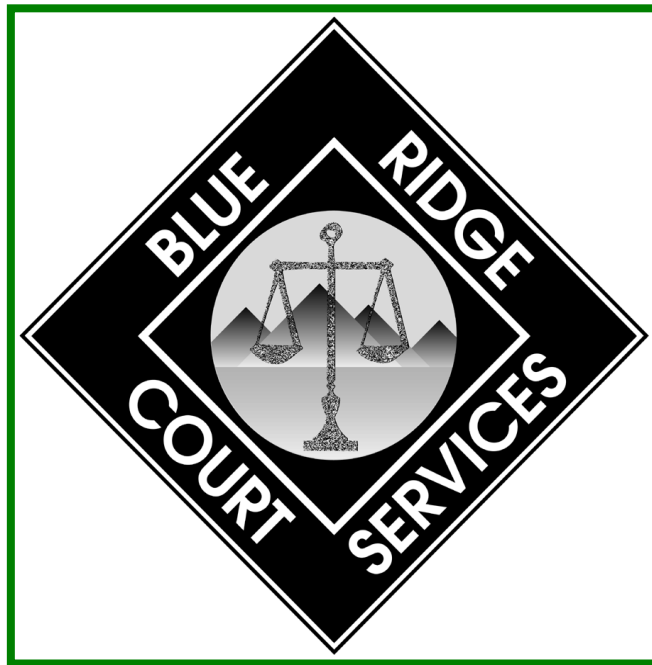


FY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

From the Director

2017 has been a productive year in local community corrections. Several of our long-term projects were implemented and new doors were opened for innovative approaches in criminal justice....

After two years of engagement in the NIC Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative, our local EBDM Policy Team narrowed their focus to four targeted areas to improve efficiencies and outcomes using research based methods. Subcommittees focused on improving our response to mental health, improving our response to domestic violence, developing diversion programs for low risk offenders and helping to reorganize the structure of the local juvenile justice system. Structured plans to improve practices in these four targeted areas have now been implemented. These EBDM efforts will continue indefinitely into the future and have been incorporated into the function of the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board.

With the appointment of Judge Chap Goodwin to the circuit court in January, the therapeutic docket program went through a brief period of transition. Rupen Shah was appointed to be the new general district court judge. His extensive experience in the Augusta County office of the Commonwealth Attorney helped to keep the therapeutic docket on course. The docket continues to grow and adapt to meet the needs of this challenging population.

With the support of a community grant from Augusta Health, Blue Ridge Court Services was able to expand access to mental health services to 147 clients. These clients participated in community based dialectical behavioral groups, moral reconation groups and individual therapy. As we begin a new year, we plan to add a second therapist to address individual therapy needs.

As a way to address probation violations and their impact on court dockets and jail admissions, BRCS has volunteered to be one of seven community corrections programs in Virginia to explore using the administrative response matrix (ARM). The ARM is a tool to guide probation officers in selecting specific incentives and sanctions to utilize when responding to significant supervision events. Research shows that an emphasis on meaningful rewards combined with graduated sanctions for probation violators can elicit and maintain positive behavioral change and improve client outcomes and reduce community costs. Our probation staff will participate in a series of trainings in the new year with the goal to have these ARM practices in place by the spring of 2018.

Our low point for the year came during the 2017 General Assembly session when we learned the funding which had been awarded to expand pretrial services to the Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista area was rescinded due to a \$1.5 Billion statewide budget shortfall. While this is a setback, BRCS will continue to pursue all available options to provide these services to the Rockbridge area.

At year's end we said goodbye to Staunton Commonwealth Attorney, Ray Robertson, who retired after almost five decades of public service. Ray served as our BRCJB chair and was a longtime supporter of the drug court and restorative justice program. We also bid farewell to Debbie Walker, our pretrial program manager, who retired after 22 years of service to our agency. Debbie rose through our ranks from being an administrative assistant to become a pretrial officer and then our pretrial program manager and led our agency through significant advances in pretrial services.

Each year court referrals to our agency continue to grow....for 2017 BRCS served more than 2,100 clients across our eight program areas. Much of our success is due to the collaborative efforts of our local criminal justice partners....we are fortunate to have a progressive criminal justice community of judges, prosecutors, magistrates and court personnel willing to explore new approaches to address long-standing criminal justice issues.

We are thankful for the guidance and support of the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board and the technical support we receive from the City of Staunton which serves as our fiscal agent and providing us with much of our "behind the scenes" support.

We look forward to working with all for another productive year in 2018!

Dave Pastors

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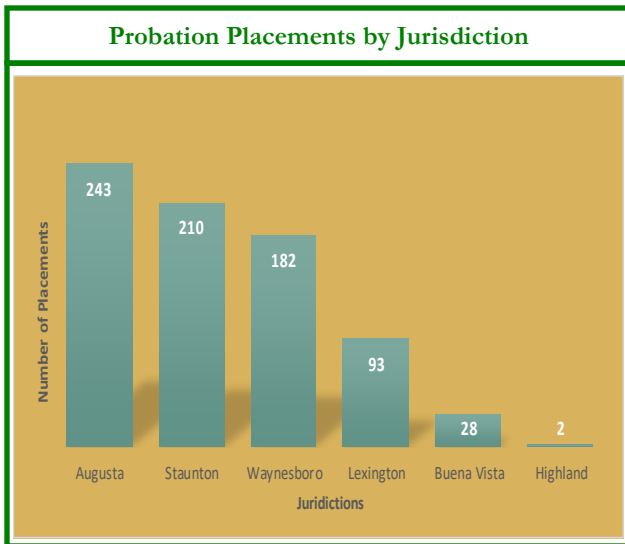


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125 South New Street
Staunton, VA 24401
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Probation Services

Blue Ridge Court Services was established in 1995 with the goal of providing probation services to the General District Courts of Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro. Over the past 22 years our catchment area has expanded to cover Highland County, Rockbridge County, Lexington and Buena Vista. Blue Ridge Court Services received 806 placements in FY 2017. The chart below represents the distribution of probations cases received by jurisdiction:



While the majority of placements arise from the District courts (81%) an increasing number were referred this year from the Circuit Courts (19%). These felon referrals are mainly first offender posses-

sion of illegal drug cases that are targeted for our entry level educational and treatment services. Probation clients referred to BRCS for 2017 completed a total of 4,265 hours of community service. At the minimum wage of \$7.25, these hours have a value \$30,920.

Likewise, probation clients paid \$24,462 in restitution to the victims of their crimes. This community service and restitution total more than \$55,000 being returned to the community.

Demographic analyses revealed the following trends in probation placements for FY 2017:

- 65% were male, 35% female.
- 82% were Caucasian, 16% African-American and 2% were Hispanic/Other.
- 20% had less than a high school diploma, 64% either graduated or had a GED certificate, 11% had some college & 5% were college graduates.
- 38% of probation placements were in the 18 to 25 age range. 29% were between 26 and 35 and 36% were 36 and older.
- 64% were assessed to be low risk
- 34% were assessed to be medium risk
- 2% were assessed to be high risk

BRCS probation clients enjoyed an 82% success rate (completing all of the court ordered requirements) in 2017.

For FY 2017 the average daily cost of probation services was \$346,518 / 186,223 supervision days = \$1.86 compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.47.

Re-entry Services

In the past decade there has been a national effort to increase assistance to those offenders being released from incarceration back into the community. Research shows that offenders benefitting from re-entry efforts focusing on employment, housing and connection to services prior to release from incarceration have significantly lower recidivism rates than those who don't.

Since 2012 BRCS has been fortunate to receive an annual grant from CAPSAW, the Community Action Partnership for Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro, to target those key elements of assistance for recently released offenders. BRCS staff present a monthly re-entry seminar with soon-to-be-released inmates at the Middle River Regional Jail. Working in partnership with the Re-entry Council of the Central Shenandoah Valley, the BRCS Offender Re-entry staff provides a wide range of re-entry services for recently released offenders from state, federal and local institutions.

The primary focus of re-entry efforts are in five areas:

- Employment Readiness Skills / Securing a Job
- Securing emergency and permanent housing

- Accessing Food / Clothing / Transportation
- Accessing Community Services for training/counseling
- Assisting in obtaining photo identification and birth certificates

For 2017 our re-entry staff worked with 221 clients seeking a broad range of services. At year's end:

- 120 recently released clients participated in the employment readiness skills sessions
- 114 clients received transportation assistance such as train tickets, bus tickets and local bus and trolley tokens
- 29 clients secured improved housing
- 23 clients received gainful employment
- 43 clients received photo identification and birth certificates to make them eligible for legal employment
- 18 clients received clothing and food assistance
- 22 clients were referred to local community resources

Pretrial Services

The Blue Ridge Court Services Pretrial Services Program provides assistance to the Middle River Regional Jail and the local courts in managing the pretrial population in two ways:

I. Pretrial staff report to the Middle River Regional Jail each morning to interview those defendants who have been arrested and detained the previous 24 hours. Based on those interviews they prepare a pretrial investigation report and the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) to assist judges in making a better informed bond decision. During FY 2017, BRCS pretrial staff performed a total of 1074 pretrial investigations yielding the following defendant risk profiles:

- Low Risk 7%
- Below Average Risk 13%
- Average Risk 24%
- Above Average Risk 24%
- High Risk 32%

II. BRCS pretrial staff also provide intensive supervision for pretrial defendants who the magistrates and judges release pending trial. Pretrial staff ensure that these defendants adhere to the conditions of bond imposed by judicial officers and that they appear in court on the appointed date of trial. These defendants are often required by the court to maintain employment, refrain from contact with the victim or be subject to random drug testing. For FY 2017, a total of 1005 pretrial defendants, 425 misdemeanants and 580 felons, were placed under pretrial supervision. Risk profiles for those pretrial defendants were:

- Low Risk 11%
- Below Average Risk 19%
- Average Risk 26%
- Above Average Risk 20%
- High Risk 24%

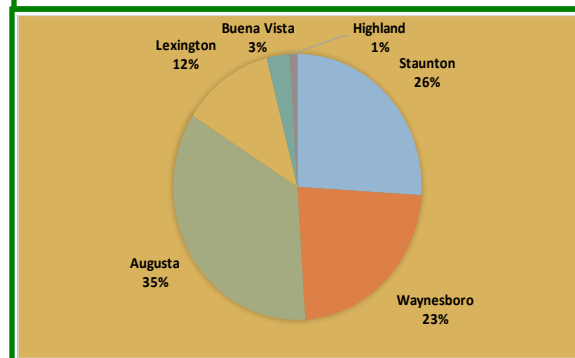
Pretrial defendants for 2017 enjoyed an 83% program success rate along with a 94% appearance rate and a 94 % public safety rate while under supervision.

The average daily cost of pretrial supervision for FY 2017 was \$264,865 / 105,404 supervision days = \$2.51 compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.47.

2017 Demographic studies indicate that our pretrial clients were:

- 71% Men and 29% Women
- 84% Caucasian, 14% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 24% had less than a high school diploma, 65% were high school graduates or had GED's and 11% had attained an undergraduate or graduate degree
- 23% were ages 18 to 25, 39% were ages 26 to 35 and 38% were 36 years or older

Source of Pretrial Placements by Locality



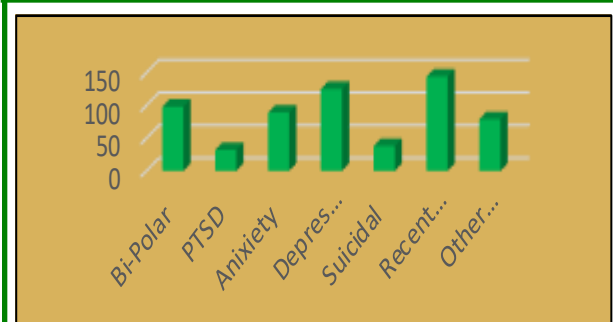
Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness

The Pretrial Initiative for Mental Illness (PIMI) is a collaborative effort between Blue Ridge Court Services, the Middle River Regional Jail and Valley Community Services Board designed to target recently arrested defendants at the Jail with significant mental health issues. Each defendant who is arrested and detained at the 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:

- I. Swiftly move appropriate pretrial defendants from jail into community-based therapeutic treatment
- II. Assist those defendants that remain incarcerated to obtain jail based mental health services through weekly therapeutic groups
- III. For those defendants released into the community, provide intensive pretrial supervision and weekly therapeutic groups and assessments for more intensive outpatient treatment

In 2017, a total of 1,276 defendants were administered the BJMHS. 315 (or 25%) qualified as having a serious mental illness and 152 of those were placed into the PIMI. These clients receive intensive supervision, attend weekly dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) groups and are assessed to be candidates for diversion into the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket Program.

Summary of Participant Diagnoses

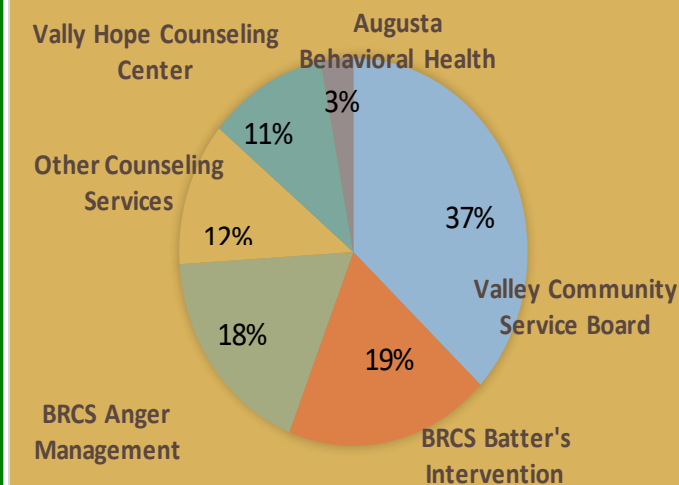


Domestic Violence Program

Defendants who have been charged with assault on a family member are often referred to the Blue Ridge Court Services Domestic Violence Program for assessment and possible treatment by the local Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. These individuals participate in an initial assessment to determine the appropriate level of treatment. The client's prior criminal history coupled with risk level as determined by the Modified Offender Screening Tool (MOST) and the Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI-R) play an important role in the level and duration of treatment. Treatment options include placement into anger management and batterer's intervention group therapy or individual therapy at one of six treatment providers in our community.

For FY 2017 a total of 191 domestic violence clients were referred to the domestic violence program. 21% were female and 79% male. Demographically, 76% were Caucasian, 21% African American and 3% Hispanic. This year the largest number of domestic violence cases were referred from the Augusta County JDR Court at 39%, followed by 28% from Staunton, 21% from Waynesboro, 11% from Rockbridge and 1% from Buena Vista. 84% of the domestic violence cases closed in 2017 successfully completed their court ordered requirements.

FY 2017 Domestic Violence Treatment Services Providers



Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket

The Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket Program has been in operation for three full years, having received the first referral on September 24, 2014. That first year we were learning and adapting as we grew, the second year we were in high gear, the third year we had a transition to a new judge and we are now catching our stride again. During the Winter of 2017, our founding docket judge, Chap Goodwin, was elevated to the circuit court and we transitioned to our current Judge Rupen Shah.

The focus of the therapeutic docket is misdemeanor offenders who have a diagnosed major mental illness which has played a role in their arrest. Potential therapeutic docket participants are identified early in the process by a mental health screening at the local jail. These participants are reviewed within days of their arrest and referred to the docket for formal evaluation. Those defendants who are eligible and agree to participate receive comprehensive mental health services during this twelve-month program. Successful participants, those who remain in treatment, remain on prescribed medicines and have no further contact with law enforcement are eligible for favorable disposition of their cases upon graduation.

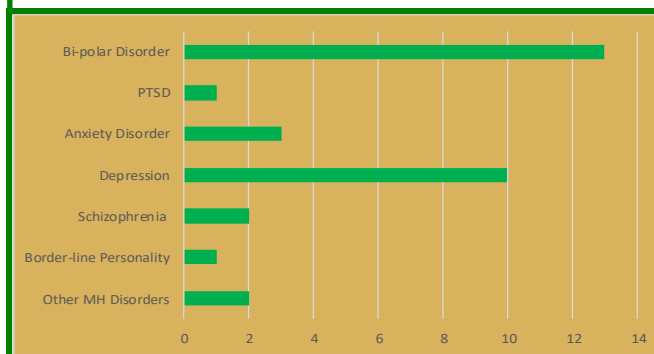
Since inception, we have had 124 referrals, 68 were not eligible or declined to participate, 14 have graduated, 31 have dropped out or been removed for non-compliance and the balance are active or pending review. Several of our graduates are pursuing certification to become peer support advocates and many of our program participants are making huge strides...starting new businesses, re-connecting to estranged family members, going back to college, etc. We continue to have strong support among our judges, prosecutors and public defenders. The Department of

Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has funded our docket through September 2018.

For FY 2017, 21 therapeutic dockets were held and 32 individuals were reviewed for induction. 8 therapeutic docket participants graduated. Demographic characteristics of the 2017 participants include the following:

- 19 Males vs 13 Females
- 13 from Staunton Courts
- 18 from Augusta County Courts
- 1 from Waynesboro Courts
- 29 Caucasians vs 3 African Americans
- 6 in the 18 to 25 age group
- 10 in the 26 to 35 age group
- 16 in the 36 and over age range

Participant Diagnoses - 2017



Home Electronic Monitoring

In FY 2017 43 (57%) of HEM placements were pretrial vs 32 (43%) post conviction. A significant portion of these pretrial cases involve offenses such as DUI-2nd and DUI-3rd where the courts are interested in closely monitoring the defendants to ensure no use of alcohol. Recent innovation in HEM technology has allowed our agency to provide 24/7 mobile alcohol monitoring through the use of a hand-held device the size of a cell phone which vibrates randomly up to six times daily requiring the participant to provide instant alcohol monitoring with simultaneous photographic and GPS verification.

For FY 2017 Blue Ridge Court Services received a total of 75 placements. Participation was higher between male and females..... 81% male and 19% female, 82% were Caucasian, 17% African American and 1% Hispanic. Of the 63 HEM cases closed in 2017, 51 (81%) of the participants successfully completed the program. Of the 12 (19%) who failed, 10 (16%) had technical violations such as illegal use of alcohol or drugs and 2 (3%) failed due to going outside of their design-

nated boundaries.

Multiple studies have shown that home electronic monitoring benefits both the offender and the community in that the participant has the opportunity to be under confinement in his or her own home with a possible option to work and support themselves and their families while at the same time paying the full cost of the monitoring.

Localities save also in having low-risk defendants and offenders being supervised in the community and saving jail bed space for higher risk individuals. For every day an offender is on HEM, each locality reduces their jail per diem costs. The current average per diem jail bed cost reported by the Virginia Compensation Board is \$85.47 per day.

The table below shows locality participation and the accompanying jail bed savings by using HEM during FY 2017.

Jail Bed Savings Utilizing HEM in FY 2017

	Staunton	Augusta County	Waynesboro	Rockbridge/Lexington	Buena Vista	Other Localities	Total
# of HEM	14	34	9	2	0	16	75
# of HEM Days	1,702	3,795	1,180	113	0	2,060	8,850
Jail Savings @ \$85.47/ day	\$145,470	\$324,358	\$100,855	\$9,658	0	\$176,067	\$756,410

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Drug Court

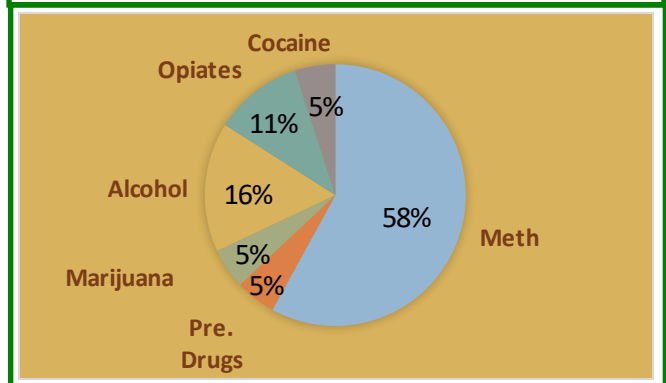
The Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro drug court focuses on defendants who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addiction to alcohol or illegal substances. Drug court participants are closely monitored by their probation officer, their therapist and return weekly before the drug court judge to report on their progress. Through the effective use of incentives and sanctions, this multi-disciplinary approach has proven to be quite effective in reducing recidivism among this population.

Since the drug court was established in July 2002, a total of 158 individuals have participated in the program and there have been 74 graduates. This is a rigorous program as evidenced by the retention rate for all participants (those who graduated vs. being unsuccessfully terminated) of 54.26%. At the close of 2017 we had 29 active drug court participants. The profiles for our 2017 inductees include 12 females and 7 males, an average age of 32.07 years, an average education of 11.89 years. Eight participants were referred from Staunton, six from Waynesboro and five from Augusta County.

Quarterly recidivism studies are conducted to ascertain new arrests or convictions within two years of graduation. At the end of 2017 the recidivism study indicated that of our 74 graduates, 6% had new criminal convictions within two years of graduation and that 20% had been rearrested within two years.

With our original target of providing services to a minimum of 20 drug court clients, our drug court participation rate has steadily increased in recent years with our current average daily population approaching 30 participants. In terms of drugs of choice by drug court participants we continue to see methamphetamines as dominating the drug of choice followed by alcohol and opiates.

Drug of Choice
Drug Court Participants—2017



FY 2017 Finances

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

- The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for local probation and pretrial services
- The Virginia Supreme Court for the Drug Court
- The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) for the Therapeutic Docket
- Augusta Health for therapy groups and individual counseling services
- CAPSAW for the offender re-entry program
- Participant Fees - These include supervision fees for probation clients, home electronic monitoring fees and fees for the various treatment groups (anger management, batterer's intervention, substance abuse and shoplifters intervention) offered weekly in our office

FINANCIAL REPORT

- FY 2017 -

INCOME \$1,016,845

DCJS CCCA Grant	611,383
Drug Court Grant	90,000
Ther. Docket Grant	36,382
Augusta Health	16,750
CAPSAW	21,622
Participant Fees	240,683
Interest	25

EXPENSES \$965,630

Personnel	855,879
Supplies/Rent	104,352
Travel/Training	3,692
Equipment	1,707

FUND BALANCE \$51,215

Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board

The Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board was established on July 1, 1995 as the result of the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act. This 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 and discuss local issues and set policy relating to local criminal justice.

<u>Staunton</u>	<u>Waynesboro</u>	<u>Augusta</u>	<u>Highland</u>	<u>Rockbridge</u>	<u>Lexington</u>	<u>Buena Vista</u>
Peter Boatner	Don McCown	Tim Martin	Roberta Lambert	Spencer Suter	Mark Riley	TBA
Alex Caldwell	Joe Harris	Linda Jones	David Neil	John Higgins	Jared Moon	TBA
James Cooke	Bud Levin	Donald Smith	Humes Franklin			
Steve Rosenberg	Charles Ricketts	Miles Bobbitt				
Ray Robertson	David Ledbetter	Jack Lee				
Rupen Shah	Bob Tucker	Christa Pierpont				

Blue Ridge Court Services Staff

- FY 2017 -

David Pastors — Mr. Pastors became the Program Director in September, 1996. Dave is a graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in Psychology. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Jefferson Area Community Diversion Program in Charlottesville before coming to BRCS.

Debbie Walker — Ms. Walker joined Blue Ridge Court Services as an Administrative Court Services Officer in November, 1995. In the spring of 1997, she became a pretrial investigator and was promoted to coordinate our Pretrial Program in 2001. Debbie is a Cum Laude graduate of Mary Baldwin College.

Megan Roane — Ms. Roane graduated from Bridgewater College and began her career with BRCS in 1999 as a court services technician. Megan was promoted to be a local probation officer in 2002 and has provided probation services to the Waynesboro courts. In May 2015 she was promoted to be Assistant Director.

Tasha Harner— Ms. Harner provides probation services to the local Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. She joined BRCS as a court services technician in July 2005 and was promoted to be our domestic violence probation officer in May 2006. In 2015 she was promoted to be our BRCS Probation Manager. Tasha graduated from Bridgewater College with a BS in Psychology.

Sue Markley—Ms. Markley joined our staff in 2006 and was promoted to be our Drug Court Coordinator in 2014. She also supervises transfer-in clients. Sue is a graduate of Bluefield College with a BA degree in Human Resources and holds an MBA degree from Averett University.

Lynn Murphey—Ms. Murphey joined our staff in 2007 and is a graduate of James Madison University where she received her Bachelors and Masters Degree in Counseling. Lynn provides probation services to the Staunton courts.



Luther Hite— Mr. Hite came to Blue Ridge Court Services in January 2009. He had previously worked at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention center as a residential counselor. Luther is a 2008 graduate of Liberty University with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and provides probation services to the Rockbridge area courts.

Samantha Honig— Ms. Honig joined BRCS in August 2009 to expand our pretrial efforts in the Waynesboro Courts. Samantha is a 2004 graduate of the University of Richmond with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 2016 from the Johnson and Wales University. She provides pretrial services and HEM in Rockbridge and Waynesboro.

Martin Schmid - Mr. Schmid started as our court services technician in September 2009. He was promoted to be a pretrial officer specializing in mental health cases and our HEM Coordinator in 2012. He is a 1996 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS in Psychology and a BA in English.

Andrew Lightner — Mr. Lightner joined BRCS in 2013 as graduate of Liberty University with a BA in Criminal Justice. He supervises probation

cases in the Waynesboro courts, Drug Court and the BRCS Restorative Justice Program.

Diana Fetterer - Ms. Fetterer joined our pretrial staff in July 2015 and is the Coordinator of the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket Program. Diana is a graduate of Christopher Newport University with a BA in Sociology and a Masters Degree in Forensic Psychology from Marymount University.

Alayna Flory — Ms. Flory came to BRCS in 2016 first as an intern and then as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. Alayna now serves as our principal pretrial investigator. Alayna is a 2016 graduate of Bridgewater College with a BA degree in Sociology.

Wendy Dodge - Ms. Dodge joined our staff in 2017 as an experienced probation officer at District 12 Probation and Parole. She provides pretrial services to the Augusta County courts. She has a BA in Psychology from West Virginia University and a MS in Psychology from Angelo State University.

Julia Furgurson - Ms. Furgurson is a 2017 Graduate of James Madison University with a BA in Public Policy and a minor in Sociology. She is participating in our Post Baccalaureate Fellowship in Criminal Justice and serves as the coordinator of the BRCS Offender Re-entry Program where she assists recently released inmates in making a smooth transition back into the community.

Sean Gorman - Mr. Gorman is a 2017 graduate of Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania with a BA degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. Sean provides local probation services to the Augusta County Courts.