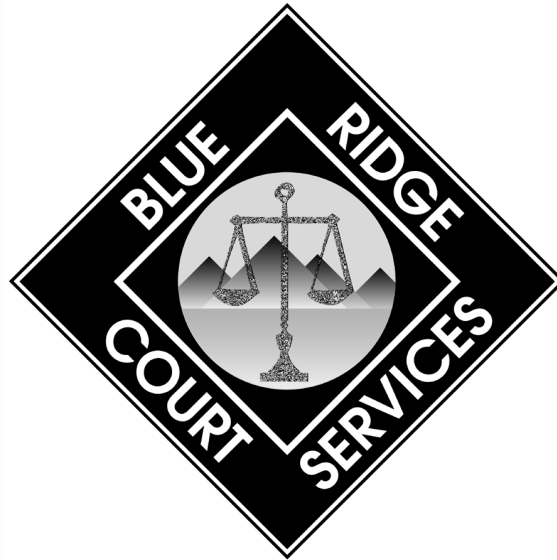


Annual Report

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 probation and pretrial populations in the Cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington and Buena Vista and the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland.

2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Megan Roane
(Director)

I am extremely grateful for another year full of many successes, a lot of hard work and wonderful collaboration among our staff, local stakeholders and other community partnerships. 2025 proved to be a productive year for Blue Ridge Court Services, and I can't thank our staff enough for their continued dedication to our mission. 2025 also brought about the establishment of the Maury River Recovery Court. On June 17, 2025, the Maury River Recovery Court held its first docket. I would like to thank Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista for the dedication and passion that went into establishing a Recovery Court for your localities. I would also like to thank the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent and providing us with amazing leadership and services. I am looking forward to continued work in 2026 to reduce jail overcrowding, enhance public safety and offer rehabilitative opportunities.

Megan Roane



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



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

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 drug testing, evaluation and treatment. Therapeutic groups are offered for substance abuse, mental health and anger management.

730

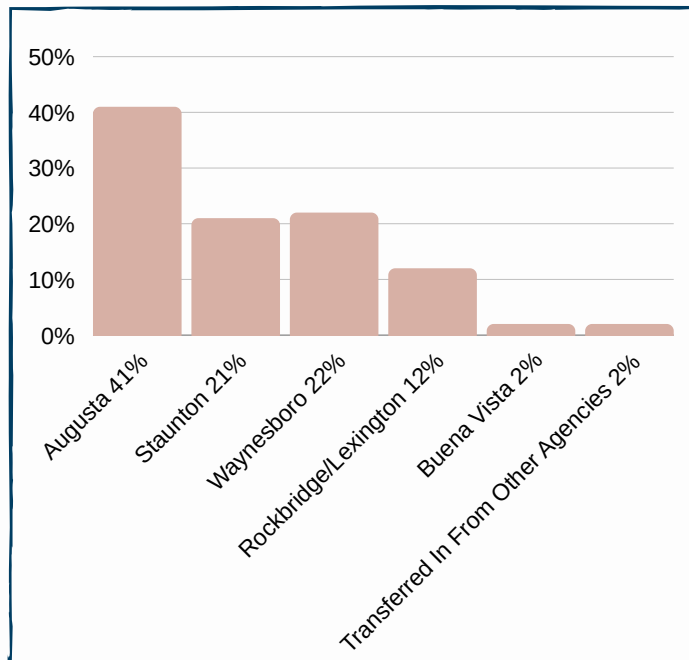
Probation Placements

587 (80%) misdemeanor cases

143 (20%) felony cases

- 63% were Male, 37% Female
- 80% Caucasian, 18% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other

Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



Alayna Sensabaugh
(Probation Program Manager)



Taylor Gibbs
(Probation Officer)



Ryan Brandl
(Probation/Pretrial Officer)

RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Blue Ridge Court Services has provided re-entry services to individuals 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. BRCS partners with Middle River Regional Jail to provide a re-entry session to inmates within thirty days of their release. Clients were assisted in obtaining employment, transportation and emergency shelter. Self-care kits were also made available to clients.

263

CLIENTS WERE REFERRED TO RE-ENTRY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

In FY2025, BRCS received 180 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.

180

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLACEMENTS

- 77% Male, 23% Female
- 77% Caucasian, 16% African American and 7% Hispanic/Other

PLACEMENTS BY LOCALITY

- Augusta County - 78 placements
- Staunton - 40 placements
- Waynesboro - 37 placements
- Rockbridge/Lexington - 19 placements
- Buena Vista - 6 placement



Tasha Harner
(Assistant Director)



Kelli Helyer
(Probation Officer)

TREATMENT PROVIDERS

- 40% Domestic Violence Alternatives Program (DVAP)
- 27% Valley Community Services Board or other CSB
- 11% Anger Management
- 22% Other Treatment Provider

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. Silas James serves as our Home Electronic Monitoring Coordinator.

84

HEM PLACEMENTS

- 68 Males and 16 Females
- 55 Caucasians, 26 African Americans and 3 Hispanic/Other



Silas James
(Home Electronic Monitoring
Coordinator)

LOCALITY PARTICIPATION AND JAIL BED SAVINGS AT \$109.52/DAY

- 16 HEM Placements from Staunton for a total of 1,146 days on HEM=\$125,510
- 46 HEM Placements from Augusta County for a total of 5,905 days on HEM=\$646,716
- 14 HEM Placements from Waynesboro for a total of 1,797 days on HEM=\$196,807
- 6 HEM Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington for a total of 1,354 days on HEM=\$148,290
- 2 HEM Placement from Buena Vista for a total of 10 days on HEM=\$1,095

SAW RECOVERY COURT

The Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Recovery Court targets individuals who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addictions to alcohol or illegal substances. The Recovery 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. The Honorable Paul A. Dryer presides over our Recovery Court, and Stacey Sullivan serves as the Recovery Court Coordinator.

13

RECOVERY COURT INDUCTEES

- 6 Males and 7 Females
- 9 Caucasians, 3 African Americans and 1 Hispanic
- 1 Placement from Staunton
- 6 Placements from Augusta County
- 2 Placements from Waynesboro
- 4 Placements from Multiple Jurisdictions

INDUCTEE DRUG USAGE

- Methamphetamine: 8
- Alcohol: 5
- Marijuana: 3
- Opioid/Opiate: 1
- Cocaine: 1

INDUCTEE CHARGES

- Possession of Schedule I/II: 10
- Distribution: 3
- DWI: 3rd+: 3
- Probation Violation on felony Offense: 7
- Prisoner Possess Unlawful Chemical: 1
- Obtain Credit Card Number Larceny: 1

21

PARTICIPANTS IN FY25

8

GRADUATES



Stacey Sullivan
(Recovery Court Coordinator)

MAURY RIVER RECOVERY COURT

The Maury River Recovery Court held its first docket on June 17, 2025. This program targets individuals from Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addiction to alcohol or illegal substances. The Honorable Christopher B. Russell presides over the Maury River Recovery Court and Kiala Dyer serves as the Recovery Court Coordinator.



Kiala Dyer
(Recovery Court Coordinator)

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 probation officer, and bi-biweekly Judicial reviews. Our docket is supported with grant funding from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Honorable David B. Spigle presides over the Therapeutic Docket, and Laura Arthur-Pedersen serves as the Therapeutic Docket Coordinator. Jerica Cropp serves as our Therapeutic Docket Probation Officer.

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THERAPEUTIC DOCKET INDUCTEES

- 8 Males and 9 Females
- 12 Caucasians, 4 African Americans and 1 Hispanic/Other
- 1 Participant in the 18 to 25 age group
- 3 Participants in the 26-35 age group
- 7 Participants in the 36-44 age group
- 6 Participants in the 45 and older age group
- 5 Placements from Staunton
- 9 Placements from Augusta County
- 3 Placements from Waynesboro

16

GRADUATES



Laura Arthur-Pedersen
(Therapeutic Docket Coordinator)



Jerica Cropp
(Therapeutic Docket Officer)

BOND DATA DASHBOARD

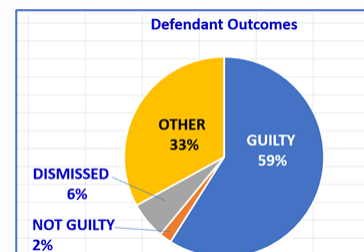
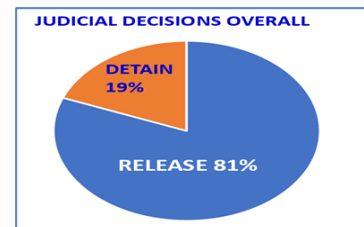
In 2022 the Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro area was selected as one of three learning sites in Virginia to pilot the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) guided by Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR). The PSA is an assessment that estimates failure to appear in court pretrial, new criminal arrest while on pretrial release and new violent criminal arrest while on pretrial release. In preparation to implement this new assessment, the concept of a bond data dashboard was launched as a way to collect, analyze and share trends in bond release/detention data with the goal to promote safe, equitable and efficient bond decision-making practices.



David Pastors
(Criminal Justice Planner)

The dashboard for the first full year was published in the spring of 2025 providing these insights of bond release and detention practices in this area:

- 1,364 defendants were administered the Public Safety Assessment in 2025.
- 49% of the defendants were from Augusta, 26% from Waynesboro and 25% from Staunton
- 70% of the hearings were held in the General District Court, 21% in JDR and 9% in Circuit
- 74% of the defendants were male and 26% female; 80% were White and 20% Black
- 58% of defendants were LOW risk for failing to appear
- 64% of defendants were HIGH risk for a new criminal arrest
- 16% of defendants had the HIGHEST presumptive risk level
- 2% of defendants were flagged for a new violent criminal arrest
- 92% of defendants appeared for their court hearing
- 81% of defendants successfully completed pretrial supervision
- 84% of defendants were arrest-free while under pretrial supervision



PRETRIAL SERVICES

- **Pretrial Investigations**-BRCS staff collects information each morning at the Middle River Regional Jail and the Rockbridge Regional Jail on defendants who have been arrested and detained in the previous 24 hours. Based on the information obtained, the Public Safety Assessment is generated to assist the Courts. During FY 2025, BRCS conducted **879** pretrial investigations.
- **Pretrial Supervision**-BRCS staff also provides 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 2025, there were 830 defendants placed on pretrial supervision.
- **Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness (PIMI)**-Judges and Magistrates are able to provide the PIMI acronym on bond referrals to help identify, for BRCS staff, individuals who may benefit from immediate mental health services. This is very beneficial to the officers receiving the cases to be able to begin addressing the mental health need immediately. If someone is in need of mental health services and are not connected to a provider, BRCS is able to partner with Valley Community Services Board's Rapid Diversion Program to rapidly divert clients into services.

830

Pretrial Placements

- 70% were Male, 30% Female
- 83% Caucasian, 16% African American and 1% Hispanic/Other

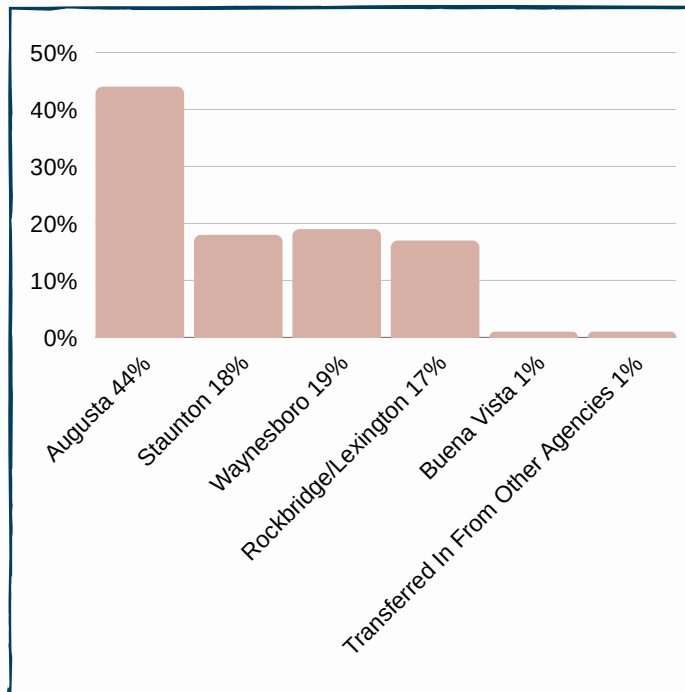


Samantha Honig
(Pretrial Program Manager)



Martin Schmid
(Senior Pretrial Officer)

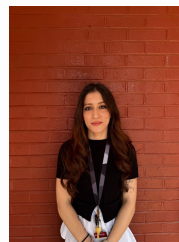
Pretrial Placements by Jurisdiction



Ailee Roberts-Harris
(Senior Pretrial Officer)



Tom Byerly
(Pretrial Officer)



Ashley Kalisch
(Pretrial Officer)



Grace Wisman
(Pretrial Officer)

FY 2025 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 the SAW Recovery Court Program, Therapeutic Docket and Averhealth Testing
- **Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro (CAPSAW)** for the Re-entry program
- **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services** for the Therapeutic Docket
- **Augusta Health** for in house therapy groups and individual counseling services
- Support from **Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista** for the Maury River Recovery Court
- **Participant Fees** which include supervision fees for probation clients and home electronic monitoring fees

REVENUE	1,578,661
DCJS Grant	1,053,227
SC Recovery Court Grant	98,005
SC Averhealth	20,770
SC Therapeutic Docket Grant	51,880
CAPSAW	16,540
Participant Fees	118,442
DBHDS	106,941
Maury River Recovery Court	91,360
Augusta Health	20,000
Interest	1,480
EXPENSES	1,544,079
Personnel	1,338,171
Training/Travel	6,712
Equipment	46,597
Supplies/Other (Rent)	152,599
Fund Balance	34,582

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 rehabilitative opportunities to pretrial defendants and post conviction individuals.

STAUNTON	WAYNESBORO	AUGUSTA	HIGHLAND	ROCKBRIDGE	LEXINGTON	BUENA VISTA
Duane Barron	Robyn Wilhelm	Donald Smith	Jerri Botkin	Spencer Suter	Tom Carroll	Wayne Handley
Chris Hartless	David Shaw	Linda Jones	Robert Kelly	Jared Moon	Angela Greene	Joshua Elrod
John Baber	David Ledbetter	Caleb Kramer		Derek Almarode		
Susan Richardson	Robert Tucker	Eric Young				
Leslie Beauregard		Chris Kincheloe				
Robin Mayer		Scott VanLear				