



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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August 25, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Charniele Herring
Chair, House Courts of Justice

The Honorable Mark Sickles
Chair, Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee


The Honorable Janet D. Howell
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations

The Honorable Barry D. Knight
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable John Edwards
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Barbara Favola
Chair, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee

Michael Maul
Director, Department of Planning and Budget

FROM: 
Harold W. Clarke

SUBJECT: 2022 Legislative Report, Statewide Community Based Corrections System
Budget Bill Item 399.A.

Attached please find the FY 2022 legislative report on the Statewide Community Corrections system operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC). The report is authorized by Item 399.A of the Budget Bill and is due September 1st of each year. The report is to be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Courts of Justice; Health, Welfare and Institutions; and Appropriations Committees and the chairs of the Senate Judiciary; Rehabilitation and Social Services; and Finance and Appropriations Committees and to the Department of Planning and Budget. The report includes a description of the department's progress in implementing evidence-based practices in probation and parole districts, and its plan to continue expanding this initiative into additional districts.

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The report reflects that in the past year, the VADOC has continued to operate as a healing, rewarding and motivating high-performance organization focused on creating lasting public safety. For the sixth straight year in a row, the VADOC has led the nation with the lowest or second lowest recidivism rate, with a current rate of 22.3%. This is a testament to the agency's commitment to public safety by helping probationers and parolees in its care lead law abiding lives.

In addition to sizable accomplishments, the report reflects many challenges remain. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to require the VADOC to re-envision how all services are provided and establish a "new normal" going forward. Hiring and retaining staff has been difficult and the department is dealing with many vacancies. Although there are many challenges, including limited program resources and burgeoning probation officer caseloads, the agency is steadfast in its commitment to public safety goals.

cc: The Honorable Robert Mosier
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Virginia Department of Corrections



Statewide Community-Based Corrections System

Status Report FY2022

Harold W. Clarke, Director of Corrections

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Enabling Authority: Appropriation Act - Item 399 A.

Description: Annual status report on the Statewide Community-Based Corrections System for State-Responsible Offenders.

Purpose: By September 1 of each year, the Department of Corrections shall provide a status report on the Statewide Community-Based Corrections System for State-Responsible Offenders to the Chairs of the House Courts of Justice; Health, Welfare and Institutions; and Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the Senate Judiciary; Rehabilitation and Social Services; and Finance and Appropriations Committees and to the Department of Planning and Budget. The report shall include a description of the department's progress in implementing evidence-based practices in probation and parole districts, and its plan to continue expanding this initiative into additional districts. The section of the status report on evidence-based practices shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of these practices in reducing recidivism and how that effectiveness is measured.

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Introduction

During FY2022, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has continued to apply evidence-based practices towards its community corrections supervision strategies and programs. For the sixth straight year, VADOC leads the nation with having the lowest or second lowest recidivism rate, with a current recidivism rate of 22.3%. This is a testament to the agency's commitment to improve long-term public safety by successfully reintegrating released inmates to our communities and effectively supervising probationers and parolees through a culture of safety, respect, accountability, and ethical behavior.

Successes:

- During FY2022, the COVID-19 pandemic has required major operational changes for community corrections. VADOC set a high standard in complying with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) guidance, and adapted its supervision techniques to ensure the welfare of our staff and probationers/parolees remained at the forefront. While some services were suspended due to safety precautions, the Department has utilized many innovative ways to safely administer community supervision. This includes electronic methods of conducting case openings and contacts with probationers/parolees, using drive-by methods for home contacts, and providing programming and mental health consults through tele-therapy applications. Officers donned full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for GPS installation and when administering drug tests.
- Throughout the pandemic, the Department has continued to provide programmatic services at the Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) facilities. CCAP's offer a sentencing alternative to circuit courts for probationers who need intensive substance use disorder within the structure of a VADOC operated community residential facility. Outside employment opportunities are available to CCAP participants. In addition, CCAPs now offer continuation of buprenorphine as another option for Medication Assisted Treatment. As with all VADOC facilities, CDC guidance is followed to include social distancing, the wearing of masks, a high level of sanitation and COVID-19 testing as indicated.
- VADOC continues to make great strides towards reducing the number of homeless releases from prison. This includes collaborating on community housing placements for those individuals with complex health care needs through regular contact with local social services agencies, the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), local community services boards, local non-profit organizations, nursing homes and housing providers. The Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) and their Homeless Crisis Responses system, the Council of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH), also work to ensure homelessness is kept at a minimum. Still, even in those instances, there is a waitlist.
- VADOC's sex offender containment model of community supervision has operated effectively and provided intensive GPS supervision, polygraph examinations and treatment services to sex offenders, including the supervision of Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) conditional release cases from the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).
- VADOC utilizes evidence-based interventions with medium to high-risk probation cases by training and coaching staff on the effective use of core correctional practices using the EPICS II research based model. It has now become an established business practice in community corrections.
- VADOC continues to improve the consistency of its Probation and Parole Districts through the implementation of Community Operational Assessments conducted by teams of staff from other Probation and Parole Districts. The review examines policy compliance, probationer and parolee contacts, case-plan driven supervision and the use of evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism.
- VADOC continues to operate Learning Teams in all community corrections units whereby staff meet together in small groups twice per month and utilize dialogue practices to resolve concerns, advance

teamwork, create improved operations and better their intervention skills with probationers/parolees.

- Probationers just released from prison are provided with brief cognitive-behavioral peer support groups to follow up prison treatment. These groups provide guidance during the critical period immediately following release.
- VADOC continues to operate the Federal Fidelity Bonding Program for all justice-involved persons in Virginia to assist with employability. Expansion of bonding efforts include additional educational materials such as posters and videos that are available in all Probation and Parole Districts to better inform probationers/parolees about the Virginia Bonding Program.
- Chief Probation Officers actively participate as co-conveners of Local Reentry Councils in most localities in Virginia, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) or other non-profit organizations.
- VADOC continues to use technology to enhance interactions with those under supervision in the communities. These new tools have allowed for increased engagement with probationers despite the challenges of the pandemic. VADOC's Voice Verification Biometrics Unit for low-level supervision continues to operate successfully. The recidivism data shows that cases assessed as low risk can be supervised with minimal contact and that over-supervision can actually have an adverse reaction causing their crime rate to increase. In this supervision program, probationers/parolees are monitored through the use of biometric surveillance for voice, facial, and location verification, as well as routine automated interviews. Eight specialists are responsible for 11,000 cases, demonstrating the effective use of resources in this program.
- In conjunction with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and local community services boards, VADOC offers a piloted medically assisted treatment (MAT) program for individuals reentering the community after completing substance use disorder treatment (SUD) in prison or in a CCAP facility. The program operates in conjunction with counseling and provides Vivitrol to volunteering individuals to support their desistance from opiate use after release. The initial dose is provided within the correctional facility, with MAT services provided after release by the local community services boards.
- The State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funds a Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) initiative that has been launched within VADOC. The funding allows for individuals with lived experience in recovery, as well as the criminal justice system, to complete the 72 hour DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training and serve as a PRS. Peer Recovery Specialist groups support the ongoing needs of individuals with a diagnosis of opioid dependence, stimulant dependence or who have experienced an overdose.

Challenges:

In addition to sizable accomplishments, many challenges remain. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to require the Department to re-envision how all services are provided and establish a "new normal" going forward. The agency will continue to be innovative while putting the welfare of all probationers/parolees and staff as a first priority.

- Probation and Parole Districts continue to be confronted with large workloads, limiting the time and services that can be provided to probationers/parolees.
- Vacancies among Probation Officers is a critical issue that is reaching crisis proportions in some districts. Low compensation and heavy workloads make it difficult for VADOC to attract and retain employees in the overall economy where many other options are available.
- Too many people still enter the community from prison without housing. Housing is particularly challenging for those with sexual and violent offenses. There is also a critical housing need for individuals who need assisted living, nursing homes, and geriatric care.

- Many individuals are released to state probation supervision from local jails without receiving proper reentry preparation, medication or housing planning. Many community service boards do not provide mental health treatment to certain types of probationers/parolees, such as those convicted of sex offenses or murder, contributing to a higher public risk and recidivism rate for released persons with mental health needs.
- The rising number of cases placed on GPS and the increased number of individuals with an identified gang affiliation require more intensive probation supervision at a time when Probation and Parole Officer caseloads are already stretched.
- Substance use disorder continues to be a high treatment need among probationers/parolees and community resources for treatment, particularly residential treatment and medically assisted treatment, are extremely limited. Services in rural areas are even more limited than in metropolitan areas.
- In preparation for the Enhanced Earned Sentence Credit legislation that comes into effect on July 1, 2022, VADOC has planned for an influx of additional probationers. Meetings have been held between probation and parole chiefs and community resources to plan for the higher demand for services anticipated. VADOC has screened cases in advance to identify and prepare for any special needs. Prison staff have worked to place higher need inmates into programming to meet their needs. After the first two quarters of FY 2023, the rate of releases are expected to return to normal levels.

Moving Forward:

With its many successes and despite the challenges, VADOC is committed to creating lasting public safety by preparing probationers/parolees to reintegrate into law-abiding lives after their community supervision period is completed. The Department continues to see significant benefits from its organizational development and application of evidence-based business practices to create a learning organization with the culture to sustain both staff and probationer/parolee growth. By following evidence-based practices, VADOC will continue to:

- Identify probationer/parolee risks and needs and give priority to those who pose the greatest risk to public safety.
- Continue to update case plans that address identified risks and needs.
- Utilize research based services to respond to individual needs and reduce the risk of recidivism as resources allow.
- Quickly and appropriately respond to compliance and non-compliance with proportionate incentives and sanctions.
- Continue to evaluate our supervision practices and services and seek ways to improve our operations to achieve our goal of creating lasting public safety.

VADOC COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REFERRAL GUIDE

RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

Behavioral Correction Program	Youthful Offender Program						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available to all Courts as a sentencing option ▪ Enacted by the 2009 General Assembly ▪ Targets participants with substance use needs ▪ Evaluation completed by Probation Officer prior to sentencing ▪ Non-violent (no charges as defined by 17.1-805 unless it is a juvenile adjudication which is acceptable) ▪ No prior felony convictions under 18.2-248 or 18.2-248.1 ▪ Must be mentally and physically able to participate ▪ Judge imposes full sentence (min. of 3 years to serve) ▪ Upon receipt of a Court Order, VADOC processes participant directly to a Therapeutic Community Program for a minimum of 24 months ▪ Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indian Creek Correctional Center (men) › Virginia Correctional Center for Women ▪ At program completion, the Judge has the option of suspending the balance of the sentence and releasing to probation; no court review or hearing is required ▪ If individuals refuse to participate or need to be removed for behavior, VADOC will notify the Court and probation district; participants will be reassigned to another prison to serve the remainder of their sentence with no further review, hearing or evaluation required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available to all Courts as a sentencing option ▪ Code of Virginia 19.2-311 ▪ Targets participants who committed offense prior to age 21 ▪ No Class 1 Felony or assaultive misdemeanors ▪ Evaluation completed by Probation Officer prior to sentencing ▪ Mentally and physically able to participate ▪ Indeterminate commitment to VADOC for 4 years plus a suspended sentence ▪ Utilizes the Therapeutic Community structure ▪ Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indian Creek Correctional Center (men) › Virginia Correctional Center for Women ▪ If individual refuses to participate or is removed from the program, participant must be brought before the Court for a hearing; Judge may sentence as originally imposed, pronounce a reduced sentence, or impose such other terms and conditions of probation as appropriate ▪ Parole supervision for at least 1.5 years upon release ▪ Services Available: individualized reentry plans, education, Therapeutic Community, substance use education, cognitive and life skills, AA/NA, vocational training, anger management programs, parenting and family reintegration, resource/job fairs, discharge planning, medication assisted treatment (MAT) 						
Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP)	Community Residential Programs (CRP)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available to all Courts as sentencing option effective 5/1/17 ▪ Code of Virginia 53.1-67.9 and 19.2-316.4 (completion is a condition of probation; therefore must be placed on active supervision during program and for one year after completion per code; Order should sentence them to "complete CCAP" with no timeframe for completion specified) ▪ Sentencing to CCAP cannot be in addition to an active sentence to a state correctional facility where services may be duplicated ▪ Targets medium and high risk participants with intensive substance use or cognitive behavioral needs ▪ Current offense only must be nonviolent and not fall under 19.2-297.1 (prior record not considered for eligibility) ▪ Technical probation violators (as long as original offense is nonviolent) and some mental health needs may be eligible ▪ Evaluation completed by Probation Officer prior to sentencing; referrals screened by CCAP Referral Unit (CCAP RU) ▪ Pending court proceedings may deem the referred participant ineligible by the CCAP RU unless ordered by multiple jurisdictions ▪ Program duration is typically 22-48 weeks depending on needs of the participant ▪ Community Service is a part of the program and Court may grant credit/compensation for hours completed ▪ Services Available: individualized case plans, treatment motivation programs, education, substance use education, cognitive restructuring, vocational training, medication assisted treatment (MAT), Narcan kits <p>Locations:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Appalachian CCAP (men)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Harrisonburg CCAP (men)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brunswick CCAP (men)</td> <td>Stafford CCAP (men)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cold Springs CCAP (men)</td> <td>Chesterfield CCAP (women)</td> </tr> </table>	Appalachian CCAP (men)	Harrisonburg CCAP (men)	Brunswick CCAP (men)	Stafford CCAP (men)	Cold Springs CCAP (men)	Chesterfield CCAP (women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available statewide, but not as a sentencing option ▪ Code of Virginia 53.1-179 ▪ VADOC managed resource for supervisees who lack a stable residence or need transition from incarceration ▪ Must meet the facility criteria ▪ 90 day length of stay ▪ Services Available: food and shelter, basic life skills, substance use education, individual/group counseling, job placement, discharge planning
Appalachian CCAP (men)	Harrisonburg CCAP (men)						
Brunswick CCAP (men)	Stafford CCAP (men)						
Cold Springs CCAP (men)	Chesterfield CCAP (women)						

VADOC COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REFERRAL GUIDE

NON-RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

State Probation & Parole	Post Release Supervision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to all Courts as sentencing option statewide • Code of Virginia 53.1-145 • Individuals convicted of a felony with suspended sentences • Court ordered to participate in probation, parole, post release supervision or conditional pardon • Level of supervision based upon assessed risk and needs • Capacity to transfer supervision to other localities and states • Monitors special conditions ordered by the Court • Services: risk/needs assessment (COMPAS), referrals for treatment and services as needed, drug testing, home and field visits, various group program options, substance use screening and assessment, reentry services, resource directories in each jurisdiction, partnerships with community stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to all Courts as sentencing option • Code of Virginia 18.2-10, 19.2-295.2 • Effective January 1, 1995, post-release supervision can be ordered by the Court for a period of 6 months to 3 years for which they are ineligible for parole • Supervision provided by probation and Parole Officers upon release • Court must also impose a suspended term of confinement of at least 6 months in addition to post-release supervision of not less than 6 months and not more than 3 years • Violations of post release supervision are under jurisdiction of the Virginia Parole Board unless the person was sentenced under 19.2-295.2:1 regarding Failure to Register or Providing False Registry Information (18.2-472.1) which is handled by the Court
Drug Treatment Courts	Monitoring Through Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in approved jurisdictions only • Code of Virginia 18.2-254.1 • Targets non-violent participants with substance use disorder • Specialized dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision • Length of stay ranges from 12-24 months • Immediate sanctions and incentives as a result of behavior • Conducted in partnership with local community stakeholders • Services: intensive supervision, drug testing, substance use education and treatment, sanctions and incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VADOC managed program • Code of Virginia 53.1-131.2, 19.2-303, 19.2-295 • Voice recognition monitoring for low risk supervisees • Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Monitoring for high risk supervisees • Code of Virginia 19.2-295 requires any person convicted of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender on or after July 1, 2006 shall be subject to electronic monitoring • Participants are referred by the Supervising Officer for appropriate technology programs based upon risk and need
Reentry Programs	Mental Health Clinicians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VADOC managed programs • Code of Virginia 2.2-221.1, 53.1-32.2 • Targets participants committed to VADOC for supervision and monitoring • Reentry Senior Probation and Parole Officers implemented statewide • Staff visit various institutions and jails to educate and prepare participants for reentry • Services: intensive reentry program, cognitive programs/groups, assistance with obtaining identification & other documentation, bonding eligibility letter, resource fairs, workforce preparation, classes regarding successful supervision in the community, discharge planning, DMV IDs, medication assisted treatment (MAT), Narcan take home kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VADOC managed program • Regional and District Mental Health Clinicians are assigned to each Probation and Parole District and CCAP facility and provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Consultation and training for Probation Officers who supervise probationers with mental health issues ➢ Mental health screening to determine mental health needs and make supervision recommendations to VADOC staff ➢ Assistance in connecting probationers with treatment resources in the community ➢ Assistance in reentry planning and ensuring continuity of mental health services

Substance Use Disorder Services within Community Corrections (SUDS)

The Virginia Department of Corrections continues to prioritize substance use disorder services for those under supervision. With approximately 63,600 supervisees within the Commonwealth of Virginia, VADOC has made substance use disorder treatment a matter of greatest importance for those individuals suffering from the disease of addiction. With a budget totaling \$2,920,200, services are provided to the districts for evidence-based treatment such as outpatient counseling, intensive outpatient counseling, individual counseling services and evidence-based assessments. During FY2022, 29 Probation and Parole Districts received services through contracted providers; 13 Probation and Parole Districts utilized Memorandum of Agreements with their local Community Service Boards; and four Probation and Parole Districts used both private contractors and Memorandum of Agreements. This collaboration ensures that credentialed (licensed and certified) professionals are providing treatment that is evidence-based, client-centered, individualized, and timely. Treatment planning and referrals are provided as part of the continuum of care for each person receiving treatment services. Support services and technical assistance is provided to the districts through in-person and virtual trainings.

In addition to the services provided through the use of private contractors and community services boards, the Department offers Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services through the Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative (MATRI). This program allows inmates and probationers/parolees to receive intensive substance use disorder programming at the MATRI pilot sites and have the option to receive up to two long acting naltrexone injections prior to release. Additionally, the inmate/probationer/parolee receives additional pre-release and post-release support from a Recovery Support Navigator (RSN) who can provide support for up to twelve months post release. MAT is also offered in the form of continuing buprenorphine at the CCAPs. A probationer sentenced to CCAP can receive oral buprenorphine daily, in conjunction with intensive substance use disorder treatment, as the gold standard for treating opioid use disorder.

Peer support, which is considered a best practice in the field of substance use disorder, is also offered by VADOC. Since launching in 2019, Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) provide peer support groups to the Probation/Parole Districts and the Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) throughout the state. These services are offered to those supervisees who have a diagnosis of opioid or stimulant use disorders or a history of opioid overdose. Peer support is facilitated by those with lived experience either personally through their own disease or through the disease of a significant family member. VADOC encourages past justice-involved individuals to participate in the program as a vendor. The PRS program has been expanded to include hiring three part time PRS staff who are stationed at Probation and Parole Districts and provide regional, in person and virtual recovery support to those on community supervision. The part time PRS' and contract vendors at the Probation and Parole Districts/CCAPs throughout the Commonwealth are supervised by the Statewide Peer Recovery Specialist Coordinator.

The Chesapeake Probation and Parole Office offers an Intensive Opioid Recovery (IOR) program where probationers with opioid use disorder on community supervision are able to access specialized probation supervision. This program utilizes evidenced based cognitive behavioral treatment to provide support to these probationers with opioid use disorder. Everyone placed on supervision with Chesapeake Probation and Parole is assessed for the program within 24-48 hours and referrals for community based MAT are made from this assessment, usually within three days. The program is staffed by two Senior Probation Officers, one Probation Officer, and one Surveillance Officer who have advanced education and training in substance use disorders.

VADOC was awarded a technical assistance grant from the National Governors Association with emphasis on improving outcomes for individuals with opioid use disorder on community supervision. This multi-stakeholder collaboration resulted in improved communication with Community Services Boards, increased access to education specifically for Probation and Parole Officers with emphasis on medications for opioid use disorder, and increased access to peer recovery services throughout the state. These stakeholder collaborations and education for staff are ongoing.

Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP)

Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) are designed to offer Circuit Court judges an alternative to incarceration that provides intensive, residential treatment in a controlled setting. A multi-disciplinary steering committee developed the program components based on evidence-based principles that promote targeted interventions for identified criminogenic needs. The goal of the program is to provide a structured environment where participants acquire and practice the skills necessary to sustain positive behavioral changes and long-term recovery. This sentencing option is devised to reach the targeted population of non-violent felony defendants, either at initial sentencing and/or at probation revocation proceedings. The Parole Board is also authorized to refer parole and post-release violators to CCAP.

Before acceptance into the program, the Virginia Department of Corrections must determine eligibility and suitability based on an assessment of each supervisee's risks and needs which are central to participation in the CCAP. The program accepts supervisees who have moderate to high criminal recidivism risks with significant treatment needs. The research based acceptance criteria supports some individuals who are deemed low risk of recidivism to address their needs more effectively through community resources. On a case-by-case basis, supervisees assessed as low risk but who have significant treatment needs may be accepted if treatment resources are not available in the local community or if all other resources options have been exhausted.

The programming duration, which is approximately 22 - 48 weeks, is determined by the assessed needs of each participant and their progress in acquiring the critical skills needed for successful community reentry. The participants receive cognitive-behavioral and substance use disorder treatment, vocational and educational services as well as an opportunity to engage in community employment if eligible. Supervisees needing intensive substance use disorder treatment, which are the majority of referrals, are assigned to specialized CCAP facilities that provide such treatment. These facilities also offer innovative medication assisted treatment (MAT) through a pilot program to support their progress. In 2021, VADOC has initiated a buprenorphine pilot program within designated CCAP facilities for supervisees with opioid use disorder. Supervisees who are on Suboxone (or other oral buprenorphine products) in the community or jail can continue Suboxone treatment while in CCAP. Supervisees will continue to receive intensive substance use disorder services at these facilities in addition to MAT services. Furthermore, all CCAP facilities have the Medication Assisted Treatment Re-entry Initiative (MATRI) pilot program in place to initiate supervisees on naltrexone (Vivitrol) therapy prior to re-entry to the community as well as offer Narcan (Naloxone) take-home kits prior to release.

When programming for the CCAPs began in 2017 to include opiate and other substance use disorder treatment, the demand for this service created waiting lists for program entry. Contingent on the discretion of the sentencing court, the supervisee would spend this wait time incarcerated or in the community. In February 2020, Brunswick CCAP, a new male intensive site, opened to address the increased demand for these services. The Department currently has 816 CCAP beds with five sites for men and one site for women. CCAPs have continued to operate during the pandemic to provide these vital services to our community. Consequently, the current wait for CCAP entry has been reduced to less than one month.

CCAP Eligibility Criteria

The process of assignment to CCAP requires involvement of both the court and the Virginia Department of Corrections. Upon conviction, the judge may order an evaluation for participation in CCAP. Once all other pending charges in other jurisdictions have been satisfied, the Probation and Parole Officer will initiate an initial screening to determine whether the defendant is non-violent and does not have serious medical issues that require more care than the CCAP facility can provide. Once the initial eligibility is determined, the officer completes a COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment on the supervisee and forwards all information to VADOC CCAP Referral Unit. The CCAP Referral Unit determines suitability for program participation based on the supervisee's risk level and treatment needs and forwards the results back to the officer for communication with the referring judge. If the supervisee meets acceptance criteria, the court may sentence the supervisee to the program by suspending all or a portion of the sentence on the condition that the supervisee is placed on active supervised probation throughout program duration and for one (1) year after program (at least two years of probation).

CCAP operations are addressed by Code of Virginia §19.2-316.4, §53.1-67.9, §19.2-297.1. The items below govern eligibility criteria for evaluation and intake. The prospective candidate:

- Must be sentenced by Circuit Court and/or sanctioned by the Virginia Parole Board.
- Sentencing to CCAP cannot be in addition to an active sentence to a state correctional facility where services may be duplicated.
- Current offense must be non-violent felony as defined by §19.2-297.1, Code of Virginia.
- Must not have any incidents of self-injurious behavior or suicide attempts requiring outside medical intervention or homicidal ideation during the past 12 months.
- Must not have any medication changes within 30 days of referral or intake, as assessed on a case-by case basis.

General medical and mental health considerations include whether the prospective supervisee is physically stable, not requiring daily nursing care, and able to perform the activities of daily living and program requirements.

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II (EPICS) Summary for Research

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II (EPICS II) was developed by Christopher Lowencamp, Phd., based on research that officers utilizing core correctional practices can affect a supervisee's behavior promoting lasting public safety. EPICS II is a set of skills used in daily interactions with supervisees to develop rapport, increase motivation to change, and address skill deficits while holding the supervisee accountable. In 2013, the Virginia Department of Corrections began to implement these skills with our Probation Officers. Officers receive training and are assigned an EPICS coach to ensure they are able to perform the skills with fidelity. During the peer coaching process, the officer will review the skill steps and identify opportunities for skill use with their coach. Officers will then record themselves performing the skills. The Coach reviews these recordings to ensure the skill is performed with proficiency.

There are seven skills that officers are trained to utilize in EPICS II. Role Clarification establishes a supervision alliance while developing rapport. Behavioral Analysis leads probationers through a series of events utilizing the cognitive behavior chain. Probationers identify patterns of thinking errors, people, and emotions that contributed to their criminal behavior. There are two skills associated with this process: Explaining the Behavioral Analysis and Reviewing the Behavioral Analysis. Effective Use of Reinforcement emphasizes the benefits of prosocial behavior to increase motivation toward positive change. Effective Use of Disapproval emphasizes the consequences of negative behavior to increase motivation toward positive change. The Cognitive Model teaches a probationer how to examine their thinking around criminal behavior and develop replacement thoughts to support better future outcomes. Problem Solving teaches probationers how to approach a problem and develop an action plan for their chosen solution.

In 2018, we concluded the statewide implementation for EPICS II in all 43 Probation and Parole Districts. We are now in the sustainability phase where all new officers receive their training during basic Probation Officer training and must complete their EPICS II coaching process within the first twelve months of hire. Supervisors continue to work with officers to identify opportunities to use these skills after the coaching process is complete.

The Department has also invested in the use of these important skills with our Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPS) and our institutions. In the CCAPS, security, Probation Officers and treatment counselors receive EPICS II training and coaching. While the pandemic has presented many challenges for corrections, VADOC continued to train staff in the use of these vital skills by adapting to a virtual format for both training and coaching.

SOARING: Coaching Staff to Promote Use of Effective Skills

In partnership with George Mason University, the Virginia Department of Corrections utilizes Skills for Offender Assessment and Responsivity in New Goals & Effective Supervision (SOARING), a series of implementation strategies to increase the use of evidence-based practices (EBP's) in daily interactions between community Probation and Parole Officers with their supervisees. SOARING enhances critical Probation Officer skills while managers learn important coaching and feedback practices as well as motivational approaches. Research shows that the use of core correctional practices in officer interactions can significantly reduce recidivism.



SOARING includes three components: 1) eLearning where staff complete modules to ensure understanding of the purpose and the use of EBP's, 2) observations where supervisors observe staff interactions with their supervisees and provide feedback on skill use, and 3) Plan Do Study Act (PDSA), a quality improvement process where the districts review their data and develop plans to improve their outcomes.

The initiative began with three pilot sites in 2013: Fairfax, Portsmouth, and Roanoke. In 2015, we expanded to include nine additional sites: Culpeper, Hampton, Leesburg, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Richmond, Tazewell, and Virginia Beach. In 2019, we added nine more sites: Arlington, Ashland, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Franklin, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Warsaw, and Wytheville, for a total of 21 Probation Districts utilizing the SOARING model.

SOARING Coaches and staff have one cycle (four months) to complete all 6 eLearning modules: 1) Risk/Need Responsivity, 2) Engagement & Motivation, 3) Case Planning, 4) Problem Solving, 5) Desistance, and 6) Criminal Lifestyle. Each Module has three sections: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

Once eLearning is completed, staff will enter the observation phase. The observation cycles are as follows: January 1st through April 30th, May 1st to August 31st, and September 1st to December 31st. During each cycle, a SOARING coach will observe an officer conducting three to five officer/supervisee interactions. The following skills will be observed during the interactions: Working Relationship, Role Clarification, COMPAS Assessment, Reviewing the Behavioral Analysis, Case Planning, Case Plan-Driven Supervision, Effective Use of Reinforcement, Effective Use of Disapproval, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cognitive Model, and Problem Solving. Once the observation is complete and the supervisee has exited, the Coach will provide immediate feedback to the officer following a structured feedback model being sure to anchor their coaching. Coaches score each skill utilized during the interaction in an observational database. Data is provided to the districts after each cycle, which includes both district and officer level data to promote skill proficiency. EBP Managers assist district staff in understanding their data and selecting opportunities to utilize the PDSA Quality Improvement Process.

All three waves completed the eLearning phase with 100% compliance. All new staff begin eLearning as part of the Basic Skills classes and complete all modules within the first six months of hire. SOARING observations were suspended in March of 2020 due to the pandemic but resumed for all waves September 1, 2021 with modified requirements to address both COVID-19 and vacancy concerns.

Administrative Response Matrix (ARM)

The Virginia Department of Corrections is in the final phase of a five-year federal Bureau of Justice Administration *Innovations in Supervision* grant designed to evaluate the implementation and impact of VADOC created Administrative Response Matrix (ARM). The ARM is a module for Probation Officers to use when deciding on an appropriate sanction for probationer/parolee supervision violations or on incentives for good behavior. The module is designed to be an evidence-based tool that increases consistency across Probation and Parole Districts in responding to behaviors which lead to poor adjustment under supervision and increasing the ability to incentivize behaviors which result in supervision success. Because the ARM uses data-based recommendations, it helps to guard against implicit biases that may be inherent in any subjective, human decisions. Ten Probation/Parole Districts across the state currently use the ARM as part of this evaluation.

Focus groups, surveys, and data dashboards are being used to analyze training and implementation strategies with the goal of continuing to align VADOC with best practices in community supervision. The evaluation of the ARM provides an opportunity for VADOC to contribute to the body of evidence-based research available on a national level related to swift and certain responses to behavior under supervision. Due to its innovation and the need it fills in correctional agencies, the ARM project has received national attention, including articles published by the American Probation and Parole Association and the National Reentry Resource Center. It is an example of a successful government/corporate research partnership between the Virginia Department of Corrections, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and ICF International research partner. Final analysis will be available by the end of 2022.



Sex Offender Supervision

Sex offender supervision continues to employ an enhanced supervision model for all sex offenders in the Commonwealth. A team approach is used and the team is most often comprised of a Senior Probation and Parole Officer, a Sex Offender Supervision Probation and Parole Officer, and a Surveillance Officer. VADOC's Operating Procedure 735.3-Supervision of Sex Offenders in the Community directs the supervision of sex offenders in the community.

Experts in the field recommend a sex offender specialist-staffing ratio of 40 to 1 in order to appropriately address public safety needs. There were no additional positions allocated for FY2022 for sex offender supervision.

The Code of Virginia mandates that any offender convicted of Failure To Register on or after July 1, 2006 be placed on GPS (global positioning systems). The Department has experienced steady growth in this area and at the end of June had averaged 698 units.

In February 2013, the Department contracted with Dr. Robin Wilson to train specialists on the scoring and use of the STABLE-2007 and the ACUTE-2007. These two instruments are sex offender risk assessments designed to be used and scored by Community Supervision Officers. Approximately 200 officers were trained, four staff were trained as trainers, thus ensuring sustainability. Specialists began using these risk assessment tools in May 2013. Training of new specialists has continued. Practice sessions and scoring exercises have been conducted to ensure fidelity.

There are nine contracts statewide providing sex offender assessment and treatment and six vendors providing polygraph services. A total of \$1,666,600.00 was allocated for assessment, treatment, and polygraph in all districts. This figure does not incorporate the co-payment that was implemented for these services in FY2008.

The Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) civil commitment process continues to grow. The impact of this growth is felt by Community Corrections when these SVP's are granted conditional release. In FY2022 Probation and Parole Officers investigated 144 home plans for offenders being considered for conditional release, and of those on conditional release, 495 six month reports were submitted. The number currently being supervised under conditional release is 267. Of that number, 141 are "pure" conditional release, meaning that they have no criminal obligation. Also notable for FY2022 is the number of Emergency Custody Orders that were executed by Probation and Parole Officers. There were 77 Emergency Custody Orders obtained by Probation and Parole Officers. All of those taken into custody were for technical violations, meaning that these offenders were returned to custody before any re-offense. Five sexually violent predators absconded from supervision during this reporting period and all but one have been returned to custody.

There continues to be a clustering of sexually violent predators in certain jurisdictions. These offenders have a very difficult time securing housing. In limited areas of the Commonwealth, there are landlords who are willing to rent to these offenders. A few of these cities are Lynchburg, Roanoke, Richmond, and the Tidewater area. As stated above, these offenders require a higher level of supervision and the increasing numbers in the aforementioned jurisdictions impact resources in those districts. In these identified areas are a total of 11 Senior Sex Offender Supervision Specialist Officers and three Probation and Parole Officers dedicated to the monitoring of these SVP cases.

This population continues to be a high risk and high demand type of case by supervision standards. By statute, these cases are monitored by GPS and have demanding conditional release plans that involve collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and DBHDS. Sex offenders in general are among the most demanding cases under supervision.

The sex offender specialist staff must monitor offender behavior, verify and modify living arrangements as needed, work closely with sex offender treatment providers and polygraph examiners, and cope with victim trauma. There have been a number of legislative and procedural changes over the years that have resulted in increased demands on an officer's case management duties. These would include such things as GPS, SVP cases, and the Sex Offender Verification System (SOV). Training efforts are geared toward keeping the officer up-to-date on legislative changes, technology and evidence-based supervision and treatment practices. The supervision of sex offenders is constantly evolving and officers need to be exposed to the most current research and training.

Currently, there are about 4,627 adult probation and parole offenders who are required to register on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. The Virginia Department of Corrections continues to be proactive in their supervision and monitoring of this difficult population. Probation and Parole Officers and the Virginia State Police frequently collaborate in their efforts to ensure these offenders are properly registered with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry.

Supervising Sex Offenders

Large Population:

- About 36,878 persons on Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry.
- About 4,627 are under Probation and Parole supervision.

Supervision and Monitoring are Labor Intensive:

- All eligible sex offenders are registered at intake and prior to release from VADOC institutions.
- Victims who request notification about sex offenders leaving prison are notified.
- Eligible sex offender registrants are monitored to determine if they have registered.
- Registry requirements are posted in district public areas.
- The Virginia State Police are assisted in their investigations of alleged non-registrants.
- Global Positioning by Satellite (GPS) is underway. GPS requires active staff to follow-up on alerts. Voice recognition monitoring (Shadowtrack) is used for selected cases.
- All active sex offenders are initially assigned to Intensive Supervision with special Instructions imposed to address specific behaviors.

Treatment Can Reduce Risks:

Regional Peer Supervision groups including Community Corrections staff, qualified Sex Offender Treatment providers, and polygraph examiners meet periodically to discuss effective treatment, supervision, and monitoring practices.

Mental Health and Wellness Services

	2021 3 rd Quarter	2021 4 th Quarter	2022 1 st Quarter	2022 2 nd Quarter
Direct Mental Health Contacts				
• VADOC facility inmates (virtual/in person)	588/116	472/122	521/73	289/132
• Jail/court inmates/CCAP (virtual/in person)	1601/480	1347/499	1308/354	1184/644
Intensive Treatment Intervention (emergent cases)				
• VADOC facility inmates (virtual/in person)	23/15	36/21	27/10	20/16
• Jail or court inmates (virtual/in person)	50/45	71/38	123/24	44/46
Community Mental Health Codes Assigned	1825	1810	1998	1822
MH-9 (Release Summary) reviews	674	747	828	1041
Case Consultations				
Probation Officers	3551	3341	3815	3558
Institutional/Other VADOC staff	1117	956	1052	1217
Local & Regional Jail staff	202	192	161	234
Community Services Boards (CSBs)	494	564	514	581
Other (including state hospitals, private providers, CRPs, DJJ)	1135	1256	1628	1637

The Community MH&W staff has continued to provide a high level of services to probationers and consultation to Community Corrections staff in the Probation and Parole Districts and Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs). With the lessening of COVID-19 related restrictions in the latter part of FY2022, the Community MH&W staff has steadily increased the number of in person contacts with probationers, while continuing to utilize phone contacts effectively. Additionally, a Probation and Parole survey was conducted in April 2022 to capture data on the quality of services being provided. In addition to providing constructive feedback that can be used to guide strategic planning for FY2023, the overall takeaway from the survey was that the District Mental Health Clinicians (DMHCs) are succeeding in their mission and purpose. Across all three regions and all position levels (Chiefs, Deputies, Senior Parole Officers and Parole Officers), Probation and Parole staff had high percentages of agreement with the following statements:

- *I am comfortable making referrals and requesting consultation with the DMHC when necessary.*
- *The DMHC makes recommendations that are helpful in my supervision of probationers with mental health concerns.*
- *The DMHC provides training and informal information-sharing that has improved my knowledge of mental health issues that impact probationers.*

A steering committee was established in February 2022 to guide the continued development of Community MH&W practices and policies. Additionally, a committee of the DMHCs assigned to CCAPs was established to guide and support the unique processes required for these sites. The two committees starting meeting in alternating months (even months for the CMH&W Steering Committee, odd months for the MH&W CCAP Committee) which has already proven to be beneficial in improving communication and working toward goals for the entire staff.

The CCAPs were prominent on the Community MH&W agenda this year. The combination COVID-related restrictions and the legislative changes to technical violation sentencing guidelines that went into effect July 1, 2021 negatively impacted efforts to fill CCAP beds. Despite the low numbers, DMHCs assigned to the men's sites experienced an increase in the number of mental health referrals. A significant achievement in supporting mental health probationers was the implementation of pill lines at the men's CCAPs, enabling the addition of several Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) psychotropic medications to the Keep on Person (KOP) medications already on the formulary. DMHCs took a very active role in providing individual interventions to the probationers and working collaboratively with the statewide psychiatrist to ensure that the psychosocial support required for effective pharmacological intervention was provided to the CCAP participants. During FY2023, CCAP contacts will be counted separately in the monthly CQI data to reflect the increase in mental health needs at these sites.

Staffing was a significant challenge during this fiscal year. All three regions had simultaneous staff vacancies, the first time this has occurred since the positions started in 2017. Two wage DMHC positions were created for the Central and Eastern regions, but only the Central region position was successfully filled. The longtime Central Regional Mental Health Clinician retired as of June 1, 2022 and that position is in the process of being filled. Additionally, the Community MH&W experienced a significant emotional loss in June 2022 with the passing of a former Western region DMHC. Despite the challenges, DMHCs in the Eastern and Central regions provided tremendous assistance to the facility MH&W staff by completing release summaries to assist with the EESC-2 early releases.

Community Corrections Cognitive Counselors

In FY2019, the Virginia Department of Corrections allocated six Cognitive Counselor positions within Community Corrections at the Petersburg, Norfolk, Manassas, Chesterfield, Richmond, and Staunton Probation/Parole Districts. Cognitive-behavioral programming and approaches are highly correlated with recidivism reduction in corrections science and research. This type of programming is typically unavailable for supervisees in community-based settings such as Community Services Boards. Prior to these positions being funded, Probation/Parole Districts had no positions allocated for cognitive-behavioral programming.

Early implementation results showed that these positions had positive impacts on the overall adjustment of supervisees, in particular in the areas of program exposure, supervision success, and drug use reduction. During the first seventeen months of implementation:

- There were 1,188 total cognitive program participants in the districts with cognitive counselors vs. only 441 total participants in cognitive programs in all other districts across the state combined.
- In five of the six districts with these positions, cognitive program participants had higher successful supervision completion rates than their peers within the same districts.
- Drug tests taken on participants' before/during/after cognitive programming (cocaine, THC, opioids, stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens) showed reductions in drug use during and after programming compared to pre-programming rates.
 - 64% positivity rate pre-programming
 - 40% positivity rate during programming
 - 49% positivity rate post programming

Although the COVID-19 pandemic severely restricted the ability to facilitate and participate in programming for staff and supervisees, several of the counselors were able to transition to programming on virtual platforms, creating a model for replication. Expansion of these positions to additional Probation/Parole Districts across the state is now underway. These new positions have the potential to provide interventions to thousands of probationers using programs designed to reduce recidivism for those with demonstrated cognitive-behavioral needs.

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

As of June 30, 2022, there are 5,537 Virginia probationers and parolees transferred to other states via the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and 2,280 out-of-state cases are under supervision in Virginia. Virginia currently ranks among the top four states in volume of transferred cases.

From 1937 until 2002, the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Parolees and Probationers provided the sole statutory authority for regulating the transfer of adult parole and probation supervision across state boundaries.

In 1998, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Advisory Board directed its staff to revise the compact to include a modern administrative structure, provide for rule-making and rule-changing over time, development of a modern data collection and information sharing system among the states, and one that was adequately funded to carry out its tasks.

The new Compact was enacted in June 2002 with 35 member states. In 2004, Virginia joined the Compact when Governor Mark Warner signed the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) into law as approved by the General Assembly. All 50 states are members of this interstate agreement, as are the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The rules of the Compact have the force and effect of federal law and are enforceable in federal courts. Accordingly, the demands and liability for non-compliance are significant. The “Interstate Compact Bench Book for Judges and Court Personnel” is available on the ICAOS website at www.interstatecompact.org.

The Compact established a Commission composed of representatives from each state and a national office of full-time staff. The Interstate Commission oversees the day-to-day oversight of the compact between the states. It promulgates rules to achieve the goals of the compact, ensures an opportunity for input and timely notice to victims and to jurisdictions where defined inmates are authorized to travel or to relocate across state lines and established a system of uniform data collection, provides access to information on active cases by authorized criminal justice officials, and coordinates regular reporting of Compact activities to heads of state councils, state executive, judicial, and legislative branches and criminal justice administrators. The Commission monitors compliance with the rules governing interstate movement of those under supervision, initiates interventions to address and correct noncompliance, and coordinates training and education regarding Interstate Compact regulations.

The Compact also requires the establishment of a state council that includes members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, a representative of crime victims, and the Compact Administrator. Virginia’s Council members are James Parks, Director of Offender Management Services at Virginia Department of Corrections who serves as the Compact Administrator/Commissioner, Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, The Honorable Lee Harris, Jr., Judge, Henrico Circuit Court; and Shelly Shuman-Johnson, Director, Henrico Victim/Witness Program.

A web-based Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS) was introduced for use by all the member jurisdictions in 2008. This has enabled the computerized transfer of cases and supporting documentation. The Virginia Interstate Compact Office of the Virginia Department of Corrections continues to provide substantial oversight, case management, field training, and technical assistance related to the transfer of probationers and parolees into and out of Virginia.

Operations Extradition/Fugitive Services Unit

The Operations Extradition/Fugitive Services Unit is comprised of a Unit Head (Major), one Captain and five Lieutenants. This unit is responsible for locating and apprehending probationers/parolees who have absconded and/or are wanted by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

FY2022 accomplishments for this unit include:

- A total of 438 wanted persons were arrested, resulting in 1,279 cleared warrants.
- The Unit assisted local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the arrest of 121 fugitives, clearing 432 outstanding warrants in the process.
- The Unit served as a resource for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and provided investigative information about specific cases 1,441 times. The Unit continues to receive letters of commendation from law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth recognizing the assistance VADOC provided in the search and apprehension of wanted persons.
- The Unit successfully completed 133 out-of-state extraditions without incident.
- Over 24 case transfers were completed and documented in the Department's inmate management system, VACORIS.
- Members from the unit are also assigned to the United States Marshal Service Violent Fugitive Task Force in order to locate and apprehend additional dangerous fugitives. In FY2022, these Task Force Members assisted with 322 arrests of Violent Fugitives.
- During FY2022, this Unit targeted fugitives wanted by VADOC that have a history of violence against persons and are considered dangerous. Fugitives meeting this criteria were added to VADOC's Most Wanted website. As a result of this revised initiative, this Unit was responsible for the capture of 19 Most Wanted Fugitives.

Education Services

Education programs operate within the Division of Programs, Education, and Reentry of the Virginia Department of Corrections. Currently 333 positions are funded which includes support staff, academic teachers, career and technical education teachers, librarians, librarian assistants, principals, and program and administrative staff at headquarters. In addition, a number of part-time employees provide teaching and other services needed at a variety of locations.

Research on recidivism has found that education and employment are two major determinants in successful reentry and lowered recidivism. Educational services in both Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs help to prepare individuals for successful reentry into their communities. Academic programs are designed to prepare students to earn their High School Equivalency (HSE) credential, currently the General Educational Development (GED). CTE programs provide marketable skills and industry-based credentials in a wide variety of areas that are offered based on employment market data. There are post-secondary offerings in a number of major institutions, most funded through The Sunshine Lady Foundation, The Laughing Gull Foundation, and Pell Grant pilots.

Educational programs are offered statewide in:

- Community Corrections Alternative Programs
- Correctional Centers
- Correctional Field Units
- Two Probation and Parole Districts

Most Probation and Parole Districts refer probationers to community resources for educational needs. Education programs are geared toward preparing incarcerated persons to successfully rejoin their respective communities where both parties benefit.

Adult Programs/Services in Prison:

- Adult Basic Education (ABE)/General Educational Development (GED)
- Special Education
- Apprenticeship Programs
- Library Services
- Career and Technical Education
- Career Readiness Certificates
- Job/Employability Skills Training
- Plaza Communitarians

During the majority of FY of FY2022, in-person classroom instruction was impacted by COVID, which affected available data. Distance learning packets were distributed at prisons in an effort to continue educational services.

Currently, part-time ABE instructors serve Harrisonburg CCAP, Caroline CCAP, Cold Springs CCAP, Haynesville Work Center, James River Work Center, and Richmond Probation and Parole. A part-time instructor serves Brunswick CCAP teaching Computer Literacy and Introduction to Computers. A full-time ABE program is offered at Tazewell Probation and Parole and Appalachian CCAP (along with three Career and Technical programs).

The Virginia Department of Corrections continues to build community relationships to identify and connect probationers and parolees to resources that can assist them in completing their GED while under supervision. VADOC is also working to expand educational software programs that are focused on

enhancing student-learning experiences, reinforcing teacher-led instruction, and adapting lessons according to the student's individual capability. Utilizing more technology in the classroom has promoted higher-level thinking and increased students' digital literacy resulting in the attainment of desirable skills required for the 21st Century productive citizen.

Community Residential Programs (CRPs)

The VADOC's Community Residential Program (CRP) is available statewide for probationers and parolees. The CRP's are group homes or halfway houses used for the housing, treatment, or care of adult supervisees operated by VADOC with local providers.

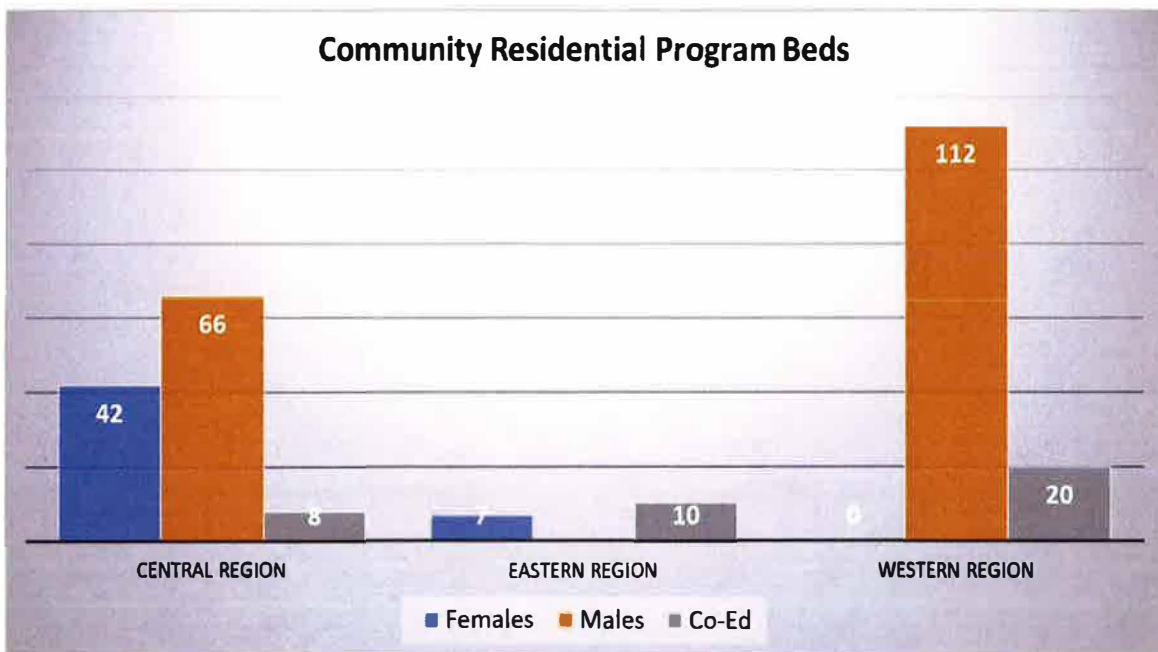
The Program is designed to provide community supervision programs to support Probationers/Parolees in their re-entry journeys. Program participants receive supervised housing for up to 90 days, an extension is also possible. Moving forward, in FY2023, all CRPs will be required to provide monthly data reports which outline all programs offered or referred to the participants, including life skills, financial assistance, assistance with transportation employment coaching, referrals for educational assistance, medical assistance, basic counseling, substance abuse education, job placement, discharge planning, group/individual counseling, medical health, mental health services and random urinalysis testing.

CRPs may be used for any probationer, parolee or post-release supervisee, or other person placed under the supervision (conditional release) or investigation of VADOC as needed for graduated release, program participation, or to resolve crisis housing situations.

All referrals for CRP bed utilization must come directly from VADOC personnel. The goal of the CRP is to provide a seamless transition to the community for those who lack a viable home plan.

The Virginia Department of Corrections contracts with 17 CRP vendors throughout the state. There are 265 beds in total throughout the state.

- Total beds Central Region: 116
- Total beds Eastern Region: 17
- Total beds Western Region: 132
- TOTAL BEDS STATE-WIDE: 265



The Programs typically have a 90-day stay; 4 supervisees could potentially fill one bed during the fiscal year.

The Virginia Department of Corrections CRP is supported by the Code of Virginia (COV) sections §53.1-10; §53.1-177; §53.1-178.

§53.1-178 of the COV are the legal basis for these standards since they direct VADOC to prescribe standards for the development, operation, and evaluation of programs and services.

Currently, CRP programs are underfunded, and too many people still enter the community from prison without housing. Housing is particularly challenging for those with sexual and violent offenses. There is also a critical housing need for releases who need assisted living, nursing home and geriatric care.

Re-entry Councils

Re-entry Councils bring together community service organizations and reentry stakeholders such as law enforcement, local human services, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups and the business community to coordinate support for criminal justice-involved individuals and families. The Councils work as a network to enhance services, remove barriers, strengthen collaboration, and support initiatives that foster family reintegration and community engagement. The Councils are a successful support system to help people involved in the criminal justice system engage with their local communities to reduce recidivism, enhance public safety and support a better way of life.

The Reentry Councils are not the sole responsibility of VADOC but are owned by each community. Reentry Councils were initially conceived as a joint effort facilitated by the Department of Social Services and VADOC. Probation Chiefs and local social services directors were to serve as co-chairs. Over time, and impacted by COVID, some councils have drifted into other models or have fallen off. The VADOC is currently working to help local communities re-invigorate the Councils and get the model back on track post COVID. Many councils continue to successfully meet, thrive and assist criminal-justice involved individuals. Below is a list of potential partners for local Reentry Councils:

Examples of Reentry Council partners include:

- Adult Education Providers
- Behavioral Health Providers (Mental Health and Substance Abuse)
- Child & Family Services
- Commonwealth Attorney Office
- Employment Service Agencies
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Financial Literacy and Support Programs
- Food Banks and Food Pantries
- Foster Care Services
- Goodwill
- Jails (Local & Regional)
- Justice Involved individuals
- Legal Resources
- Local Agencies
- Medicaid — Managed Care Organizations (MMCOs)
- Peer Support Groups
- Police Departments
- Post-Secondary Education (community colleges/universities)
- Probation and Parole Office (local, state, and federal)
- Public Health Department
- Public School System
- Recovery Support
- Salvation Army
- Senior Services
- Support Programs (housing, transportation, employment, financial, etc.)
- Temporary Staffing Agencies
- Veteran's Services
- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Providers
 - Virginia Economic Development Partnership
 - Workforce Development Board

Conclusion

During FY2022 the Virginia Department of Corrections faced many challenges due to COVID-19. In spite of these unusual circumstances, the agency's community corrections system has continued to provide excellent supervision and program services. VADOC's focus on evidence-based practices and continuous pursuit of safety practices produce critical outcomes. For the sixth year in a row, the Virginia Department of Corrections has led the nation with one of the lowest recidivism rates; it currently ranks as the second lowest with a rate of 22.3%. This rate translates into fewer crimes being committed, more probationers/parolees/supervisees living productive lives, and increased public safety for Virginia communities.

