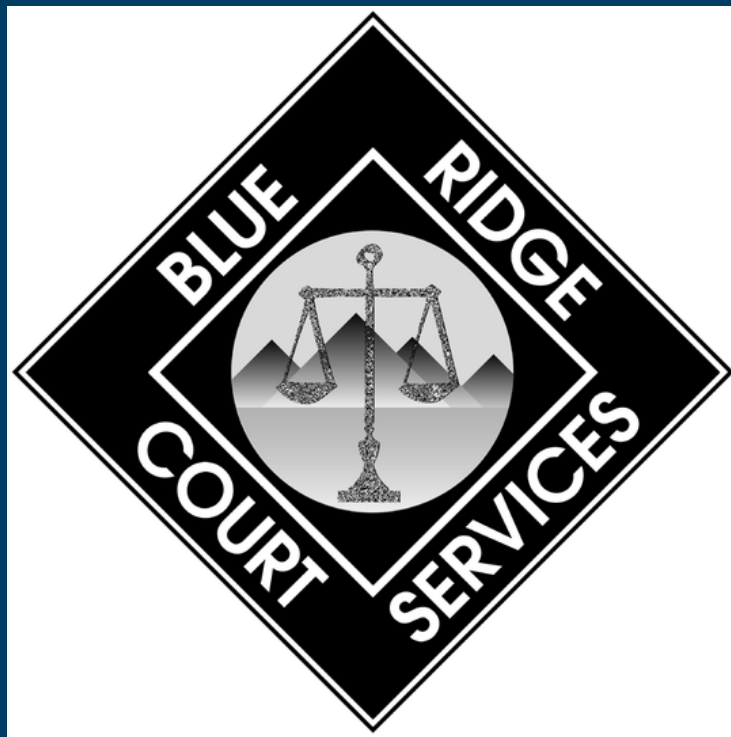


FY 2020

Annual Report

BLUE RIDGE COURT SERVICES



The mission of Blue Ridge Court Services is to provide research proven sentencing alternatives for the local criminal justice system in an effort to reduce jail overcrowding, enhance public safety and offer rehabilitative opportunities to local offenders and pretrial populations in the Cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington and Buena Vista and the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland.

From the Director

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. However, through this historic year come new opportunities and new perspectives. Just like everyone else, we have found the need to be creative and to come up with a new way of doing business. I am very proud of the Staff of Blue Ridge Court Services, along with the members of the Criminal Justice Community, for staying strong and continuing to provide top notch services through a very challenging time.

We have found that individuals are in need of services now more than ever. CAPSAW awarded BRCS funding through the CARES Act to be able to provide COVID-19 Prevention Kits to our clients. We are also very fortunate that DCJS awarded BRCS a grant in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to provide technology to assist clients in Drug Court and Therapeutic Docket to participate in therapy sessions that are an integral part of the recovery process. I would also like to thank Augusta Health for the funding that they provide to afford our agency the opportunity to provide in-house counseling services and group sessions to our clients. This has been an extremely beneficial resource for our clients.

I would like to thank the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board for their continued guidance. I look forward to addressing issues in the coming year to continue to make our community a better place. It is only through the continued support of our partners that we continue to provide the best services possible for our clients and the community. Also, thank you to the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent and for the wonderful leadership. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year!!!

Megan Roane



Blue Ridge Court Services
White Star Mill Building
125 South New Street
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Phone: (540)886-1008
Fax: (540)886-8029

www.staunton.va.us/brcs

Probation Services

Local Probation Supervision-Individuals are referred by area courts to BRCS where they are assessed and directed to appropriate interventions in lieu of serving a jail sentence. Individuals with addiction issues are provided substance abuse screening, drug testing, evaluation and treatment. Therapeutic groups are offered for substance abuse, mental health and anger management.

831

PROBATION PLACEMENTS

678 (82%) misdemeanor cases

153 (18%) felony cases

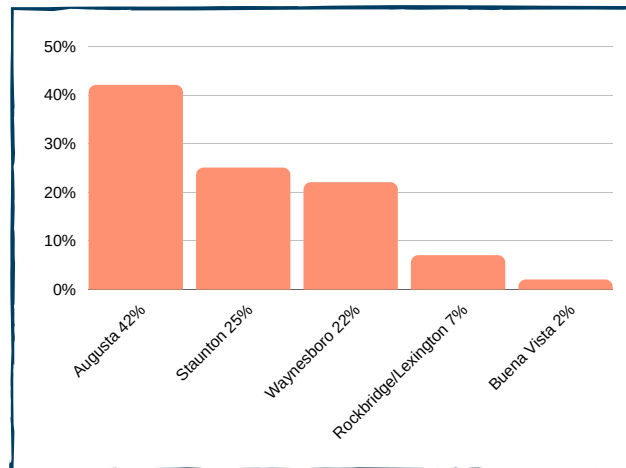
77%

SUCCESS RATE

(Completing all of the court ordered requirements)



Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



2020 Demographic Statistics for Probation Placements

- 64% were male, 36% female
- 80% Caucasian, 17% African American and 3% Hispanic/Other
- 56% were employed, 42% unemployed, 2% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 33, Maximum age was 79
- Probationers by Risk: 81% low risk, 26% medium risk, 1% high risk

In FY 2020 the average daily cost of probation services was \$368,174/262,393 supervision days=\$1.40, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Re-entry Services

Blue Ridge Court Services has provided re-entry services to local offenders since 2012 with the support of a grant from the Community Action Partnership for Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro (CAPSAW). This has allowed our agency to assist in successfully transitioning individuals who have recently been released from incarceration back into the community.



208

RE-ENTRY CLIENTS ASSISTED

- 83 clients were provided assistance in obtaining employment
- 79 clients received transportation assistance
- 13 clients were assisted in obtaining safe temporary housing
- 17 clients received reduced cost mental health care
- 26 self-care kits were distributed to clients

Domestic Violence Services

In FY2020, BRCS received 173 placements into the domestic violence program. This program targets those individuals from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts involved in family assaults. Each client referred to BRCS for domestic violence is assessed and placed into the appropriate treatment setting.

173

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLACEMENTS

- 75 Placements from Augusta
- 52 Placements from Staunton
- 33 Placements from Waynesboro
- 11 Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington

84%

SUCCESS RATE

This is the % of domestic violence cases closed successfully in FY 2020.

Demographic Statistics-Domestic Violence

- 133 (77%) Males
- 40 (23%) Females
- 151 (87%) Caucasians
- 21 (12%) African Americans
- 1 (1%) Hispanic/Other



Therapeutic Docket

The Therapeutic Docket was founded in July 2014 and is a diversionary program for individuals diagnosed with a major mental illness whose crimes were influenced by their diagnosis. This specialized docket combines prompt entry into mental health treatment, proactive medication review, case management, supervision by a specialized pretrial officer, and bi-biweekly Judicial reviews. The Honorable Rupen R. Shah presides over our Therapeutic Docket.

21

THERAPEUTIC DOCKET PLACEMENTS

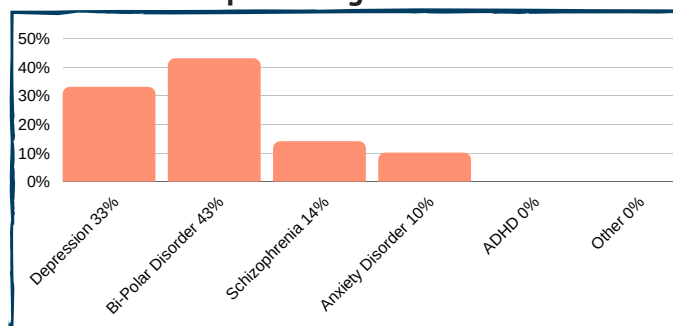
- 9 PLACEMENTS FROM STAUNTON
- 9 PLACEMENTS FROM AUGUSTA
- 3 PLACEMENTS FROM WAYNESBORO

7

GRADUATES-27 GRADUATES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THERAPEUTIC DOCKET IN 2014



Participant Diagnosis - 2020



Demographic Statistics-Therapeutic Docket Participants

- 13 Males and 8 Females
- 19 Caucasians, 2 African Americans and 0 Hispanic/Other
- 2 participants were in the 18 to 25 age group
- 8 participants were in the 26 to 35 age group
- 11 participants were in the 36 and over age range

Pretrial Services

- Pretrial Investigations-BRCS staff report to the Middle River Regional Jail each morning to interview the defendants who have been arrested and detained in the previous 24 hours. Based on those interviews, a pretrial investigation report and the Virginia Pretrial Assessment Instrument is generated to assist the Courts in making bond decisions. During FY 2020, BRCS conducted 842 pretrial investigations.
- Pretrial Supervision-BRCS staff also provide supervision for pretrial defendants released by the magistrates and judges pending trial. Staff ensure that these defendants adhere to the conditions of bond and that they appear for their court appearance. For FY 2020, there were 1,016 defendants placed on pretrial supervision.

1,016

PRETRIAL PLACEMENTS

87%

SUCCESS RATE

96% Appearance Rate

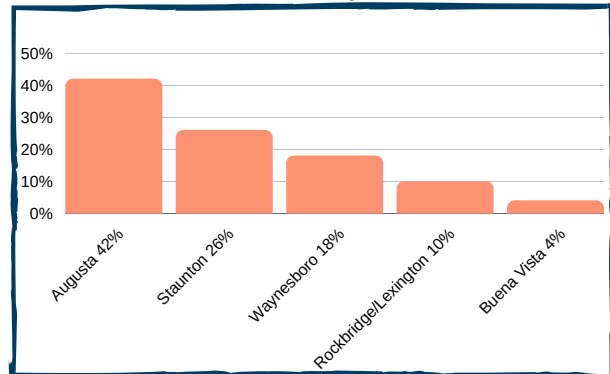
93% Arrest Free Rate

Demographic Statistics-Pretrial Placements

- 68% were male, 32% female
- 80% Caucasian, 18% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 46% were employed, 53% unemployed, 1% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 36, Maximum age was 80

In FY 2020 the average daily cost of pretrial services was \$264,005/136,477supervision days=\$1.93, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Pretrial Placements by Jurisdiction



Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness

The Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness (PIMI) is a collaborative effort between Blue Ridge Court Services, Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) and Valley Community Services Board. This program is designed to target recently arrested defendants at the jail with significant mental health issues. Each defendant who is arrested and detained at MRRJ is screened by pretrial and jail staff using the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS). After identifying those defendants who may benefit from intervention, there are three major objectives for those targeted for the PIMI program:

- To swiftly move appropriate pretrial defendants from the criminal justice system into community-based therapeutic services
- To assist those defendants who remain incarcerated to obtain jail based mental health services pending their release
- For those defendants released into the community, to provide intensive supervision by a Mental Health Pretrial Officer, assessments, and weekly therapeutic groups for more intensive outpatient treatment.

862

INDIVIDUALS WERE ADMINISTERED THE BJMHS

213

INDIVIDUALS WERE REFERRED TO PIMI

Drug Court

The Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Drug Court targets individuals who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addictions to alcohol or illegal substances. The Drug Court model uses the approach that moving quickly to bring individuals into treatment and using a team effort to monitor their progress produces a higher probability that the individual will be successful in breaking the cycle of repeated drug use and drug-related crime. For FY 2020, there were four graduations and two terminations. Since the inception of the Drug Court Program in July 2002, there have been 95 graduates. The Honorable Paul A. Dryer presides over our Drug Court.

30

DRUG COURT PLACEMENTS

- 10 Placements from Staunton
- 15 Placements from Augusta County
- 5 Placements from Waynesboro

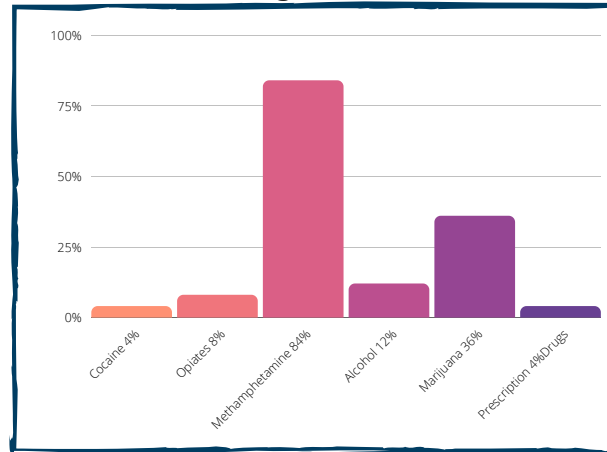
Six participants had cases in more than one jurisdiction. Of those six, one person had cases in all three jurisdictions.

4

GRADUATES-95 GRADUATES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF DRUG COURT IN 2002



2020 Drug of Choice



Demographic Statistics- Drug Court

- 12 Males and 13 Females
- 22 Caucasians, 2 African American, 1 Hispanic/Other
- 3 individuals in the 18 to 25 age group
- 15 individuals in the 26 to 35 age group
- 7 individuals in the 36 and over age range

FY 2020 Finances

INCOME 1,065,325

DCJS Grant	634,138
Drug Court Grant	79,219
Behavioral Health Docket	33,750
Augusta Health	19,200
CAPSAW	20,500
Participant Fees	181,428
Rockbridge Jail	17,000
DBHDS	79,024

EXPENSES 986,007

Personnel	861,275
Training/Travel	3,691
Equipment	44,954
Supplies/Other (Rent)	76,087
Fund Balance	79,318

Financial Support for Blue Ridge Court Services is provided from the following sources:

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for local probation and pretrial services
- Virginia Supreme Court for the Drug Court and Therapeutic Docket
- Augusta Health for therapy groups and individual counseling services
- CAPSAW for the Re-entry program
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for the Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness
- Participant Fees which include supervision fees for probation clients and home electronic monitoring fees.

Home Electronic Monitoring

Both pretrial defendants and post-conviction offenders are eligible for Home Electronic Monitoring. The HEM program targets appropriate individuals to serve their time at home instead of jail which can benefit both the offender and the community. This program allows the participants to work and support themselves and their families, while at the same time paying for the costs of their monitoring. The HEM program also saves beds at Middle River Regional Jail for higher risk defendants.

71

HEM PLACEMENTS

- 56 Males
- 15 Females
- 58 Caucasians
- 12 African Americans
- 1 Hispanic/Other



LOCALITY PARTICIPATION AND JAIL BED SAVINGS AT 85.83/DAY

- 23 HEM Placements from Staunton for a total of 2,579 days on HEM=\$221,356
- 27 HEM Placements from Augusta County for a total of 4,002 days on HEM=\$343,492
- 7 HEM Placements from Waynesboro for a total of 791 days on HEM=\$67,892
- 6 HEM Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington for a total of 582 days on HEM=\$49,953
- 1 HEM Placement from Buena Vista for a total of 28 days on HEM=\$2,403
- 7 HEM Placements from Other jurisdictions totaling 751 days on HEM=\$64,458

Total = \$749,554.00

Jail Bed Savings by Utilizing HEM in FY2020

Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board

The Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board was established on July 1, 1995, in response to the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act. This advisory board is comprised of the region's principal criminal justice stakeholders, and they represent each of the seven localities served by Blue Ridge Court Services. The Board meets quarterly to receive updates, discuss local issues, and set policy relating to local criminal justice.

STAUNTON	WAYNESBORO	AUGUSTA	HIGHLAND	ROCKBRIDGE	LEXINGTON	BUENA VISTA
Peter Boatner	Don McCown	Donald Smith	Roberta Lambert	Spencer Suter	Jared Moon	TBA
Matt Robertson	Joe Harris	Linda Jones	David Neal	Robyn Wilhelm	Mark Riley	TBA
Jeff Gaines	Bud Levin	Tim Martin		Derek Almarode		
Susan Richardson	David Ledbetter	Jeffrey Newton				
Leslie Beauregard	Bob Tucker	Miles Bobbitt				
Charles Ricketts	Mike Wilhelm	Rupen Shah				
		Faye McCauley				

Blue Ridge Court Services Staff



Megan Roane (Director) - Ms. Roane began her career with BRCS in 1999 and is a graduate of Bridgewater College.



Tasha Harner (Assistant Director) - Ms. Harner began her career with BRCS in 2005 and is a graduate of Bridgewater College.



Samantha Honig (Senior Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Honig began her career with BRCS in 2009 and is a graduate of the University of Richmond. She also received a Masters Degree from the Johnson and Wales University.



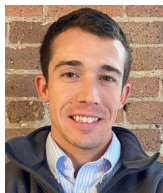
Martin Schmid (HEM Coordinator) - Mr. Schmid began his career with BRCS in 2009. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University.



Luther Hite (Local Probation Officer) - Mr. Hite began his career with BRCS in 2009. He is a graduate of Liberty University, and he provides probation services to Augusta County.



Wendy Dodge (Drug Court Coordinator) - Ms. Dodge began her career with BRCS in 2017. She is a graduate of West Virginia University and has a Masters Degree from Angelo State University.



Andrew Lightner (Senior Probation Officer) - Mr. Lightner began his career with BRCS in 2013. He is a graduate of Liberty University, and he provides probation services to the City of Waynesboro.



Rachel Harding (Therapeutic Docket Coordinator) - Ms. Harding began her career with BRCS in August 2020. She is a graduate of James Madison University.



David Pastors (Criminal Justice Planner) - Mr. Pastors returned to BRCS in May 2019 as our Criminal Justice Planner. Mr Pastors retired from BRCS in March 2019 after serving 23 years as the Director.



Hannah Legarsky (Pretrial Investigator) - Ms. Legarsky began her career with BRCS in 2019. She is a graduate of William Peace University.



Paul Lightner (Drug Court Technician) - Mr. Lightner joined BRCS in 2020. He is a graduate of William and Mary, and he received a Masters Degree from Trinity University.



Brittany Rohrer (Local Probation Officer) - Ms. Rohrer began her career with BRCS in 2018. She is a graduate of James Madison University, and she provides probation services to the City of Staunton.



Alayna Sensabaugh (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Sensabaugh began her career with BRCS in 2016. She is a graduate of Bridgewater College. She provides pretrial services to Augusta County.



Ailee Roberts (Post Baccalaureate Fellow) - Ms. Roberts joined BRCS in May 2020. She is a graduate of James Madison University. Ms. Roberts serves as our Re-entry Specialist.



Haley Showalter (Local Pretrial/Probation Officer) - Ms. Showalter began her career with BRCS in 2019. She is a graduate of James Madison University, and she provides probation and pretrial services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista.

"But if you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself . . . something that makes life a little better for people less fortunate than you."

-The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg