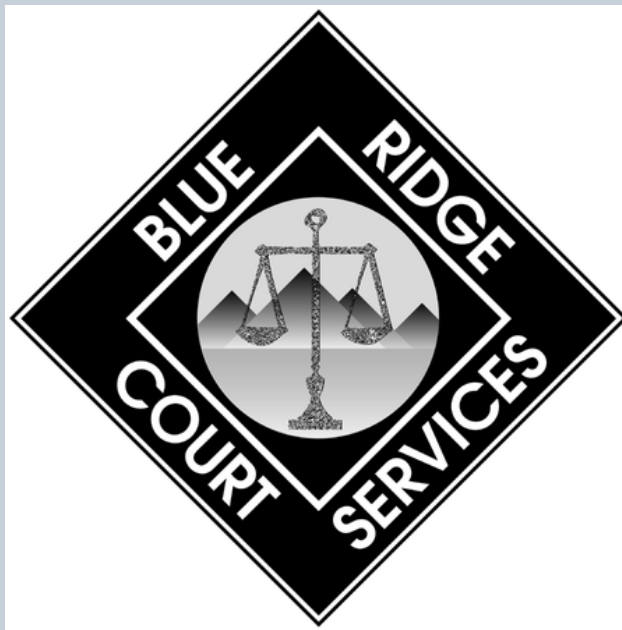


FY 2019

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 the Cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington and Buena Vista and the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland.

From the Director



TRANSITION

2019 has been a year of transition for Blue Ridge Court Services. David Pastors retired on March 18, 2019, after serving as the Director of BRCS for 23 years. I would like to thank Dave for his incredible leadership and dedication to this agency and our community. On March 19, 2019, I began my role as the Director of Blue Ridge Court Services. I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead an agency that I have been a part of since 1999. I have been extremely fortunate to have Dave as a mentor for so many years. By no means will I be able to fill his shoes, but I certainly look forward to the opportunity to serve this agency and the community to the best of my ability. I would like to thank everyone for their support and guidance as I have transitioned into my new position. The Staff of Blue Ridge Court Services have been amazing during this time of transition, and I am extremely blessed to be a part of this great team.

SUPPORT

Blue Ridge Court Services was able to serve over 2,300 individuals in 2019 due to the continued support from our local criminal justice partners.

The overwhelming guidance and support our agency receives from the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board, judges, magistrates, commonwealth attorneys, defense attorneys, jail staff and court personnel make our services possible. We have been able to increase our placements from 238 in our first year of 1995 to over 2300 in 2019 and expand the programs that our agency offers due to the progressiveness of our criminal justice community.

Also, I would like to thank the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent and providing us with much support. We are very grateful to be a part of such a wonderful entity.

The Staff of Blue Ridge Court Services looks forward to another successful year working with our wonderful partners in the criminal justice community.

Together we can do great things in 2020!

Megan Roane



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Blue Ridge Court Services Staff



Megan Roane - Ms. Roane became the Program Director in March, 2019. She began her career with BRCS in 1999 as a Court Services Technician. Megan was promoted to be a Probation Officer in 2002. In May 2015 she was promoted to be Assistant Director. Megan graduated from Bridgewater College with a BS in Sociology.



Tasha Harner - Ms. Harner joined BRCS in July 2005 as a Court Services Technician. Then, in May 2006 she was promoted to be our Domestic Violence Probation Officer. In 2015 Tasha was promoted to be our Probation Manager. Tasha graduated from Bridgewater College with a BS in Psychology.



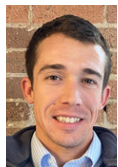
Samantha Honig - Ms. Honig joined the BRCS team in August 2009. She provides pretrial services to Waynesboro and Rockbridge. Samantha is a graduate of the University of Richmond with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the Johnson and Wales University.



Martin Schmid - Mr. Schmid began his career at BRCS as a Court Services Technician in September 2009. In 2012, he was promoted to be a Pretrial Officer specializing in mental health cases and our HEM Coordinator. Martin graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS in Psychology and a BA in English.



Luther Hite - Mr. Hite came to BRCS in January 2009. He provides probation services to Augusta County. Luther graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.



Andrew Lightner - Mr. Lightner joined BRCS in July 2013. He provides probation services to Augusta County. Andrew is a graduate of Liberty University with a BA in Criminal Justice.



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



Alayna Sensabaugh - Ms. Sensabaugh came to BRCS in January 2016 first as an intern and then as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. Alayna now provides pretrial services to Augusta County. Alayna is a graduate of Bridgewater College with a BA degree in Sociology.

Blue Ridge Court Services Staff



Wendy Dodge- Ms. Dodge joined our staff in June 2017. She serves as the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Drug Court Coordinator. Wendy has a BA in Psychology from West Virginia University and a MS in Psychology from Angelo State University.



Brittany Rohrer - Ms. Rohrer joined BRCS in May 2018 as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. Then, in April 2019 she was promoted to be a Probation Officer. She provides probation services to Staunton. Brittany graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Criminal Justice.



Haley Showalter - Ms. Showalter joined our staff in July 2018 as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. In July 2019 Haley was promoted to be a Probation Officer. Ms. Showalter provides both pretrial and probation services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista. Haley graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Justice Studies.



Melissa Wingo - Ms. Wingo came to BRCS in August 2018 as an intern. Melissa joined our staff in January 2019 to participate in the Post Baccalaureate Fellowship. She serves as our Re-entry Specialist. Melissa is a graduate of James Madison University with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work.



David T. Pastors - Mr. Pastors retired in March 2019 after serving as the Director of BRCS for 23 years. Then, in May 2019 Dave returned to BRCS as a Criminal Justice Planner. Dave is a graduate of the Univeristy of Virginia with a BA in Psychology.



Hannah Legarsky - Ms. Legarsky joined the BRCS team in December 2019. Hannah serves as our principal Pretrial Investigator. Hannah is a graduate of William Peace University with a BS in Criminal Justice.



Paul Lightner - Mr. Lightner joined the BRCS team in January 2020 as our Drug Court Technician. Paul is a graduate of William and Mary with a BS in Psychology and received a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Trinity Univeristy.

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

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

www.staunton.va.us/brcs

Probation Services

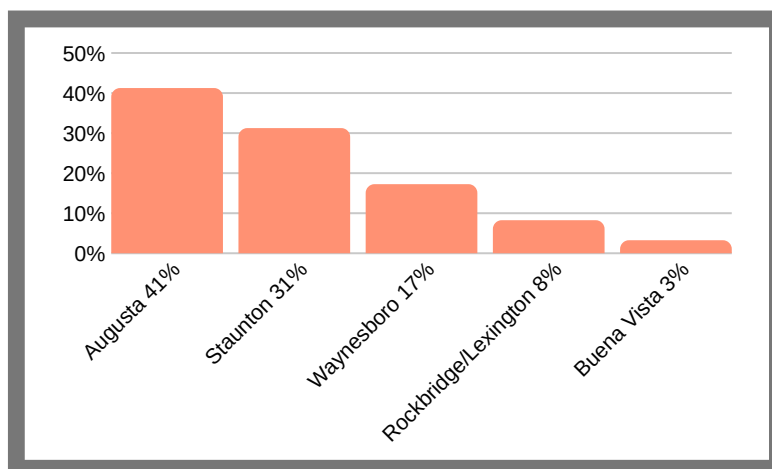
Local Probation Supervision - Local responsible offenders are referred by area courts to BRCS where they are assessed and directed to appropriate interventions in lieu of serving a jail sentence. Offenders with addiction issues are provided substance abuse screening, drug testing, evaluation and treatment.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

In FY 2019 Blue Ridge Court Services received 940 probation placements. There were 786 (84%) misdemeanor cases and 154 (16%) felony cases.

- 65% were male, 35% female
- 79% were Caucasian, 18% African American and 3% were Hispanic/Other
- Minimum Age=18, Average Age=33, Maximum Age=76
- 59% were employed, 39% Unemployed, 2% Unknown
- Probationers by Risk: 72% low risk, 21% medium risk, 6% high risk
- 71% success rate (completing all of the court ordered requirements)

In FY 2019 the average daily cost of probation services was \$343,953 / 233,713 supervision days = \$1.47, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



Re-entry Services

Re-entry Services - BRCS has provided re-entry services since 2012. BRCS has received an annual grant from CAPSAW, the Community Action Partnership for Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro, which has allowed our agency to assist in successfully transitioning individuals who have recently been released from incarceration back into the community. BRCS staff present a monthly re-entry seminar with soon-to-be-released inmates at the Middle River Regional Jail. The BRCS staff work in partnership with the Re-entry Council of the Central Shenandoah Valley to provide a wide range of re-entry services for recently released offenders.

BRCS staff assisted 200 re-entry clients in 2019:

- 77 clients were provided assistance in obtaining employment
- 120 clients received transportation assistance
- 72 self-care kits were distributed to clients
- 23 clients were assisted in developing a resume
- 6 clients participated in interview skills training
- 21 clients were assisted in obtaining their birth certificate
- 24 clients were assisted in obtaining safe temporary shelter
- 13 clients received reduced cost mental health care

Pretrial Services

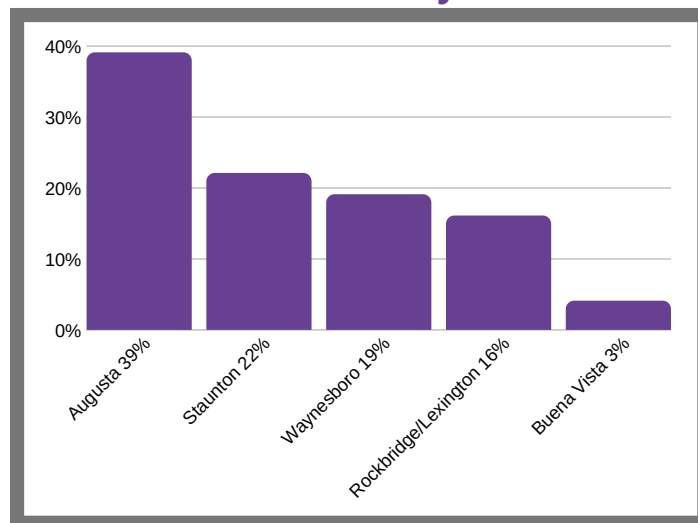
Pretrial Investigations -BRCS staff report to the Middle River Regional Jail each morning to interview the defendants who have been arrested and detained in the previous 24 hours. Then, based on those interviews, a pretrial investigation report and the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument is generated. This detailed report is provided to assist the Courts in making bond decisions. In FY 2019, BRCS staff conducted 1,219 pretrial investigations.

Pretrial Supervision-Magistrates and judges may place defendants on pretrial supervision with BRCS to ensure that they adhere to the conditions of bond and that they appear for their court appearance. In FY 2019 there were 874 pretrial defendants placed on pretrial supervision. There were 271 (31%) misdemeanor cases, 465(53%) felony cases and 121 (14%) misdemeanor/felony cases combined.

- 71% were male, 29% female
- 79% were Caucasian, 18% African American and 3% were Hispanic/Other
- Minimum Age=18, Average Age=35, Maximum Age=70
- 47% were employed, 46% Unemployed, 7% Unknown
- 79% program success rate, 93% appearance rate and a 86% public safety rate while on pretrial supervision.

The average daily cost of pretrial supervision for FY 2019 was \$274,689 / 107,917 supervision days = \$2.55, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Pretrial Placements by Jurisdiction



Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness

Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness (PIMI) - The PIMI program is a collaborative effort between Blue Ridge Court Services, the Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) and Valley Community Services Board. This initiative 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 project:

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

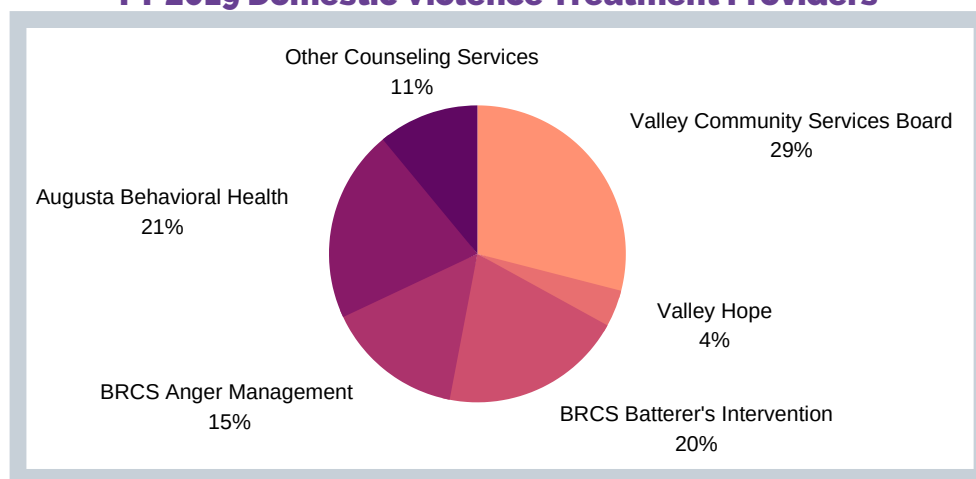
In 2019, a total of 1,050 individuals were administered the BJMHS. 374 qualified as having a serious mental illness and 284 were referred to PIMI. Many of these defendants are referred to the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket program.

Domestic Violence Program

Domestic Violence Program - There were 190 domestic violence placements referred to Blue Ridge Court Services in FY 2019. The Domestic Violence Program targets those offenders 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. The vast majority of clients participate in anger management or batterer's intervention groups.

- 163 (86%) were Male and 27 (14%) were Female
- 79% Caucasian, 19% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 51% of the placements were from Augusta County
- 25% of the placements were from Staunton
- 17% of the placements were from Waynesboro
- 7% of the placements were from Rockbridge/Lexington
- 80% of the domestic violence cases that were referred in FY 2019 successfully completed their court ordered obligations.

FY 2019 Domestic Violence Treatment Providers



Home Electronic Monitoring

Home Electronic Monitoring - Misdemeanor and felony offenders may be referred for home electronic monitoring (HEM) by the judges of the local court systems.

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

BRCS received a total of 44 HEM placements for FY 2019.

- 75% were male, 25% were female
- 70% were Caucasian, 23% African American and 7% Hispanic/Other
- 34 HEM cases were closed in FY 2019. 32 of 34 cases were closed as successful

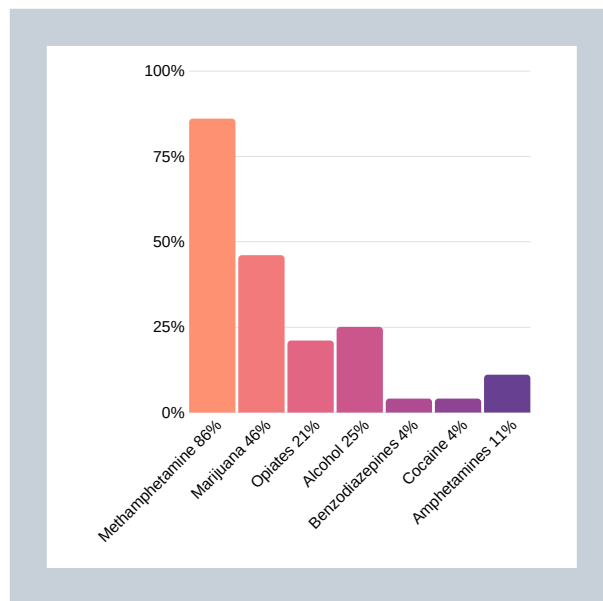
Jail Bed Savings Utilizing HEM in FY 2019

	Staunton	Augusta	Waynesboro	Rockbridge/Lexington	Buena Vista	Other	Total
# of HEM Clients	8	24	5	3	1	3	44
# of HEM Days	829	2,803	780	210	108	500	5,230
Jail Savings @ \$85.83/day	\$71,153	\$240,581	\$66,947	\$18,024	\$9,270	\$42,915	\$448,891

Drug Court

Drug Court - The mission of the Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Drug Court program is to reduce recidivism and drug use within the community by implementing a court-based program that includes supervision, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring for its participants with the goal of promoting a safe and healthy community. This program targets individuals who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addiction to alcohol or illegal substances. The Drug Court was established in July 2002 and there have been 187 participants and 91 graduates since inception. The profiles for our 2019 inductees include 75% male and 25% were female, an average age of 34.25 years along with an average education of 12.75 years. For FY 2019 a total of 11 individuals successfully completed and graduated from the Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Drug Court.

FY 2019 Participants, Drugs of Choice



Therapeutic Docket

Therapeutic Docket - The mission of the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket is to increase public safety and reduce the costs of mental illness related crime on society. This is accomplished by identifying and treating non-violent mentally ill defendants through an innovative, multi-disciplinary approach enabling these defendants to make positive lifestyle changes in order to save lives, preserve families and reduce recidivism. The Therapeutic Docket was founded in July 2014 to target those offenders whose crimes were influenced by their mental illness. This specialized docket combines prompt entry into mental health treatment, proactive medication review, case management by a mental health clinician, supervision by a specialized pretrial officer and bi-weekly Judicial reviews. Our Docket has had 20 graduates since inception. For FY 2019, 49 individuals were referred to the Therapeutic Docket. Of that total, 3 of those individuals didn't meet serious mental illness criteria and 11 weren't evaluated for various reasons. Of the 35 individuals that were evaluated and met criteria 10 had a diagnosis of depression, 7 bipolar, 7 schizophrenia, 4 schizoaffective disorder, 2 anxiety and 5 with PTSD.

Demographic characteristics of the 2019 Therapeutic Docket referrals include the following:

- 36 Males vs 13 Females
- 39 Caucasians, 8 African Americans and 2 Hispanic/Other
- 17 referrals from Staunton Courts
- 25 referrals from Augusta County Courts
- 7 referrals from Waynesboro Courts
- 8 individuals in the 18 to 25 age group
- 15 individuals in the 26-35 age group
- 26 in the 36 and over age range

Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board

The mission of the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board (BRCJB) 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. The BRCJB 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 who 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.

STAUNTON	WAYNESBORO	AUGUSTA	HIGHLAND	ROCKBRIDGE	LEXINGTON	BUENA VISTA
Peter Boatner	Don McCown	Donald Smith	Roberta Lamert	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				

FY 2019 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 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 Development Services** for the Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness.
- **Participant Fees** which include supervision fees for probation clients and home electronic monitoring fees.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2019

Income	995,975
DCJS CCCA Grant	618,642
Drug Court Grant	77,809
Therapeutic Docket Grant	21,202
Augusta Health	18,354
CAPSAW	20,500
Participant Fees	154,704
DBHDS (PIMI)	59,501
Interest	235
Reserve	25,028
Expenses	995,975
Personnel	894,596
Training/Travel	6,009
Equipment	23,646
Supplies/Other (Rent)	71,724
Fund Balance	- 0 -