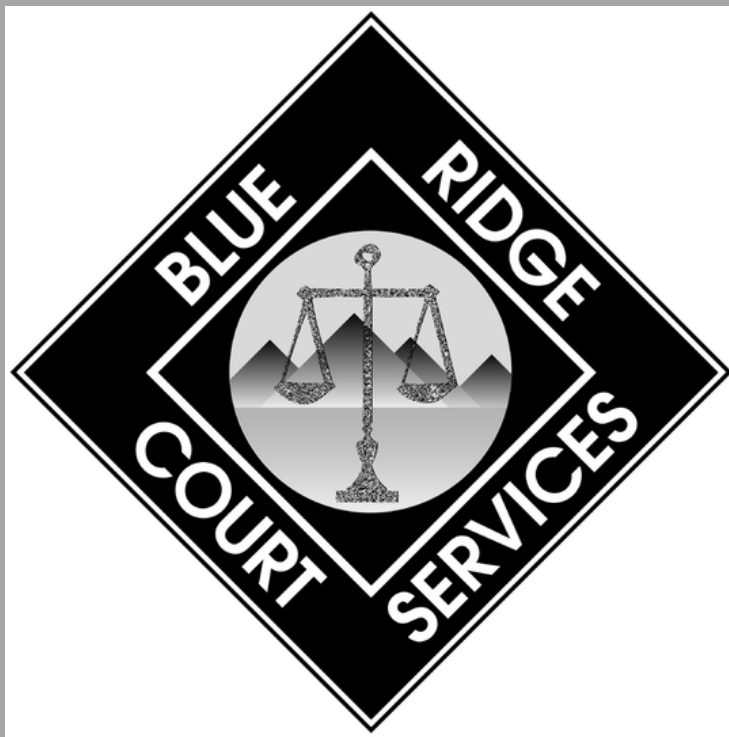


FY 2021

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

2021 has been another fruitful year for Blue Ridge Court Services. We were provided the opportunity to expand pretrial services to Lexington, Rockbridge and Buena Vista through an Expansion Grant with the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Due to the Expansion Grant, we officially opened our new Lexington location on April 19, 2021 offering a full array of both pretrial and probation services to that area. Thank you to everyone for their patience and support with the opening of the new office in Lexington which is located at 26 N. Main Street.



Blue Ridge Court Services
26 N. Main Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450
Phone: (540)461-8927
Fax: (540)461-8945



Blue Ridge Court Services
125 South New Street
Staunton, Virginia 24401
Phone: (540)886-1008
Fax: (540)886-8029

I would like to thank each of the localities that we serve for their continued support. It is such a pleasure to work with individuals who have the same goals of continuing to improve the criminal justice system and our communities. I would also like to thank the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board for their guidance and hard work. Also, a huge thank you to the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent. The City of Staunton provides Blue Ridge Court Services with outstanding leadership, technical support, and so much more. I am extremely excited to see all of the wonderful progress that we make in 2022.

Megan Roane

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.

876

PROBATION PLACEMENTS

703 (80%) misdemeanor cases

173 (20%) felony cases

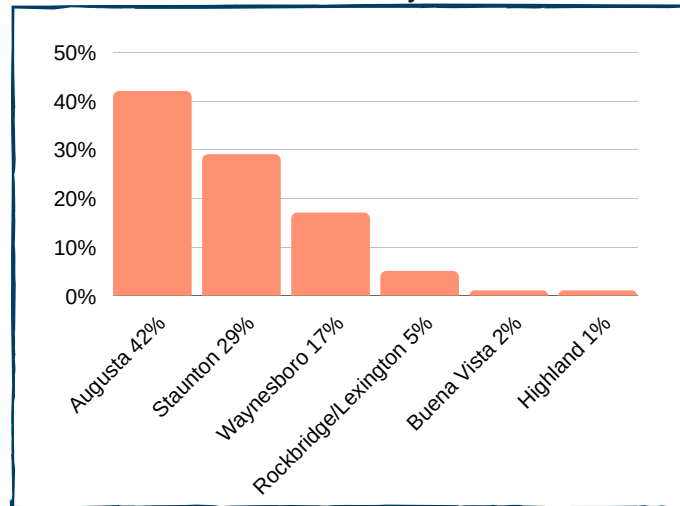
74%

SUCCESS RATE

(Completing all of the court ordered requirements)



Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



2021 Demographic Statistics for Probation Placements

- 63% were male, 37% female
- 80% Caucasian, 17% African American and 3% Hispanic/Other
- 52% were employed, 45% unemployed, 3% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 35, Maximum age was 81
- Probationers by Risk: 84% low risk, 25% medium risk, 0% high risk

In FY 2021 the average daily cost of probation services was \$376,742/252,243 supervision days=\$1.49, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$91.97.

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.



216

CLIENTS WERE REFERRED TO RE-ENTRY

Clients were assisted in obtaining employment, transportation, emergency clothing and emergency shelter. Self-care kits and COVID kits were also distributed.



Domestic Violence Services

In FY2021, BRCS received 204 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.

204

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLACEMENTS

- 94 Placements from Augusta
- 66 Placements from Staunton
- 31 Placements from Waynesboro
- 13 Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington

85%

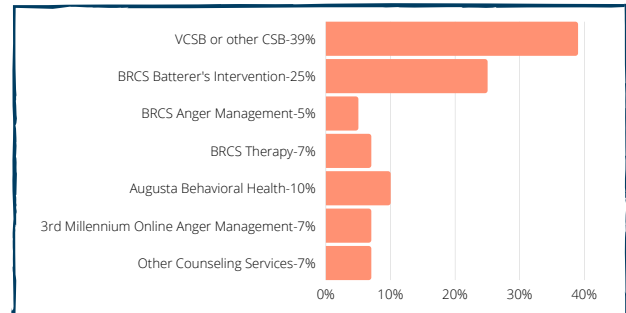
SUCCESS RATE

This is the % of domestic violence cases closed successfully in FY 2021.

Demographic Statistics-Domestic Violence

- 161 (79%) Males
- 43 (21%) Females
- 165 (81%) Caucasians
- 37 (18%) African Americans
- 2 (1%) Hispanic/Other

Treatment Providers for Domestic Violence



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.

10

THERAPEUTIC DOCKET INDUCTEES

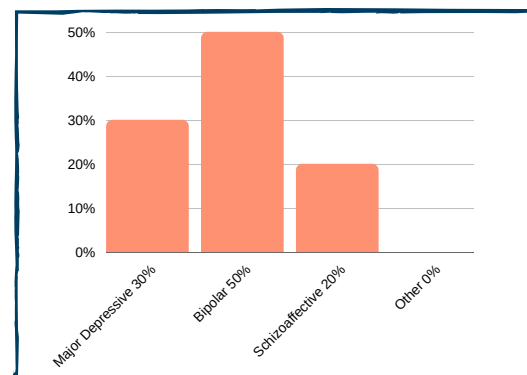
- 3 PLACEMENTS FROM STAUNTON
- 4 PLACEMENTS FROM AUGUSTA
- 3 PLACEMENTS FROM WAYNESBORO

6

GRADUATES-36 GRADUATES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THERAPEUTIC DOCKET IN 2014



Participant Primary Diagnosis - 2021



Demographic Statistics-Therapeutic Docket Inductees

- 5 Males and 5 Females
- 8 Caucasians, 2 African Americans and 0 Hispanic/Other
- 0 participants were in the 18 to 25 age group
- 1 participant was in the 26 to 35 age group
- 9 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 2021, BRCS conducted 539 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 2021, there were 892 defendants placed on pretrial supervision.

892

PRETRIAL PLACEMENTS

90%

SUCCESS RATE

97% Appearance Rate

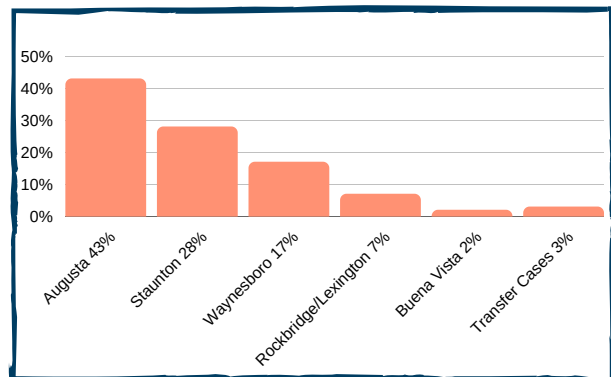
93% Arrest Free Rate

Demographic Statistics-Pretrial Placements

- 71% were male, 29% female
- 82% Caucasian, 16% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 43% were employed, 50% unemployed, 7% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 36, Maximum age was 78

In FY 2021 the average daily cost of pretrial services was \$257,396/150,587supervision days=\$1.71, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$91.97.

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.

473

INDIVIDUALS WERE ADMINISTERED THE BJMS

100

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 2021, there were nine graduations and eight terminations. Since the inception of the Drug Court Program in July 2002, there have been 108 graduates. The Honorable Paul A. Dryer presides over our Drug Court.

9

DRUG COURT INDUCTEES

- 3 Placements from Staunton
- 4 Placements from Augusta County
- 4 Placements from Waynesboro

two Participants had cases in more than one jurisdiction.

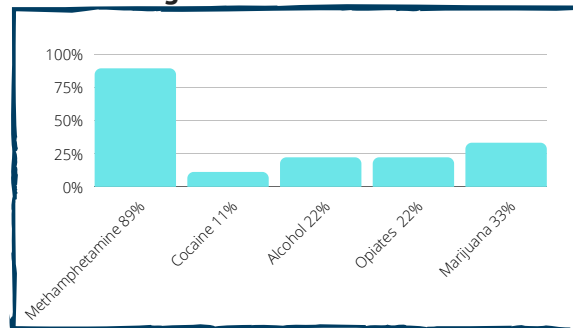
4

GRADUATES

108 Graduates since the beginning of Drug Court in 2002



Drug of Choice Drugs Court Inductees-2021



Demographic Statistics-Drug Court Inductees

- 5 Males and 4 Females
- 7 Caucasians and 2 African Americans
- 3 in the 18 to 25 age group
- 4 in the 26 to 35 age group
- 2 in the 36 and over age range

FY 2021 Finances

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 Drug Court
- 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 and Therapeutic Docket
- Participant Fees which include supervision fees for probation clients and home electronic monitoring fees.

INCOME	1,146,669
DCJS Grant	698,738
Drug Court Grant	81,712
Augusta Health	15,000
CAPSAW	20,500
Participant Fees	226,558
Rockbridge Jail	8,500
DBHDS	76,545
Reserve	19,116
EXPENSES	1,146,669
Personnel	974,281
Training/Travel	1,493
Equipment	56,278
Supplies/Other (Rent)	114,617
Fund Balance	-0-

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. In FY 2021, BRCS supervised the largest number of HEM cases in our history in one year.

108

HEM PLACEMENTS

- 85 Males
- 23 Females
- 86 Caucasians
- 20 African Americans
- 2 Hispanic/Other



LOCALITY PARTICIPATION AND JAIL BED SAVINGS AT 91.97/DAY

- 22 HEM Placements from Staunton for a total of 3,657 days on HEM=\$336,334
- 60 HEM Placements from Augusta County for a total of 8,721 days on HEM=\$802,070
- 17 HEM Placements from Waynesboro for a total of 2,626 days on HEM=\$241,513
- 7 HEM Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington for a total of 593 days on HEM=\$54,538
- 2 HEM Placement from Buena Vista for a total of 232 days on HEM=\$21,337

Total = \$1,455,792.00

Jail Bed Savings by Utilizing HEM in FY2021



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. The mission of the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board is to provide and support a broad range of community-oriented justice options in an effort to reduce jail overcrowding, enhance public safety, and offer remedial and rehabilitative opportunities to pretrial defendants and post conviction offenders.

STAUNTON	WAYNESBORO	AUGUSTA	HIGHLAND	ROCKBRIDGE	LEXINGTON	BUENA VISTA
Peter Boatner	Robyn Wilhelm	Donald Smith	Roberta Lambert	Spencer Suter	Jim Halasz	Waylon Miller
Matt Robertson	Mike Wilhelm	Linda Jones	David Neal	Jared Moon	Angela Greene	Joshua Elrod
Jeff Gaines	Bud Levin	Caleb Kramer		Derek Almarode		
Susan Richardson	David Ledbetter	Jeffrey Newton				
Leslie Beauregard	Bob Tucker	Miles Bobbitt				
Robin Mayer		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.



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.



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



Rachel Colello (Probation Officer) - Ms. Colello began her career with BRCS in June 2021. She is currently providing probation services to the Staunton and Augusta Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. She is a graduate of James Madison University.



Samantha Honig (Pretrial Manager) - 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.



Alayna Sensabaugh (Probation Officer) - Ms. Sensabaugh began her career with BRCS in 2016. She is a graduate of Bridgewater College. She provides probation services to the City of Staunton.



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



Ailee Roberts (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Roberts joined BRCS in May 2020. She is a graduate of James Madison University. Ms. Roberts provides pretrial 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 Univeristy.



Zaria Moore (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Moore joined BRCS in February 2021. She is a graduate of Mary Baldwin University. Ms. Moore provides probation services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista.



Andrew Lightner (Probation Manager) - 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.



Victoria Tarrega (Probation Officer) - Ms. Tarrega joined BRCS in June 2021. She is a graduate of James Madison University. Ms. Tarrega provides probation services to Augusta County.



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



Khaihiqa Davidson (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Davidson joined BRCS in November 2021. She is a graduate of Mary Baldwin University. Ms. Davidson provides pretrial services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista.



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



Hannah Lee (Post Baccalaureate Fellow) - Ms. Lee joined BRCS in July 2021. She is a graduate of James Madison University. Ms. Lee serves as our Re-entry Coordinator.