



Bridges Monthly

California's Bridges to Youth Self-Sufficiency

Monthly Update for March, 2005

PARTICIPANT UPDATE

Month	Previous Total	New Participants	Disenrolled	Current Total
January	243	9	0	252
February	252	14	0	266
March	266	19	0	286*

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Month	Male	Female	Currently Using SSA Benefits	In School (K-22)
January	54%	46%	63%	71%
February	54%	46%	63%	70%
March	54%	46%	64%	69%

AGE

Month	14-16	17-19	20-21	22+	Average Age
January	13%	44%	22%	21%	19.8
February	14%	44%	22%	20%	19.7
March	14%	42%	23%	21%	19.8

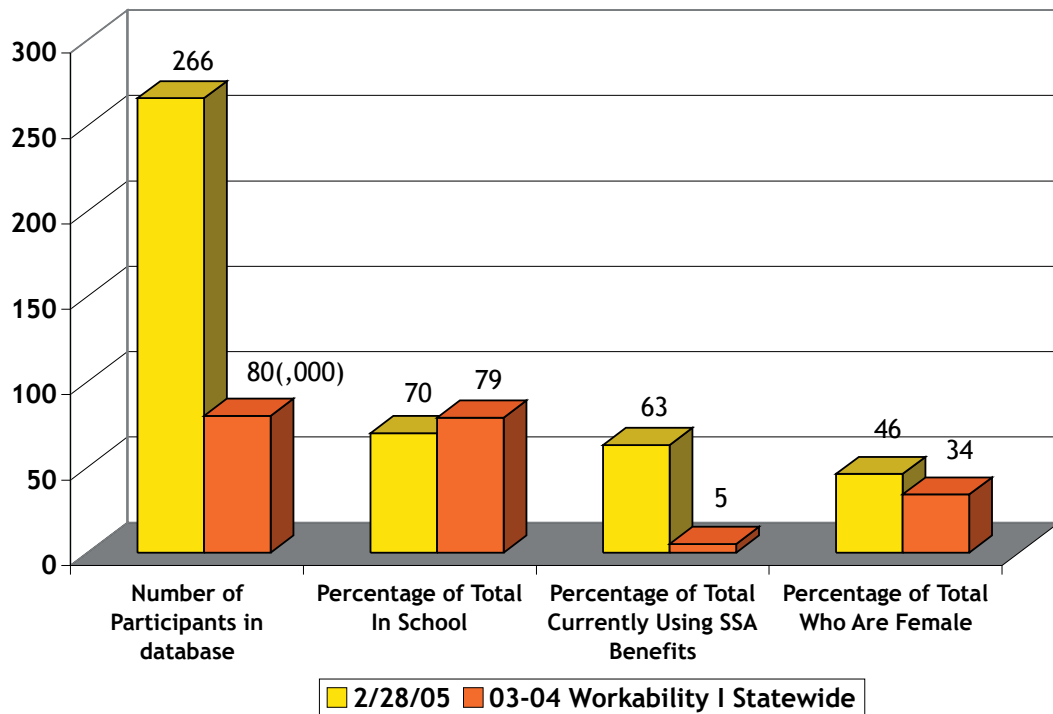
LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Month	Foster/Group Home	Independent without support	Parents/Relatives/Legal Guardians	Supervised or Supported Living	Residential School	Other
January	3%	11.5%	82.5%	1%	1%	1%
February	2%	12%	83%	1%	1%	1%
March	3%	11%	83%	1%	1%	1%

*Total adjusted for missing data

www.allenshea.com/bridges.html

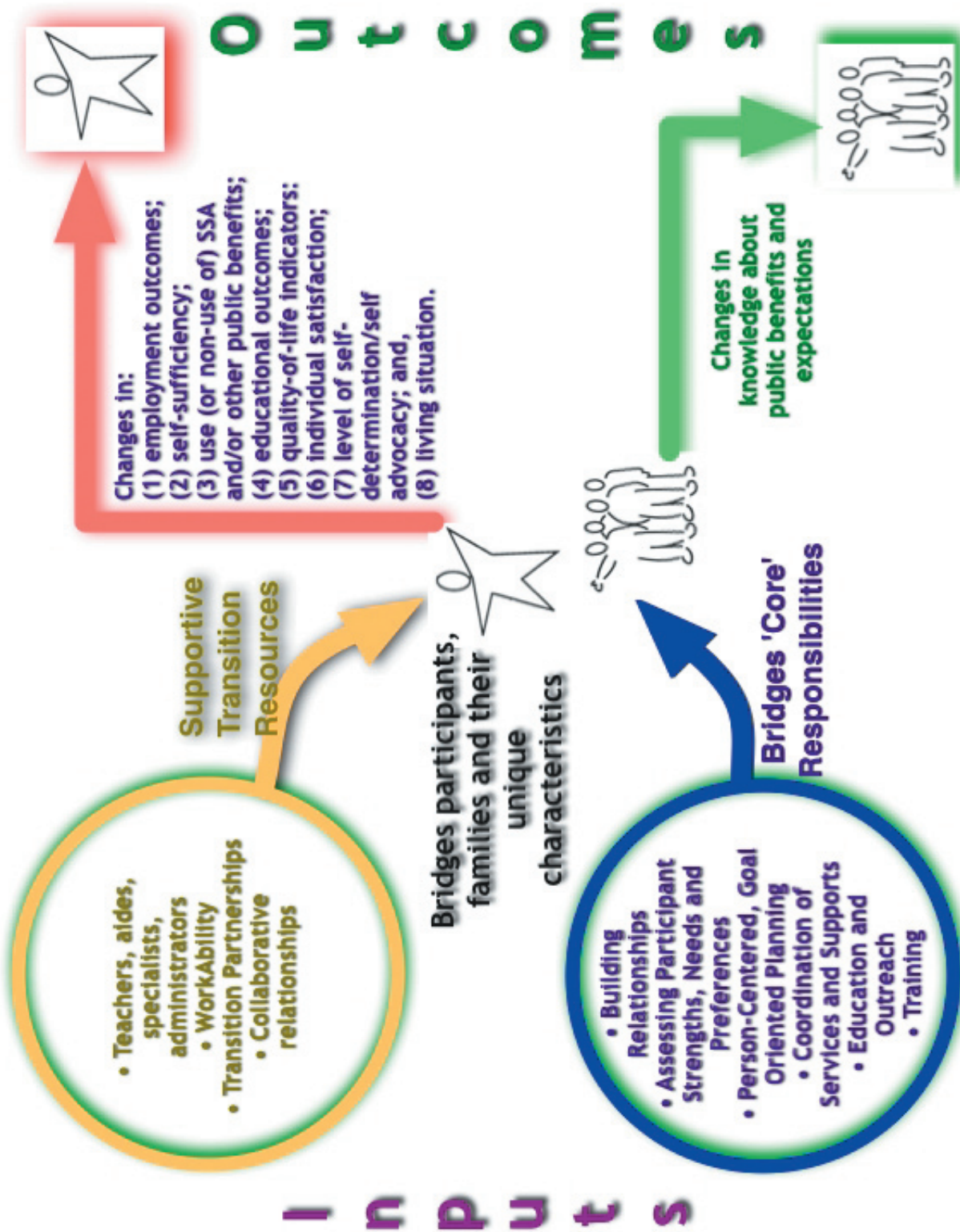
Overview of Bridges Participants and All 03-04 Statewide Workability Database Entrants



EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Month	Percentage of All Participants Working	Average Hours Worked Per Week Of Total Working	Average Hourly Wage Of Total Working	Percentage of Total Working with Subsidized Wages
January	30%	16.1	\$7.01	42%
February	29%	15.7	\$6.98	40%
March	28%	15.5	\$6.99	40%

Month	Percentage of Out-of-School Participants Working	Average Hours Worked Per Week Of Out-of-School Working	Average Hourly Wage Of Out-of-School Working	Percentage of Out-of-School Working with Subsidized Wages
January	37%	22.5	\$7.22	61%
February	36%	20.7	\$7.14	57%
March	31%	20.6	\$7.20	55%



Excerpts from Brief Articles on Selected Topics from the Bridges Project

Excerpted from *Interagency Collaboration: A Key Element in Supporting Successful Outcomes for Youth in Transition*

Introduction

In the Social Security Administration (SSA) proposal, the Bridges transition model was described as a series of 'enhanced' services including collaboration and building interagency partnerships with youth transition systems in order to integrate services and blend resources. These partnerships can affect a considerable number of individual outcomes including employment, postsecondary education, and use of public benefits. In another brief paper, interagency collaboration in the individual planning process was described. This document looks at the ways that Bridges sites 'interact' with their major transition partners (e.g., Department of Rehabilitation, Social Security).

Some Background on Collaboration

(This section includes a direct quote from *Getting Along: The Evolution of Interagency Collaboration in an Era of Diminishing Resources* by John Franz.)

Human service agencies and organizations would likely agree that they could provide better services for their communities if their organizations were able to collaborate when serving individuals with significant or complex needs. However, collaboration rarely comes easily, and often doesn't come at all. What stands in the way? A number of things, for example: competing with each other for ever-shrinking resources; different and sometimes contradictory approaches to meeting the needs of individuals; professional languages and cultures are often different and occasionally incompatible; past competition and conflict stand in the way of building trusting relationships - each is always afraid that the others will pull out of a difficult situation leaving the remaining agency holding the bag; and, each operates within a different regulatory and budgetary framework that impedes efforts to provide flexible services in concert with other providers.

'Measuring' Interagency Collaboration Between Bridges Sites and Their Major Transition Partners

In order to look at differences in interagency relationships between sites and their 'major' partners over time, sites were asked to describe the types of interagency relationships using a checklist. Each element on the checklist contained two or more subcategories as well. Sites provided this information about two months into the project (October, 2003) and, for comparison, a year later (October, 2004).

Social Security Administration (SSA)

The figure on the following page displays the percentage of the seven districts (five project sites) that rated the relationship with their local Social Security Administration office as *good* or *excellent* across the five areas of interagency collaboration. In this instance, the relationship has changed dramatically from literally no relationship to a mature relationship in one year. The presence of contract language and well-defined procedure has facilitated a multi-faceted, collaborative partnership between Bridges sites and SSA.



Excerpts from Brief Articles on Selected Topics from the Bridges Project

Changes in Types of Interagency Relationships with SSA Across All Bridges Sites (2003-2004)

