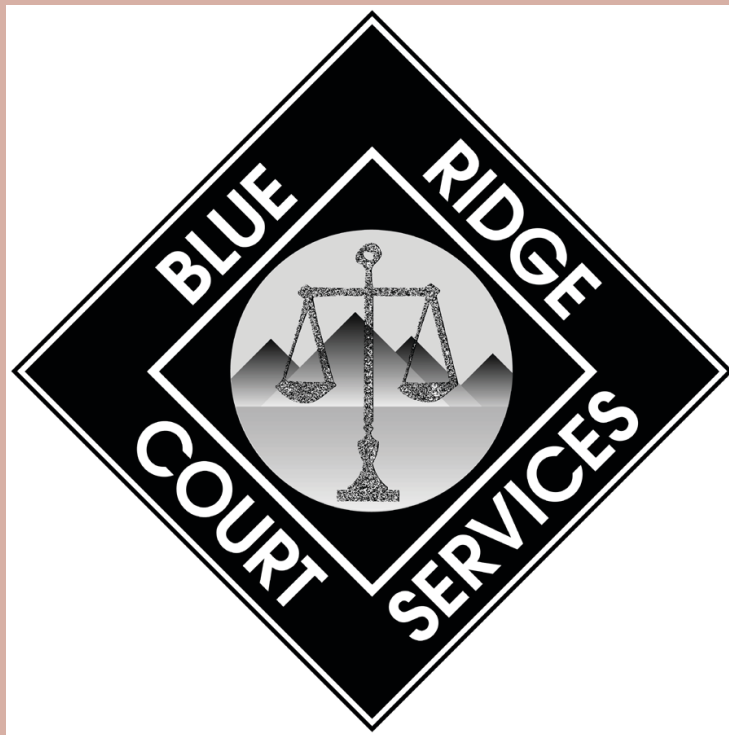


FY 2023

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

2023 has been a year full of innovation, collaboration and a lot of support. Blue Ridge Court Services has been extremely fortunate to partner with localities and stakeholders that are willing to come together to guide decision making and improve processes. We have continued our work in Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro as a pilot site for the Public Safety Assessment to maximize release, public safety and court appearance. Blue Ridge Court Services also adopted a state certified Domestic Violence Alternatives Program through Blue Ridge Counseling, and a Domestic Violence Compliance Docket was started. I am so grateful for the hard work of the BRCS staff, the collaborative efforts of our stakeholders and all of the support from the localities that we serve. I would also like to thank the the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent and for providing phenomenal leadership and services to our agency.

Megan Roane



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

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

770

PROBATION PLACEMENTS

645 (84%) misdemeanor cases

125 (16%) felony cases

75%

SUCCESS RATE FOR MISDEMEANORS

(Completing all of the court ordered requirements)

52%

SUCCESS RATE FOR FELONIES

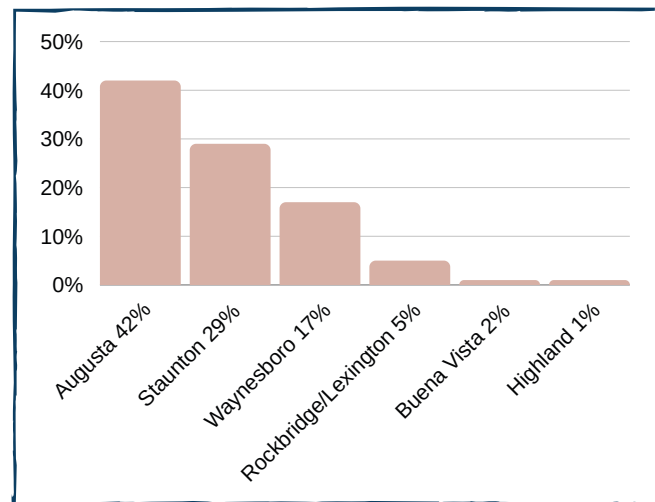
(Completing all of the court ordered requirements)

2023 Demographic Statistics for Probation Placements

- 63% were Male, 37% Female
- 80% Caucasian, 17% African American and 3% Hispanic/Other
- 53% were employed, 41% unemployed, 6% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 36, Maximum age was 82
- Probationers by Risk: 78% low risk, 27% medium risk, 2% high risk



Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



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. 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.

267

CLIENTS WERE REFERRED TO RE-ENTRY



Domestic Violence Services

In FY2023, BRCS received 165 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.

168

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLACEMENTS

- 81% Male, 19% Female
- 79%Caucasian, 17% African American and 4% Hispanic/Other



Treatment Providers

- 9% Domestic Violence Intervention
- 29% Domestic Violence Alternatives Program
- 42% Valley Community Services Board or other CSB
- 10% BRCS Therapy Group
- 10% Other Provider

Placements by Locality

- 48% from Augusta County
- 32% from Staunton
- 10% from Waynesboro
- 8% from Rockbridge/Lexington
- 1% from Buena Vista
- 1% from Highland

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. The Honorable Robin J. Mayer presides over the Therapeutic Docket, and Laura Arthur-Pedersen serves as the Therapeutic Docket Coordinator.

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THERAPEUTIC DOCKET INDUCTEES

- 4 Placements from Staunton
- 17 Placements from Augusta
- 7 Placements from Waynesboro

11

GRADUATES

65

THERAPEUTIC DOCKET REFERRALS

- 13 Referrals from Commonwealth Attorneys
- 16 Referrals from Public Defenders
- 4 Referrals from Defense Attorneys
- 2 Referrals from Judges
- 11 Referrals from Blue Ridge Court Services
- 19 Referrals were a Joint Agreement



Demographic Statistics-Therapeutic Docket Inductees

- 15 Males and 11 Females
- 21 Caucasians, 5 African Americans and 0 Hispanic/Other
- 3 participants were in the 18 to 25 age group
- 16 participant was in the 26 to 35 age group
- 7 participants were in the 36 and over age range

Pretrial Services

- Pretrial Investigations-BRCS staff conducts interviews 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 those interviews, a pretrial investigation report and the Virginia Pretrial Assessment Instrument is generated to assist the Courts in making bond decisions. During FY 2023, BRCS conducted **1,190** 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 2023, there were **879** defendants placed on pretrial supervision.

879

PRETRIAL PLACEMENTS

88%

SUCCESS RATE

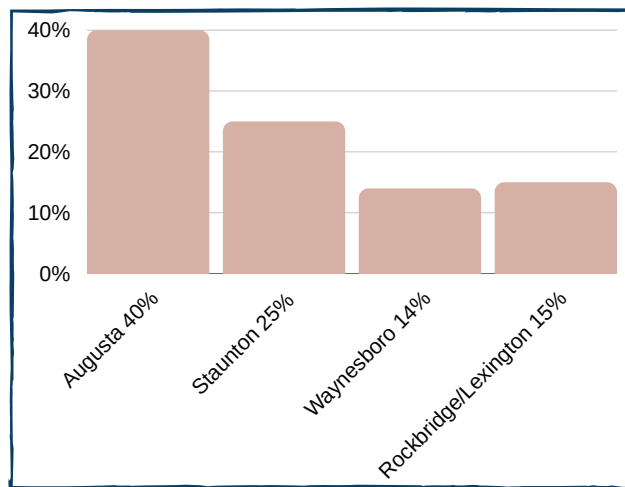
97% Appearance Rate
92% Arrest Free Rate



Demographic Statistics-Pretrial Placements

- 73% were male, 27% female
- 80% Caucasian, 18% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 47% were employed, 48% unemployed, 5% Unknown
- Minimum age was 18, Average age was 36, Maximum age was 80

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.



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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. The Honorable Paul A. Dryer presides over our Drug Court, and Wendy Dodge serves as the Drug Court Coordinator.

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DRUG COURT INDUCTEES

- 10 Placements from Staunton
- 6 Placements from Augusta County
- 2 Placements from Waynesboro
- 12 Males and 6 Females
- 16 Caucasians and 2 African Americans

3

GRADUATES



31

PARTICIPANTS IN FY23

Drug Use of Drug Court Clients on Supervision

- Methamphetamine 24
- Marijuana 16
- Opioids 5
- Alcohol 5
- Benzodiazepines 1

Criminal Offenses of Drug Court Clients on Supervision

- Drug/Alcohol Related Crime 31
- Crimes Against Property 4
- Crimes Against a Person 2
- Financial Crimes 7
- Other 5

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.

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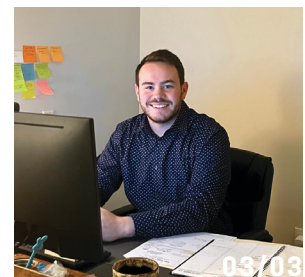
HEM PLACEMENTS

Demographic Statistics-HEM Placements

- 76 Males
- 16 Females
- 70 Caucasians
- 21 African Americans
- 1 Hispanic/Other

LOCALITY PARTICIPATION AND JAIL BED SAVINGS AT 107.09/DAY

- 17 HEM Placements from Staunton for a total of 1,186 days on HEM=\$127,008
- 52 HEM Placements from Augusta County for a total of 4,947 days on HEM=\$529,774
- 17 HEM Placements from Waynesboro for a total of 1,821 days on HEM=\$195,010
- 5 HEM Placements from Rockbridge/Lexington for a total of 785 days on HEM=\$84,065
- 1 HEM Placement from Buena Vista for a total of 40 days on HEM=\$4,283



FY 2023 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 for the Drug Court Program
- **Augusta Health** for in-house therapy groups and individual counseling services
- **Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro (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

REVENUE	1,294,609
DCJS Grant	845,754
Drug Court Grant	108,586
Augusta Health	15,000
CAPSAW	20,500
Participant Fees	134,254
DBHDS	105,277
City Bonus	18,025
Interest	525
Reserve	46,688
EXPENSES	1,294,609
Personnel	1,005,588
Training/Travel	9,063
Equipment	45,474
In House Groups/Counseling	31,075
Supplies/Other (Rent)	203,409
Fund Balance	-0-

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
Chris Hatless	David Shaw	Linda Jones	David Neal	Jared Moon	Angela Greene	Joshua Elrod
Jeff Gaines	Bud Levin	Caleb Kramer		Derek Almarode		
Susan Richardson	David Ledbetter	Eric Young				
Amanda Kaufman	Robert Tucker	Robin Mayer				
		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.



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



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.



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



Alayna Sensabaugh (Senior 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.



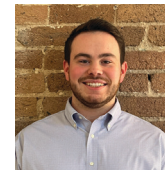
Hannah Legarsky (Probation/Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Legarsky began her career with BRCS in 2019. She is a graduate of William Peace University and has a Masters Degree from Liberty University.



Chelsea Henry (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Henry joined BRCS in October 2023. She is a graduate of Liberty University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Business Administration.



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 University.



Silas James (HEM Coordinator) - Mr. James joined BRCS in March 2023. He is a graduate of George Mason University.



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.



Jordan Dameron (Probation/Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Dameron began her career with BRCS in May 2022. She is a graduate of Radford University, and she provides probation and pretrial services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista.



Zachary Butcher (Probation Officer) - Mr. Butcher joined BRCS in May 2022. He is a graduate of James Madison University, and he provides probation services to the City of Waynesboro.



Ailee Roberts-Harr (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.



Cheri Wilhelm (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Wilhelm joined BRCS in August 2022. She is a graduate of Radford University. Ms. Wilhelm serves as the Mental Health Pretrial Officer.



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.



Allyssa Bostic (Pretrial Officer) - Ms. Bostic joined BRCS in July 2022. She is a graduate of the University of Lynchburg. Ms. Bostic provides pretrial services to Augusta County.



Laura Arthur-Pedersen (Therapeutic Docket Coordinator) - Ms. Arthur-Pedersen began her career with BRCS in August 2022. She is a graduate of James Madison University and has a Masters Degree from Loyola University of Maryland.



Erin Lyons (Post Baccalaureate Fellow) - Ms. Lyons joined BRCS in November 2023. She is a graduate of Liberty University. Ms. Lyons provides re-entry services to our clients.