

# BRIDGEWAY

## Welcome to July!

Can you believe we're already halfway through 2024?

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website



Register Today!

## Discover Wellness Summit- Registration Now Open!

The Discover Wellness Summit is a day full of inspiration, education, and fun at Carl Sandburg College. Whether you're a wellness enthusiast, a health professional, or simply curious about improving different areas of wellness in your life, this event is for you!

At the summit, you'll have the opportunity to attend workshops, keynote speakers, and interactive sessions led by experts in the wellness industry- all for FREE!

Learn about the latest trends in fitness, mental health, and more. Explore an interactive wellness fair and connect with like-minded individuals and discover new ways to improve your well-being.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to explore, learn, and grow at the Discover Wellness Summit 2024. We can't wait to see you there!

**Registration is already 1/3 of the way full, don't wait to secure your spot!**

**Is your organization interested in sponsorship? Fill out our form below!**

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## Changes Happening to Bridgeway's Behavioral Health Services

As we continue to see the comprehensive needs rise for the Behavioral Health services we provide and with the monumental move from being certified as a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) to seeking to achieve status as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), we have taken a detailed look at the current operations and structure within our Behavioral Health administration. We will be making some changes to grow the strength of our team, accomplish this strategic direction and ensure the critical supervisory oversight, so please help us in congratulating the following to be effective July 1st, 2024:

- **Vicki Rose: Behavioral Health Administrator (oversight of Behavioral Health operations)**
- **Bailee Shepherd: Behavioral Health Services Director (oversight of Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use services)**
- **Frankie Williamson: Mobile Crisis Response Director (oversight of Mobile Crisis Response services)**
- **Jessie Boock: System of Care Director (oversight of YES/ARCH system of care, Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Co-Responder, Mental Health First Aid)**



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## Bridgeway in the Community



**Mental Health Awareness Month Banners**

May was Mental Health Awareness month and Bridgeway is an active organization in promoting support of mental health awareness and finding ways to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental disorders. One way we do that every year is by bringing our Mental Health Awareness support banner to local organizations in some of the areas we provide mental health services. Bridgeway staff went around to local businesses in Kewanee, Monmouth, and Galesburg this year. We want to thank these businesses for taking the time to support mental health awareness:

**Kewanee:** Hope House, YMCA. Kewanee Public Library, Salvation Army, and the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce.

**Monmouth:** MC Sport and More, Warren County Public Library, Warren Achievement Center, Jamieson Center, Maude Specklebelly's, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Dame Fine Coffee, ROE #33, Hunger Collaborative, Monmouth Fire Department, and YMCA of Warren County.

**Galesburg:** Knox County Housing Authority, Galesburg Fire Department, Galesburg Public Library, Center for Youth and Family Solutions, Galesburg Police Department, Galesburg Community Foundation, ROE #33, Thrive Community Services, Turning Point Child Advocacy Center, and OSF St. Mary's



### Joint Advocacy Day

Together with our partners at the Behavioral Health Economics Network (BHECON), IARF, CBHA, and IABH, a joint Advocacy Day event was held in Springfield! Our collective voices were heard at the Capitol as hundreds of providers and consumers gathered together to advocate on behalf of all community providers of I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) and behavioral health services and supports across Illinois. Bridgeway attendees were able to meet with local Representatives Norine Hammond and IL Rep Dan Swanson to discuss local priorities and needs as our legislators work to craft the final budget for the upcoming year.

Thank you to all the Bridgeway staff and Bridgeway consumer, Danny, who attended! Pictured: Alyssa Hart (VP of Disability Services), Robin Farrance (Life Skills Coach), Danny J (Bridgeway Consumer), Stacy Brown (VP of Behavioral Health Services), Staci Danner (Chief Financial Officer), and Cassie Cirimotich (VP of Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management).



### Bridgeway- In our Communities

Bridgeway is very active in our communities providing presentations about our services, helpful information, trainings and representing our



### Halfway to Freezing for Food

The Halfway to Freezing for Food event took place last week in Monmouth at the Save a Lot grocery store, where local community members help raise food and funds for local food pantries. After three days outside of Save A Lot, the group was able to raise \$8,157.32 for food donations that went to both the Jamieson Community Center and Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Bridgeway employees consistently participate in this event to help raise funds, including Stacy Brown, Vicki Rose, and Bailee Shepherd. Thank you for taking part in this awesome initiative to help the local food banks in Warren County!



### What's Happening at Bridgeway

Some very great things to highlight that happened this past quarter at Bridgeway:

- Our Turtle Creek rest area received Excellent Compliance Score.
- Bridgeway's Behavioral Health Co-Responder, Samantha Wike, celebrated her first year in the position, helping to bridge the gap between law enforcement and individuals experiencing mental health crisis.
- Brought in therapy dogs for our consumers and employees to appreciate for Mental Health Awareness month.
- Employees and staff in Loves Park enjoyed a session on Mindful Meditation in honor of Mental Health Awareness month.
- Hosted a ribbon cutting for a newly

organization at various community events.

In this last quarter, two of our directors presented to the teens at the Recharge Teen Center in Monmouth. The ARCH and YES Systems of Care hosted a networking agency spotlight at Rainbow Riders in Monmouth. Bridgeway's Prevention team participated in the National Drug Take Back event at Axline Pharmacy in Roseville.

In Kewanee, our staff learned from Abilities Plus about their operations at a Chamber of Commerce Business Before Hours.

In Macomb, our leadership team attended WIU's prestigious Ferguson Lecture and gave a presentation to the Macomb Rotary International Club about Bridgeway's services. On top of that, Bridgeway's Human Resources team attended Jobapalooza, a hiring event at Spoon River College, as well as the Macomb-opoly presentation.

In Loves Park, leadership attended a Disability Services fair to promote our services and two directors enjoyed networking at the Rockford Rivets tri-Chamber of Commerce event.

In Galesburg, Bridgeway was represented at Carl Sandburg College's employee wellness fair, Knox County HATCH (Hands Around the Courthouse), Knox County Housing Authority's Mental Health Awareness event, a Veterans and Senior fair put on by State Representative Dan Swanson, and the ROE #33's Summerfest events to name a few.

This is just a small representation of the impact that Bridgeway is making on the communities we serve. Here are some engagement numbers:

### In 2024..

-Bridgeway employees have attended and represented Bridgeway at over 53 community events

installed gazebo at one of our Kewanee residences, thanks to a kind donation from a past consumer's family.

- Two directors attended a Mobile Crisis Response development conference in Chicago
- Our substance use team attended the annual All Rise Annual conference, the world's premier conference on addiction, mental health and justice reform.
- Bridgeway's Mental Health First Aid trainers attended NATCON, one of the largest mental health conferences in the world.

-Bridgeway has been featured in the news 10 times

-Bridgeway has sponsored and supported 10 community events.

Since 2009, Bridgeway has trained 4,509 individuals in Mental Health First Aid.

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## Bridgeway in the News

Check out some of the articles Bridgeway has been featured in this year!

[May is National Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

[Pritzker Administration Announces Federal Funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#)

[Several Bridgeway Consumers Assist with Rockford Radio Station's Shoeboxes For Soldiers Campaign To Deliver 2,000th Care Package](#)

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## Bridgeway's Narcan Campaign Videos

When Bridgeway assisted in the efforts to bring free Narcan vending machines to Galesburg, some of our leaders heard stigma surrounding Narcan and its immense impact on saving lives. So, with the help of our West Central Illinois ROSC System of Care Coordinator, Jeff McFadden, and Community Engagement Director, Keri Dodson, we created Narcan Saves Lives videos to reduce the stigma surrounding Narcan.



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## Consumer Spotlight



### Creating Solutions for Everyone in Loves Park!

Ryan Keilman, Production Manager in Loves Park, and other staff, really fulfilled Bridgeway's mission of "Creating Solutions for Everyone" when their kind hearts had the amazing idea to build a table for Lenny to allow him more accessibility and comfort when completing his work. He was so emotional and felt so grateful this was done simply for him.

We have amazing employees here at Bridgeway. Thank you SO much to Ryan and those who assisted him for making Lenny feel included and accommodated!

**Special Olympics**

Special Olympic Spring Games were held at



Harlem High School on Saturday, May 4th. Many of our consumers are on the Rockford Special Olympic Team (Blue/Gold shirts) and the Milestone Team (Brighter solid Blue shirts). Loves Park Rehab Team, plus many friends and family were also in attendance cheering everyone on! Congratulations to all who participated and those who qualified for state!

### Pekin Consumers Put on Inspirational Play

Pekin consumers and staff were hard at work in the Day Services program putting together a wonderful play. Consumers performed about a dragon (Reggie) who was lonely and wanted to make friends but everyone was afraid of him. At the end, the dragon finally found a group that wasn't afraid of him and the moral was to not judge a book by its cover! This was a great team effort from the writing of the play to the songs to the backdrop and props. The consumers did an amazing job and those in attendance said it was fantastic!



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## Upcoming Events

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September

20

Discover Wellness Summit  
Carl Sandburg College  
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