

Blue Ridge Court Services

*Working Smarter for Safer Communities in
The Central Shenandoah Valley*

Presented by The Office of Community Development



Mission

- *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 offender and pretrial populations in Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, Buena Vista and the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland.*

Overview

- BRCS is a public non-profit organized under the umbrella of the City of Staunton
- City of Staunton acts as the fiscal agent
- Founded in 1995 as the result of Virginia's Comprehensive Community Corrections Act
- Provide an array of alternative sentencing options to the courts of Central Virginia...Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro, Highland, Lexington, Rockbridge and Buena Vista

Overview

- BRCS receives 1700 + new referrals annually
- Annual Budget of \$1,400,000
- Funded through grants from DCJS, Supreme Court, DBHDS, Augusta Health and CAPSAW
- Operations guided by the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board

Overview

- Staff of 20 local probation and pretrial officers who provide services for seven programs...
 - Local Probation
 - Pretrial Services
 - Recovery Court
 - Home Electronic Monitoring
 - Domestic Violence
 - Therapeutic Docket
 - Re-entry Services

Local Probation

- Individuals are placed on probation in lieu of serving a jail sentence
- Required to pay restitution, perform community service, or complete treatment programs
- 730 probation case referrals in FY 2025

Pretrial Services

- Two main purposes of pretrial
 1. Pretrial risk assessments and reports
 2. Pretrial supervision
- Goal is to reduce awaiting trial population at MRRJ
- 830 pretrial placements in FY 2025

Recovery Court

- Recovery Court was founded in July 2002
- Meets every Tuesday morning in SCC
- Multidisciplinary approach using incentives and sanctions to change behaviors
- Very intensive but very successful
- 275 participants to date with 132 graduates

Home Electronic Monitoring

- Targets appropriate individuals both pretrial and post trial to serve their time at home instead of jail
- Allows individuals to keep jobs and support families
- Saves needed beds at MRRJ for higher risk defendants
- 84 HEM Placements in 2025

Domestic Violence

- Targets those offenders from the JDR Courts involved in family assaults
- DV Team assesses the offender's risk and needs and places them into the appropriate treatment setting
- Vast majority participate in batterer's intervention groups
- 180 DV Placements in 2025

Therapeutic Docket

- Founded in July 2014 to target those individuals whose crimes were influenced by their mental illness
- Multidisciplinary team approach using incentives and sanctions to change behaviors
- Therapeutic docket held 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month
- 162 participants to date with 90 graduates

Re-entry Services

- Funded by a grant from Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro (CAPSAW)
- Focus is to help MRRJ inmates successfully transition from jail into the community
- Re-entry staff assist these recently released individuals in getting jobs, better places to reside, transportation, food, clothing and connection with community resources
- Assisted 263 re-entry clients in 2025

For More Information

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