



Board of County Commissioners

Agriculture and Public Safety Committee

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SALEM COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE SALEM COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL TO PROVIDE OPERATION HELPING HAND FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF BRIDGE PROGRAMMING

WHEREAS, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is committed to addressing the opioid addiction epidemic through innovative programming utilizing resources provided through Operation Helping Hand grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Commission in Salem County, through the JDAI programming known as the Building Relationships Inspiring Dreams and Growth Employment (BRIDGE) Program, has implemented a successful probation enrichment, transportation and educational program for youth in Salem County that provides a unique opportunity to intervene and redirect youth beginning contact with law enforcement and the justice system at the Stationhouse Adjustment level; and

WHEREAS, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, through Operation Helping Hand, seeks to further enhance and expand BRIDGE programming to directly impact additional youth at risk of justice system engagement due to individual and close family opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, local police departments have repeatedly sought the assistance of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office to address alternative educational and support options for at-risk youth before entry into the juvenile justice system and expansion of the BRIDGE programming will provide an appropriate and successful alternative to such youth and allow expansion of already existing and successful programming within Salem County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Commissioners of the County of Salem as follows:

- 1. The Salem County Board of County Commissioners approves the Agreement Between the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and the Salem County Vocational Technical School for Expansion of BRIDGE programming through Operation Helping Hand grant funding.
2. The Commissioner Director and the Clerk of the Board shall be authorized to execute said agreement upon compliance by the firm with all requirements and specifications.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true resolution adopted by the Salem County Board of County Commissioners on July 17, 2024.

Stacy L. Pennington
STACY L. PENNINGTON, Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE

Table with 7 columns: COMMISSIONER, RESOLUTION MOVED, RESOLUTION SECOND, AYE, NAY, ABSTAIN, ABSENT. Rows include E. Ramsay, C. Taylor, D. Timmerman, G. Ostrum Jr., and B. Laury with checkmarks indicating votes.

✓ Indicates Vote

Department Initials KJT/sw

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SALEM COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE AND THE SALEM COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL
SCHOOL FOR EXPANSION OF BRIDGE PROGRAMMING THROUGH
OPERATION HELPING HAND**

This agreement is made by and between the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and the Salem County Vocational Technical School.

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Commission in Salem County, through the JDAI programming known as the BRIDGE program, has implemented a successful probation enrichment, transportation and educational program for youth in Salem County that provides a unique opportunity to intervene and redirect youth beginning contact with law enforcement and the justice system at the Station House adjustment level;

WHEREAS, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, through Operation Helping Hand, seeks to further enhance and expand BRIDGE programming to directly impact additional youth at risk of justice system engagement due to individual and close family opioid addiction;


WHEREAS, local police departments have repeatedly sought the assistance of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office to address alternative educational and support options for at-risk youth before entry into the juvenile justice system and expansion of the BRIDGE programming will provide an appropriate and successful alternative to such youth and allow expansion of already existing and successful programming within Salem County;


WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into this agreement to provide for expansion of BRIDGE programming in compliance with Operation Helping Hand grant funding requirements;

It is **HEREUPON AGREED** that:

1. The Salem County Vocational Technical School ("Salem County VoTech") will continue its existing BRIDGE programming, but shall consider and accept additional applicants not yet subject to a Stationhouse Adjustment with a direct individual or family connection to opioid addiction as referred by a Police Chief of a local municipality within Salem County. All referrals shall follow the same procedure implemented in connection with the Innovations programming approved through the Juvenile Justice Commission.
2. At any time in which such additional student is accepted into and participating in the BRIDGE program, the Salem County VoTech must include programming directly related to combatting addiction. The addiction related programming may include guest speakers, field trips to appropriately related facilities, individual and family counseling, and similarly related events with a direct impact on youth participants experiencing opioid addiction in their personal lives.

3. The Salem County Prosecutor's Office agrees to provide funding to the Salem County VoTech in an initial sum of \$45,512.00, utilizing approved Operation Helping Hand grant funding for expansion of the BRIDGE program specifically to youth impacted by opioid addiction.
4. All determinations as to the acceptance and admission of any youth suggested for participation by a local Police Chief or by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office remain solely in the discretion of the Salem County VoTech.
5. This agreement shall remain in effect through October 2024, or until such time as the Salem County VoTech is no longer able to continue implementation of the BRIDGE program or the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is no longer able to contribute Operation Helping Hands grant funding for the BRIDGE expansion project.

Salem County Prosecutor:  Date: 7/5/24
Kristin J. Telsey

Salem County Vocational
Technical School:  Date: 6/24/24
Superintendent of Schools John R. Swain