdrawal Management & Detoxification

The withdrawal management unit consists of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and medical detoxification services. MAT is specifically designed for guests who are being treated for opioid use and utilizes specialized medications. Medical detoxification services are for guests who require detoxification and treatment for non-opioid-related substances.

The Bridge Center for Hope provides critical help to individuals facing a mental health crisis in our community. We understand that anyone can experience a mental health or substance use crisis which is why there are no barriers to accessing services at the Bridge Center. Our “no wrong door” approach means that you will receive the care you need, no matter how you arrive at our facility.

// The Bridge Center’s goal is to create the right pathways to treatment for people in crisis and to link providers to create an integrated continuum of care from prevention to rehabilitation.

The Bridge Center for Hope operates several programs designed to provide short-term crisis intervention and care for those experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Our care management team helps guests navigate outpatient services and connects them with the appropriate community resources post-discharge from the facility.



Community Engagement

The Bridge Center for Hope values community involvement. As a result, the Bridge Center serves as a resource vendor for a variety of community-based programs around the Parish to increase awareness and educate residents about the Bridge Center for Hope and its services and programs, as well as introduce other community partners. The Bridge Center, in partnership with RI International, served as presenters and or vendors in 2022 at the following events throughout the parish:

- CAPARC General Coalition meeting
- BRPD Chief Advisory Council
- Baton Rouge Police Department Training Academy (Crisis Intervention Training)
- Louisiana State Bar Association Summit
- Crisis to Recovery: Learning about the Bridge Center hosted by Tonja Myles
- NAMI State Conference
- BRAF's The POD with Chris Meyers
- Capital Area Luncheon
- Bridging the Gap Community Event
- Healthy BR Board Meeting
- Glen Oaks Community Resource Fair
- Oasis Christian Church
- Gardere Initiative Back to School Extravaganza
- Baton Rouge Rotary Club
- Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs 5th Annual Suicide Prevention Summit
- Healthy Blue, CATS and Mary Bird Perkins 9th Annual Health Fair
- Baton Rouge Community College Mental Health Fair
- Mayor Broome's Summer of Hope: Heal the Block
- NAMI Louisiana 2022 Get Connected Mental Health Fair
- LaPAAC Summit



In addition to collaborative meetings and events, the executive director served on the committees, task forces, and coalitions listed below.

- Mayor's Homelessness Prevention Advisory Committee
- Mayor's Homelessness Prevention Coalition
- Baton Rouge Police Department Advisory Committee
- ReCast Baton Rouge Coalition
- MedBR Advisory Committee
- Community Health Needs Assessment – Partner*
- Mayor's Behavioral Health Taskforce
- Jail Diversion, Reentry and Homelessness Workgroup
- Trauma and Stigma-Free Community Workgroup
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Engage
- CAPRC General Coalition
- Baton Rouge Rotary



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** Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), is a collaboration of every major hospital and clinic in EBR identifying the health needs of the community and joint initiatives to address those needs.*



THERE IS
hope



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