

Milwaukee County Cream City

CREDIBLE MESSENGERS

2021 TRANSFORMATION
YOUTH JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 8-10, 2021



Agenda

Welcome

Introduction

Mission, Vision, & Values of Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) & Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS)

Symposium Objectives

Pathway to Credible Messengers - David Muhammad

Roll Out of Credible Messengers – Lynn Lewis

Future Vision – Lynn Lewis & David Muhammad

Q & A

Welcome/Share a Win



Success is a
Series of
Small Wins

INTRODUCTIONS

Milwaukee County
Cream City Credible
Messengers



DHHS & DYFS Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

- Empowering safe, healthy, and meaningful lives.

Vision

- Together, creating healthy communities.
- Contributes to making "Milwaukee County the healthiest county in Wisconsin."

Values

- Partnership, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Excellence

Credible Messengers: Strengthening Community Engagement in Milwaukee County

We will discuss the *implementation of Milwaukee County's Credible Messenger program through the lens of:*

- *Community engagement*
- *Public health*
- *Violence prevention*
- *Advocacy*
- *Policy development*

Pathway to Credible Messengers



The Pathway

Lincoln Hills and Act
185

National Models that we reviewed and
partners

Brick & Mortar vs. Community Based
Services

DYFS Culture Shift towards
Prevention

Girls Programming
Workgroup

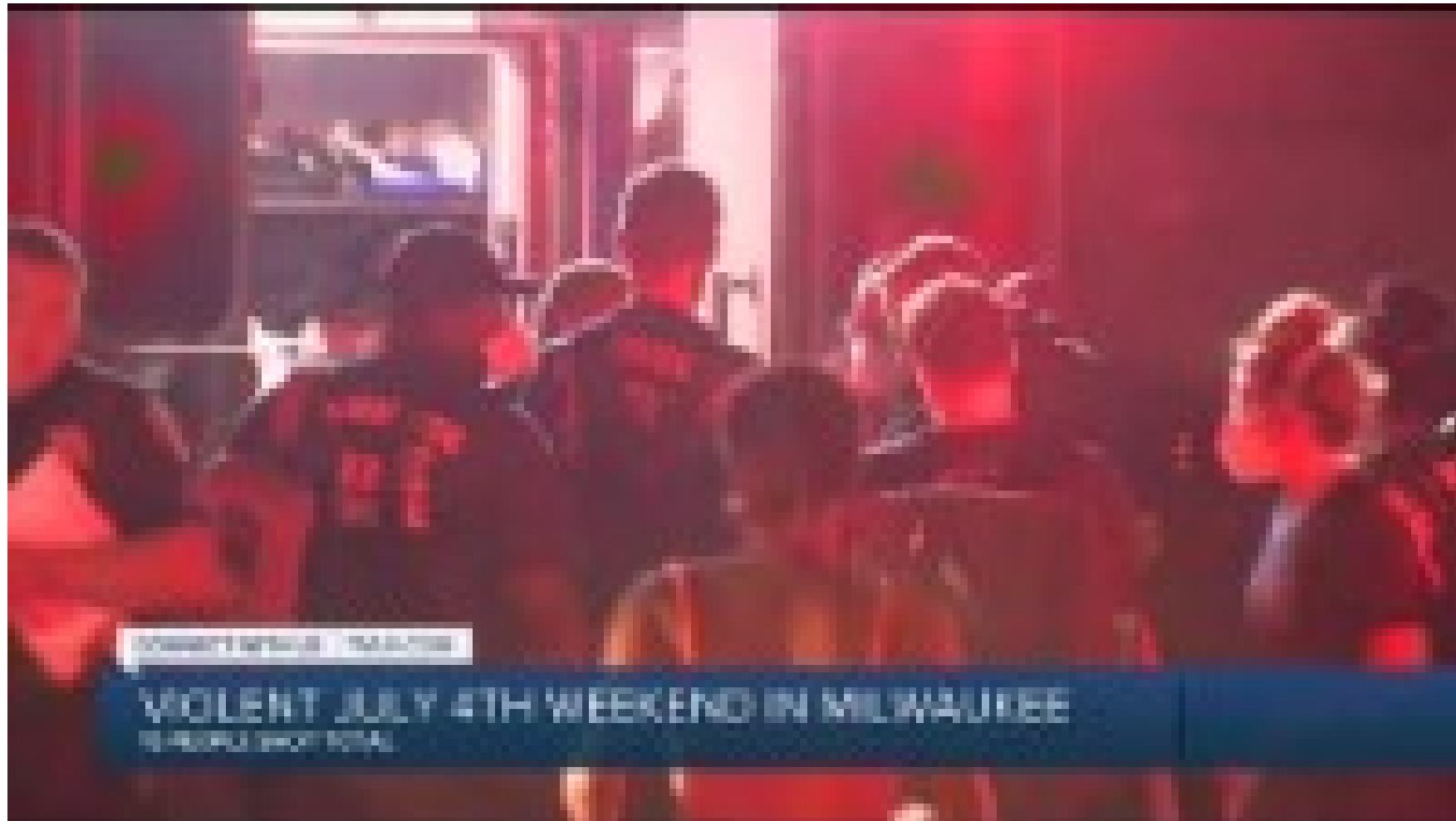
Centering people with lived experience breaks down institutional
barriers

Probation and Supervision programs are defined by compliance and not normative behavioral
change

Youth Incarceration Creates a Greater
Problem

Economics of Prevention, the need for Community Advocacy and Accountability
Partners

Milwaukee County Office of Violence Prevention 414 Life





Roll Out of Credible Messengers

CREDIBLE MESSENGER

- Mentoring for youth in the Youth Justice System and youth in the community who may be at risk. This transformative process through which individuals from similar backgrounds, including men and women who themselves may have been justice-involved, engage youth in structured and intentional relationships and activities, provide a positive platform for youth engagement & community voice; and change agents for racial equity and policy on issues that plague the youth, families and community.



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde, 10th District

News Release: May 28, 2020
Contact: Brian Rothgery 414-278-4263

County Board Passes Resolution Allowing ‘Credible Messengers’ to Work with Youth

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted a [resolution](#) at its Thursday, May 28 meeting to allow individuals who have demonstrated personal growth after certain criminal convictions to be able to provide care and services to youth. The goal is to give “credible messengers” the opportunity to help at-risk youth in Milwaukee County.

“They say experience is the best teacher. There are people in our community with lived experiences that could prove transformational if they were given the chance to become leaders and credible messengers for our youth,” said Supervisor Moore Omokunde. “This resolution opens up opportunities for those who have overcome difficult circumstances to give those currently going through similar challenges a better path in life.”

A credible messenger has been described by [The Atlantic](#) as “someone with personal experience of the criminal-justice system, typically their own criminal record, who now has unique legitimacy to help others in a similar position.” Credible messenger programs have led to demonstrable reductions in violence during programs conducted in cities such as New York City, Baltimore and Chicago according to the [Pinkerton Foundation](#).

The resolution aligns Milwaukee County policy with the State of Wisconsin, except for Chapter 948 Crimes Against Children and domestic violence, which are maintained as barrable offenses for providing care and services to youth.

The resolution also urges the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board—which oversees the county’s Behavioral Health Division—to adopt this policy.

Supervisors Ryan Clancy, Eddie Cullen, Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr., Jason Haas, Patti Logsdon, Felesia A. Martin, Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Steven Shea, Sequanna Taylor and Chairwoman Marcella Nicholson co-sponsored the resolution, which passed on a 17-1 vote.

###

The Roll Out

- Implementation phases
- Readiness in terms of infrastructure & staffing goals
- Systematic process – key steps to achieve goals and outcomes
- Description of Goals and Outcomes
- Community based engagement



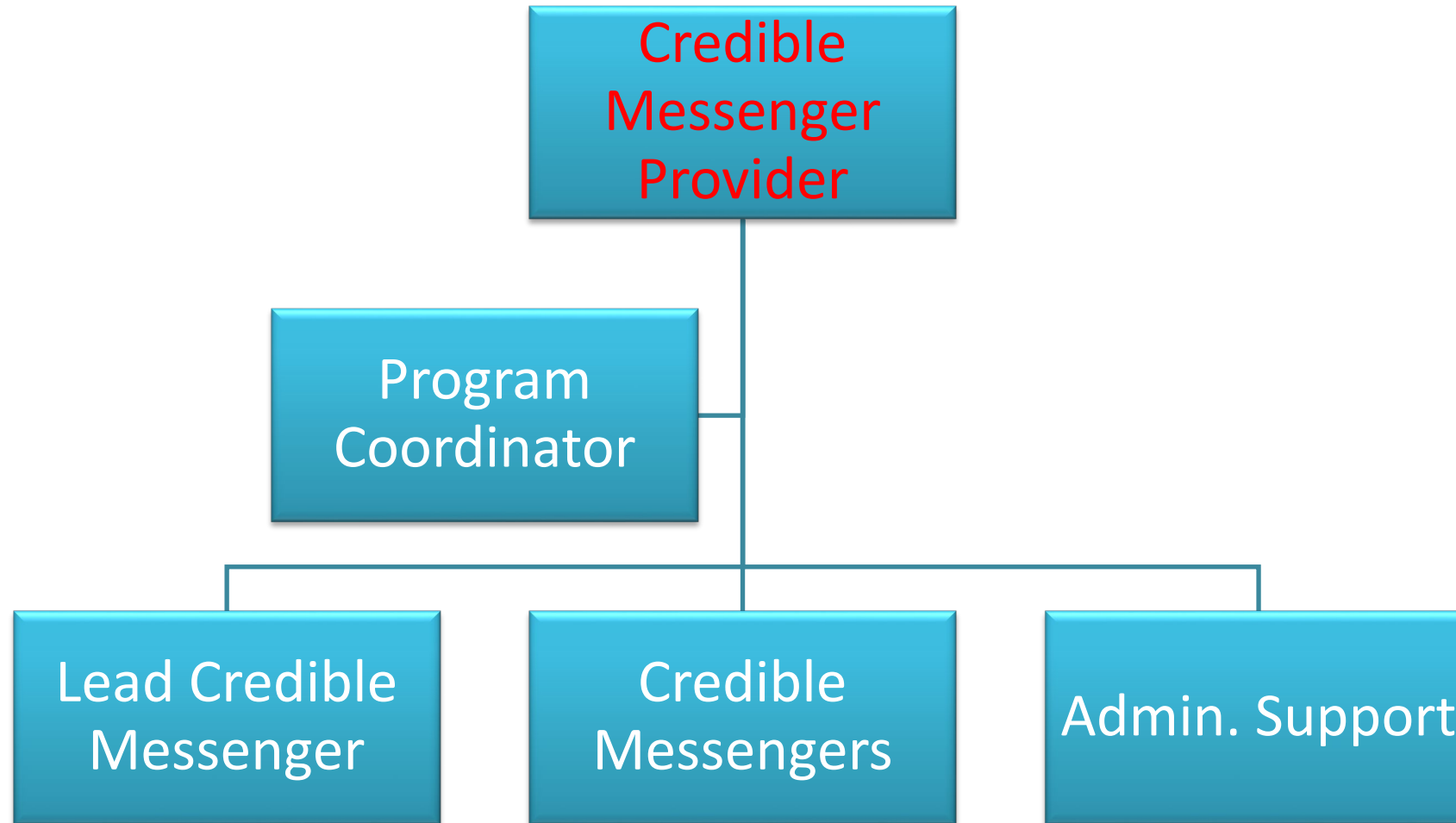
Implementation Phase

- Established national Partnerships with Credible Messenger Justice Center (CMJC) and Professional Community Interventionists Training Institute (PCITI) with Dr. Aquil Basheer, Founder and Director of Brotherhood Unified for Independent Leadership Through Discipline Program (BUILD). Dr. Basheer is an expert on violence intermediation, public safety, and gang intervention.
- 50 local youth interventionists representing 11 community-based organizations participated in a weeklong training in June 2020 by PCITI, establishing our Credible Messenger Learning Cohort
- Learning Cohort engaged in community led outreach efforts in Milwaukee County Parks (We Care Crew) and continue weekly community engagement meetings and monthly professional development check-ins
- 5 agencies who demonstrated administrative and staffing capacity were selected to participate in the 2021 pilot
- Launched 5/5/21

Readiness: Infrastructure & Staffing Goals



Credible Messenger Organizational Chart



Systematic Process – Key Steps to Achieve Goals and Outcomes

Tools Utilized to Complete Spread Sheet:

Weekly Progress Note: Youth Engagement, Youth Connections, Promoting Safety

Community Outreach Event Log: Documentation for Community Events & Detention Visits

Submitting Documentation


Due Weekly on Monday

To: Verlynette.Lewis@milwaukeecountywi.gov,
DCSDQA@milwaukeecountywi.gov,
DCSDAdmin@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Subject Line: Agency Name, CM Data Week of (#/#/##)

Data Collection TABS	Intentions for Data	Story We Want to tell
Youth Engaged	List all youth engaged in your service each week, hours and intentional service focus	Youth Engage in developmental tasks that foster growth and desistance from offending
Youth Connections	Youth Develops and Maintains community connections in areas that will help in succeed in the community (Employment, Services, Education, Volunteering)	Youth have connections outside of the "SYSTEM" in which to support enhanced social bonds and connectedness to the community
Agency Connections	List Agency Level Connections that make your agency connected to the community, Partnerships with schools, services, and other community groups.	Your agency brings a unique set of community partnerships that makes it legitimate.
Community Outreach	Track efforts made to get referrals and establish awareness of CCM in the community.	Your agency is actively engaging the community in a vareity of ways to earn its trust and build connections with youth.
Promoting Physical Safety	Please list instances where a youth is injured in the community & the circumstances around that.	In addition to mentoring youth, CCM also contibute to community safety.

Goals and Outcomes



Desistance: Youth will not receive any new charges (of same or higher severity), while receiving the service.

Youth Engagement: Youth will be engaged in a positive pro-social activity, e.g. viable or temporary employment, community service participation, school assignment, etc. while in the program and upon completion (Per Case Plan).

Youth Engagement: Youth will be engaged with a positive pro-social person, e.g. the Credible Messenger or other supportive person, while in the program and upon completion.

Youth Service: Youth will receive a minimum of 26 weeks or 78 hours of time with the Credible Messenger, which is research-based to be the minimum required amount of service to make impact.

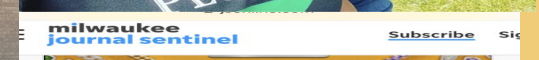


Community Based Engagement



EXPLORE BRONZEVILLE

■ The historic economic and social heart of Milwaukee's African-American community, this area is now the center of major redevelopment efforts. Annual festivals celebrate the strong roots of jazz and the arts in the neighborhood, and the main thoroughfare, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, is lined with African American-owned businesses. Enjoy the diverse dining and shopping establishments on this street and throughout surrounding neighborhoods like Harambee and Halyard Park.



Volunteers, from left, Ladonna Dammond, Traci Amos and Lynn Lewis wait in their area before the event as part of the COVID-safe turkey drive at the King Community Center Tuesday in Milwaukee. MIKE DE SISTI / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL



Community Engagement

We Care Crew Events (MPD + MCSO Drug Take Back, Bike Drive, Turkey Give-Away)

Supervisor Taylor Park Events (Kickball, Movie Night, Educational Sessions)

Juneteenth Celebration

Heal The Hood Block Party

414 Community Kickball Event

860 WNOV The Man Show

Hot Spot Areas- Parks, Alternative Placements (Shelters & RTC's), Specific neighborhoods/addresses

860 WNOV- THE MAN SHOW W/ DR AQUIL BASHEER, BRO. DAVID MUHAMMAD & RAY MENDOZA

- <https://www.facebook.com/MR.GRAZZ/videos/1042364693157920/>

Future Vision



Next Steps

Increase Credible Messengers capacity

Restorative justice training, support, coaching, technical assistance with Credible Messengers and other community partners

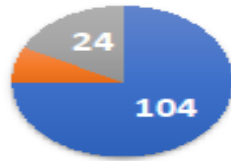
Incorporate restorative justice practices into all programming throughout the YJ system

Build strategic taskforce among Credible Messenger agencies

DYFS Credible Messenger Data Share

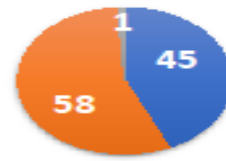
August 2021

Credible Messenger Number of Referrals



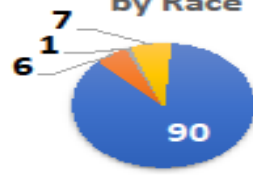
■ Youth Referrals ■ Referral Wait List ■ Discharged ■ Other

Credible Messenger Referral Source



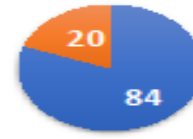
■ Community ■ DYFS ■ Other

Credible Messenger Participants by Race



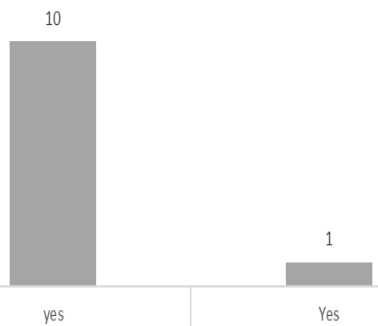
■ Black ■ Caucasian ■ Hispanic ■ Unknown

Credible Messenger Participants by Gender



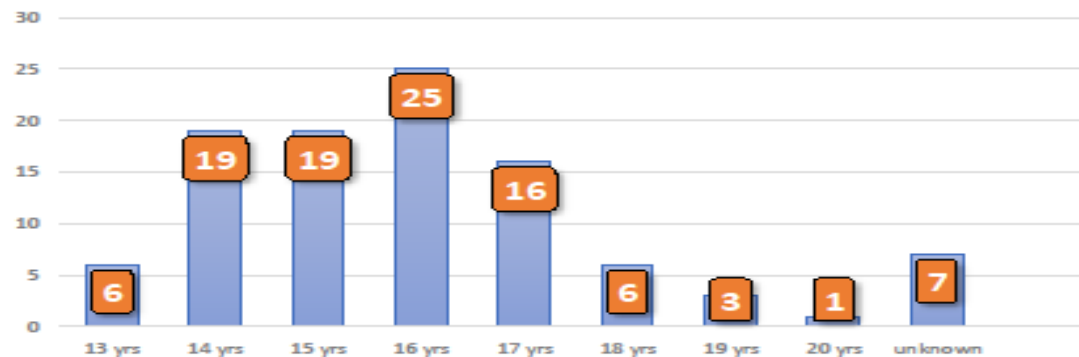
■ Male ■ Female ■ Other

reached SPEP min. (78 hrs)

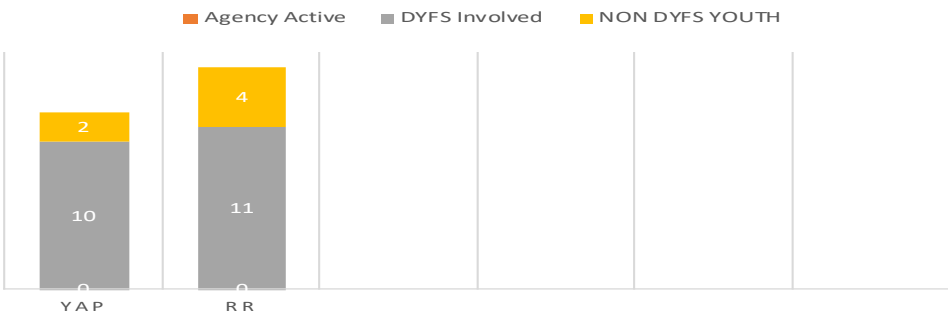


■ # who reached 78 hrs

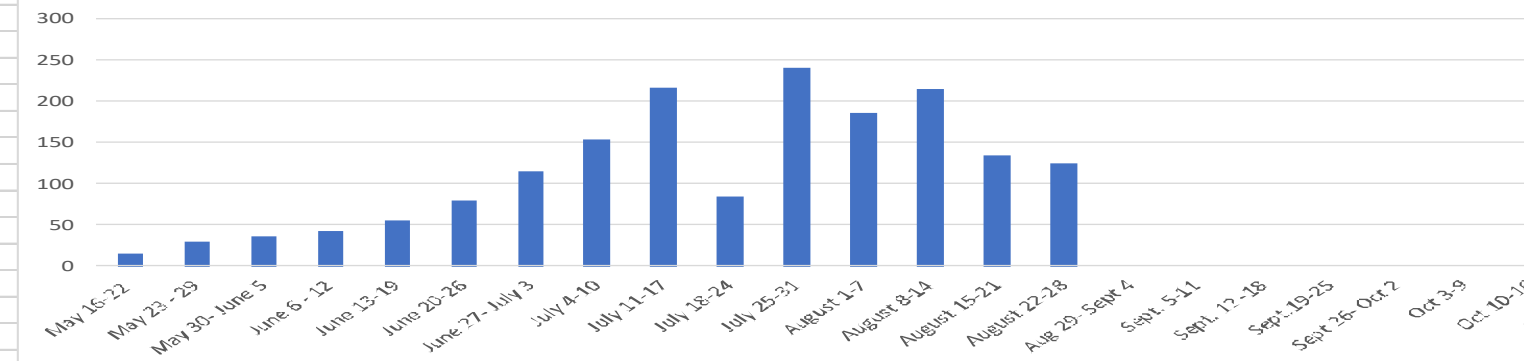
Credible Messenger Participant Age



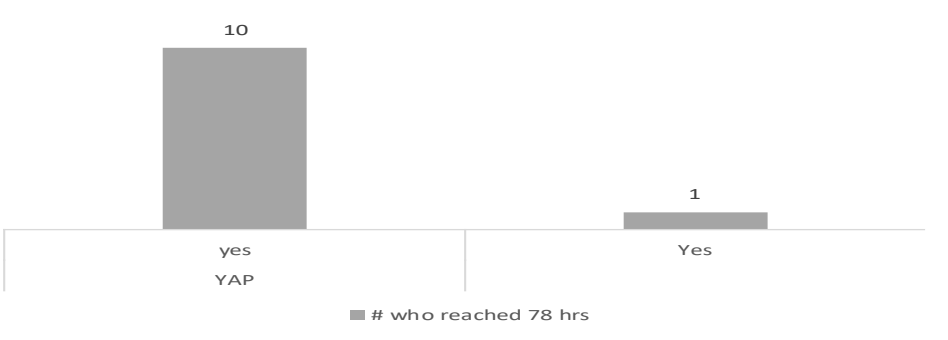
CREDIBLE MESSENGER PARTICIPANTS



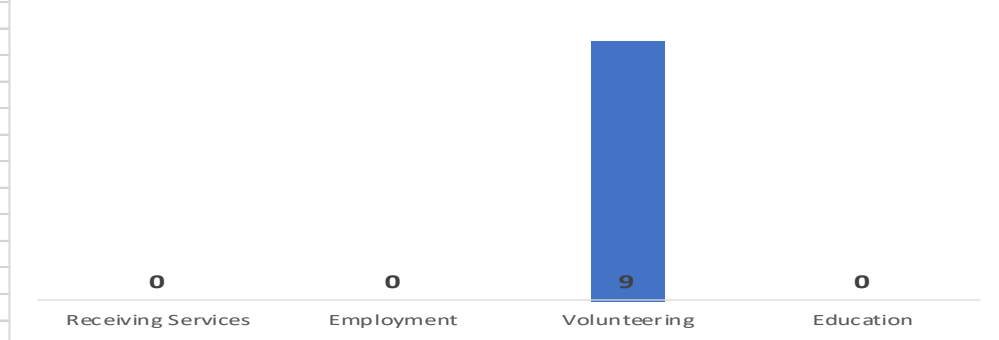
Total Hours of Youth Engagement



reached SPEP min. (78 hrs)



of Youth Connections



Number of Outreach Activities or Events
12

Serious or Violent incidents
1

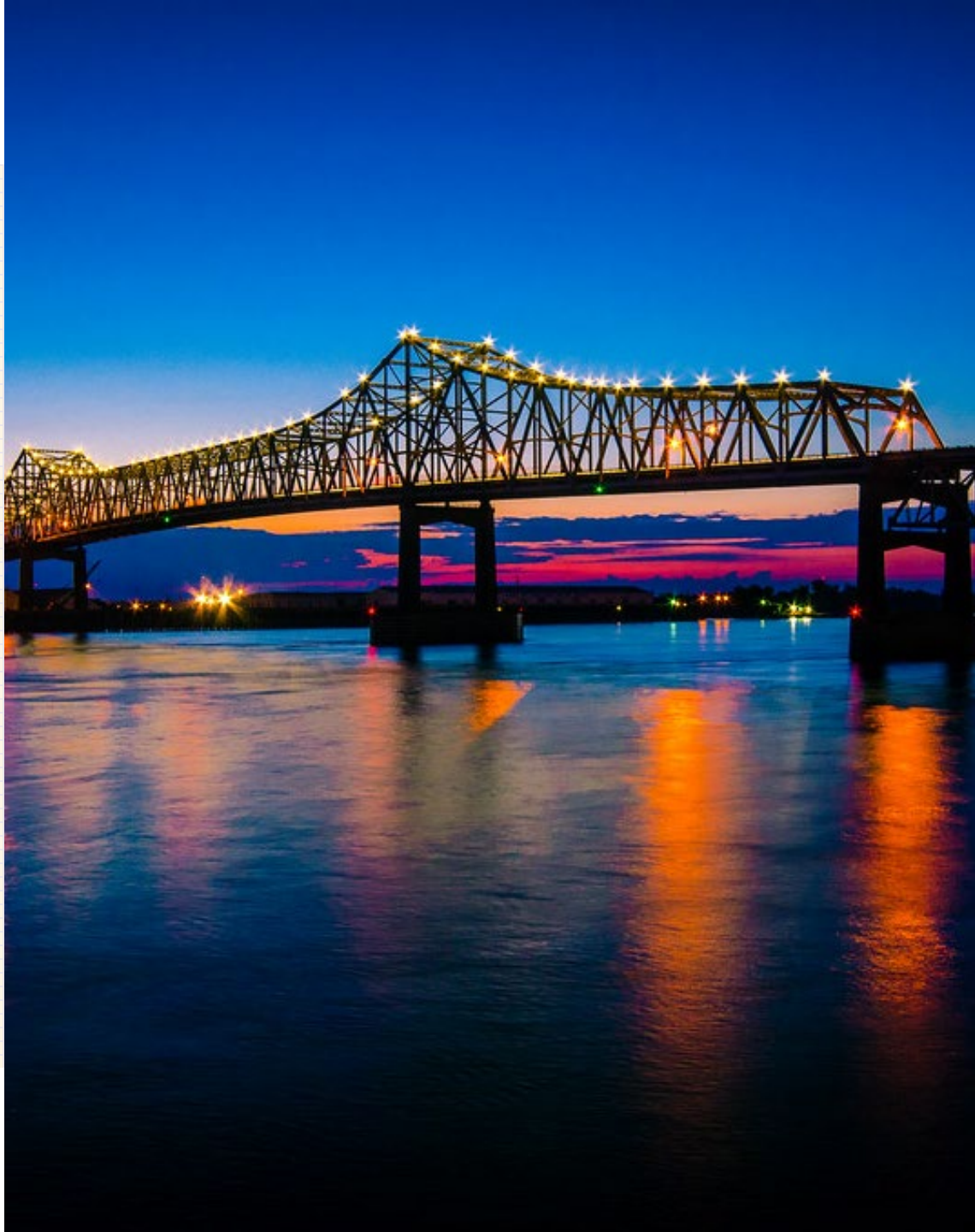




SCAN ME

Credible Messengers Information Link

- Credible Messengers Brochure
(Contacts included)
- Program Launch Press Release
- Contact information



Credible Messenger
Participation Keyword

BIG RIVER CROSSING

If you can't fly, then **RUN**.
If you can't run, then **WALK**.
If you can't walk, then **CRAWL**.

But whatever you do,

YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.



Martin Luther King, Jr. – Civil Rights Activist and Pastor