

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Bozeman Public Library

SUBJECT: Social Services in the Library

MEETING DATE: May 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion and next steps in providing social service in the Library

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND: In 2020 we opened "**Open Door**", a dedicated office in the Bozeman Public Library lobby that provided services to citizens in our community. The space was staffed by local social service and health agencies, public safety, and community groups to connect people directly to the information and resources they need, such as housing, food security, childcare, and transportation.

Local partners held regular office hours in the space including: Job Service, Bozeman Police and Fire, Thrive, Childcare Connections, Community Health Partners, Haven, HRDC, Help Center, Bozeman Health, Gallatin County Mental Health, Family Promise, Veterans Alliance, and the Bozeman School District.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: During COVID the open door office was closed and was never re-opened after the Library renovation due in part to local partners ability to staff during open hours.

ALTERNATIVES: Provide paper resources to outside social service agencies in the area.

FISCAL EFFECTS: N/A

Report compiled on: May 14, 2025