

# **Virginia Department of Corrections**



## **Statewide Community-Based Corrections System**

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### **Status Report FY2023**

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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department 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:** 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 FY2023, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has continued to apply evidence-based practices towards its community corrections supervision strategies and programs. For the seventh straight year, VADOC leads the nation with having the lowest or second lowest recidivism rate, with a current recidivism rate of 20.6%. 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:

- Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) facilities 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.
- 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 consistent use of supervision practices in its Probation and Parole Districts through the implementation of Community Operational Vulnerability 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.
- The VADOC applied for and won the competitive State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award from the Southern Legislative Conference for its innovative and evidence based use of technology to supervise low level probationers in the community. 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.
- VADOC continues to receive the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant which Refunds Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at reentry and the Peer Recovery Specialist Initiative. In FY2023, The PRS initiative expanded to provide the 72-hour Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) PRS training to incarcerated inmates and probationers in CCAPs. Additionally, the SOR grant allowed for elevating two of the three regional community based PRS positions to full time from part time. These regional PRS' provide recovery support within Probation and Parole Districts and CCAPs. To qualify for PRS support, an individual must have a history of opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder or history of overdose. groups support the ongoing needs of individuals with a diagnosis of opioid dependence, stimulant dependence or who have experienced an overdose.
- For the second year in a row, VADOC was selected by the National Institute of Corrections and the Center for Public Policy to pilot implementation of the Gender-Responsive Policy and Practice Assessment-Community Corrections Version. This assessment assists Probation Districts and their community partners align policies, procedures, services, training, and data collection to evidence-based research on justice-involved women. The model includes the use of trained site coaches and includes opportunities for inclusion of justice-involved women at all levels of the project. The assessment was conducted in Alexandria, Abingdon, and Williamsburg, Virginia

### **Challenges:**

In addition to sizable accomplishments, VADOC continually evaluates its operations and seeks to improve. The agency operates as a learning organization that continually strives to improve its operations based on evidence-based practices. The VADOC will continue to be innovative towards the goal of lasting public safety.

- 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.
- 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.

### **Moving Forward:**

With its many successes and opportunities, 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 that sustains 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***

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

# VADOC COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REFERRAL GUIDE

## ***NON-RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS***

<b>State Probation &amp; Parole</b>	<b>Post Release Supervision</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available to all Courts as sentencing option statewide</li> <li>▪ Code of Virginia 53.1-145</li> <li>▪ Individuals convicted of a felony with suspended sentences.</li> <li>▪ Court ordered to participate in probation, parole, post release supervision or conditional pardon.</li> <li>▪ Level of supervision based upon assessed risk and needs.</li> <li>▪ Capacity to transfer supervision to other localities and states</li> <li>▪ Monitors special conditions ordered by the Court.</li> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available to all Courts as sentencing option</li> <li>▪ Code of Virginia 18.2-10, 19.2-295.2</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Supervision provided by probation and parole officers upon release.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Drug Treatment Courts</b>	<b>Monitoring Through Technology</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available in approved jurisdictions only</li> <li>▪ Code of Virginia 18.2-254.1</li> <li>▪ Targets non-violent participants with substance use disorder.</li> <li>▪ Specialized dockets within the existing structure of Virginia’s court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision.</li> <li>▪ Length of stay ranges from 12-24 months.</li> <li>▪ Immediate sanctions and incentives as a result of behavior</li> <li>▪ Conducted in partnership with local community stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ Services: intensive supervision, drug testing, substance use education and treatment, sanctions, and incentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DOC managed program</li> <li>▪ Code of Virginia 53.1-131.2, 19.2-303, 19.2-295</li> <li>▪ Voice recognition monitoring for low-risk supervisees</li> <li>▪ Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Monitoring for high-risk supervisees.</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ Participants are referred by the supervising officer for appropriate technology programs based upon risk and need.</li> </ul>
<b>Reentry Programs</b>	<b>Mental Health Clinicians</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DOC managed program</li> <li>▪ Code of Virginia 2.2-221.1, 53.1-32.2</li> <li>▪ Targets participants committed to the DOC for supervision and monitoring.</li> <li>▪ Reentry Senior Probation and Parole Officers implemented statewide.</li> <li>▪ Staff visit various institutions and jails to educate and prepare participants for reentry.</li> <li>▪ Services: intensive reentry program, cognitive programs/groups, assistance with obtaining identification and 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ VADOC managed program</li> <li>▪ Regional and District Mental Health Clinicians are assigned to Probation and Parole Districts and CCAP facilities and provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Consultation and training for Probation Officers who supervise probationers with mental health issues.</li> <li>➢ Mental health screening to determine mental health needs and make supervision recommendations to VADOC staff.</li> <li>➢ Assistance in connecting probationers with treatment resources in the community.</li> <li>➢ Assistance in reentry planning and ensuring continuity of mental health services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## **Substance Use Disorder Services within Community Corrections (SUDS)**

The VADOC continues to prioritize substance use disorder services for those under community supervision. With a budget totaling approximately \$2,900,000 in FY2023, services are provided to the districts for evidence-based treatment including outpatient counseling, intensive outpatient counseling, individual counseling services and evidence-based assessments; along with three levels of Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment services. These levels include Partial Hospitalization, Low-Intensity Residential and High-Intensity Residential. During FY2023, 33 Probation and Parole Districts received Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment services through contracted providers; six probation and parole districts utilized Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with their local Community Service Boards; and four Probation and Parole Districts used both private contractors and Memorandum of Agreements. The Virginia Department of Corrections also contracted with three private vendors to provide Residential Substance Use Disorder Services. Two Community Service Boards (CSB) also provided access to a Residential Level of Care, with a third CSB scheduled to provide the service starting 7/1/23. 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 are provided to the districts through in-person and virtual trainings. Both the private vendor contracts and MOAs language and expectations were being reviewed to be in line with current industry standard and best practices. Conversations were had with all Probation & Parole Districts regarding the transition from telehealth back to in-person treatment services.

Additionally, the VADOC continues to utilize Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through the Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative (MATRI). This program allows inmates and probationers to receive up to two free doses of injectable long-acting naltrexone prior to release from incarceration. The MATRI program is currently offered at fifteen pilot locations. New in FY2023, the VADOC moved to expand the continuing buprenorphine program to allow inmates transferring into VADOC with a valid prescription for buprenorphine, to continue their medication while incarcerated with VADOC. This includes all six CCAPs. The program, an expansion of the continued buprenorphine program at CCAPs in FY2021 and FY2022, converts inmates from oral buprenorphine or oral buprenorphine/naloxone to injectable long-acting buprenorphine, in addition to receiving evidenced based SUD programs and support. The MATRI and continuing buprenorphine programs continue to utilize the Recovery Support Navigator (RSN) position, which provides pre-release and post-release support and linkages to care. This position serves as the center of communication for an inmate or probationer once released as they connect various departments prior to release, and coordinate care post release. This includes coordinating with VADOC departments to include medical, pharmacy, treatment, programs, nursing, probation, and peer services; and stakeholders once released to include treatment providers, family, Probation and Parole, medical providers, and social services.

The VADOC continues to offer Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) services provided by contract PRS vendors and VADOC PRS staff. Fully funded by the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, the PRS initiative is designed for PRS' to provide support services either virtually or in person, to state-responsible probationers who are within Probation and Parole Districts and or Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) throughout the Commonwealth. In order to qualify for these services, probationers must have a history of opioid and or stimulant use disorders, and or a history of overdose. Peer support is facilitated by those with lived experience, in long term recovery, and often with a history of criminal justice involvement. Within the last year, VADOC obtained SOR grant funding to hire two full time regional PRS' and one part time regional PRS. These three positions are located within Probation and Parole offices. All VADOC PRS positions and vendors are supervised by the Statewide Peer Recovery Specialist Coordinator.

The Chesapeake Probation and Parole Office continues to offer the Intensive Opioid Recovery (IOR) program where probationers with opioid use disorder on community supervision can access specialized probation supervision. This program utilizes evidenced based cognitive behavioral programs, specialized probation supervision, and peer recovery supports 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 one Senior Probation and Parole Officer, two Probation Officers who have advanced education and training in substance use disorders. Additionally, the Chesapeake IOR program allows for one part time Peer Recovery Specialist who is stationed at the office and provides peer recovery support services to probationers in the program.

In FY2023, VADOC was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). This technical assistance (TA) grant, titled Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative (PRSSMI) supports programs, organizations, and jurisdictions interested in incorporating peer recovery support services (PRSS) into their portfolios of substance use disorder intervention and treatment strategies.

The purposes of PRSSMI are to:

- Promote peer-to-peer learning among organizations that are implementing PRSS in criminal justice settings.
- Disseminate evidence supported PRSS programming, promising approaches, and best practices.
- Enhance the capacity to develop PRSS as a component of organizations' diversion, alternatives to incarceration, or other criminal justice-focused programs.
- Improve ability to successfully implement a PRSS program, in collaboration with community partners.

## **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 VADOC must determine eligibility and suitability based on an assessment of each supervisee's risk and needs which are central to participation in the CCAP. The program accepts supervisees who have moderate to high criminal recidivism risk 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 resource 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 initiated a buprenorphine pilot program within designated CCAP facilities for supervisees with opioid use disorder. Supervisees who were on Suboxone (or other oral buprenorphine products) in the community or jail could continue treatment while in CCAP. In FY2023, this program expanded to all CCAP sites. In addition, VADOC now offers buprenorphine in injectable form primarily, with exceptions based on specific medical needs. 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.

The VADOC currently has 816 CCAP beds with five sites for men and one site for women. CCAPs have continued to operate with a less than one month wait for program entry, for these vital services for our community.

## CCAP Eligibility Criteria

The process of assignment to CCAP requires involvement of both the court and VADOC. Upon conviction, the judge may order an evaluation for participation in CCAP. 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.
- CCAP is designed to be an alternative sentencing option where the defendant should have minimal incarceration prior to entry.
- Individuals will be eligible for CCAP consideration/placement on any one case number for which CCAP is ordered by a Circuit Court with an active incarceration term of 12 months or less.
- Eligibility for CCAP will not be impacted if a sentence on a separate case number, within the same order or on additional orders, makes an individual state responsible (one year or more).
- If the Order does not clearly designate a specific case number for the CCAP obligation, and the order totals one year or more, they will be deemed ineligible for CCAP.
- Current offense must be a 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)**

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, VADOC began to implement these skills with our probation officers. Officers receive training and are assigned an EPICS coach to ensure they can 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.

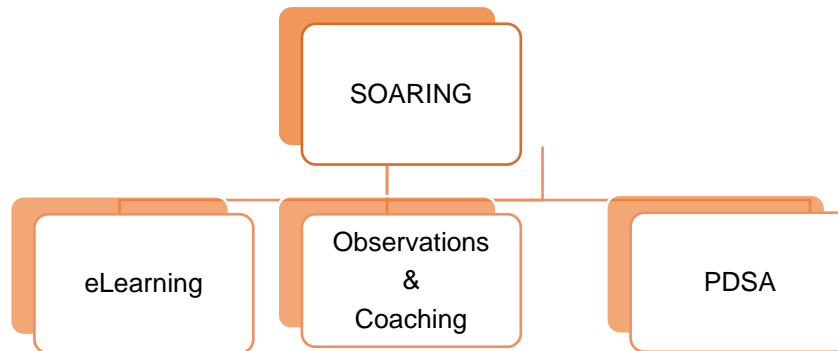
There are seven skills that officers are trained to utilize in EPICS II. Role clarification establishes a supervision alliance while developing rapport. Behavioral Analysis leads probationers through a series of events utilizing the cognitive behavior chain. Probationers identify patterns of thinking 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 VADOC 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. During the pandemic, VADOC continued to train staff in the use of these vital skills by adapting to a virtual format for both training and coaching. This training is now offered in a hybrid format to maximize learning for all participants.

# SOARING: Coaching Staff to Promote Use of Effective Skills

In partnership with George Mason University, VADOC 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 and are currently engaged in Observations. To ensure sustainability, all new staff begin eLearning as part of the Basic Skills classes and complete all modules within the first eight months of hire before starting observations.

## **Voice Verification Biometric Unit**

The Voice Verification Biometric Unit provides professional supervision services within the Department of Corrections. The VVBU provides a comprehensive system of supervision, services and sanctions to assist adult offenders in leading law-abiding lives, resulting in enhanced public safety. The VADOC applied for and won the competitive State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award from the Southern Legislative Conference for its innovative and evidence-based use of technology to supervise low level probationers in the community.

Primarily responsibilities of the unit are to monitor those probationers/parolees placed on supervision through the contracted Shadowtrack Company in conjunction with the VADOC Probation and Parole. The unit provides surveillance and investigation of assigned caseload of adult's court ordered to probation or parole supervision. Probationers and parolees who are assessed at a low level of supervision through a comprehensive assessment, are placed on the Shadowtrack program, which utilizes telephone services to facilitate a monthly check in procedure.

Currently the program is comprised of over 11,000 low level probationers/parolees assigned to surveillance specialists on the Voice Verification Biometric Unit. Utilizing the technology-based supervision service for low level probationers/parolees, serves a dual benefit. Firstly, as caseload numbers are increasing throughout the 43 probation and parole districts in Virginia, the unit takes on the responsibility of supervising the low-level probationers/parolees, thus decreasing the caseload numbers within the districts. This allows for purposeful and direct supervision of higher-level caseloads, in accordance with public safety. Secondly, allowing for an outlet to lower the caseloads within the districts, serves as a cost saving measure for the department.

During the recent pandemic, the VVBU has worked to introduce and implement a safer communication means to the districts through the Shadowtrack company. The Shadowview application has been designed to allow officers to connect with probationers/parolees placed on the Shadowtrack program, through video meetings, chat, text message and voice messages. By using state issued cell phones, the officers have access to every probationer/parolee assigned to their district currently assigned to Shadowtrack through a cell phone and can communicate through chat, text, voice messaging or video, which eliminates the need for face-to-face contact either in the probation and parole district or the community. In addition, the probationer/parolees phone location is obtained and documented within the Shadowtrack platform. All communication and or actions within the application are transfer to the VADOC database, CORIS, thus documenting and preserving notes for court and historic purposes.

The VVBU helped the Shadowtrack company in developing the drug testing notification system being used throughout the state in the probation and parole districts. By developing drug testing calendars for each individual district, templates are created identifying frequency of required drug tests per week/month of assigned probationers/parolees. The Shadowtrack system will either send notifications through text or phone calls advising of the required report date and time for said drug test directly to the probationer/parolee phone, or the probationer/parolee will be required to perform a daily check-in on their smart phone through the Shadowtrack app.

Based on last statistics provided by the VADOC research team, the VVBU has a 1.2% recidivism rate.

## **Administrative Response Matrix (ARM)**

The VADOC completed 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 violation or an incentive 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 implemented the ARM as part of this evaluation.

The VADOC focused on the use of best practices in implementation science to support use of the ARM in the 10 pilot sites. Milestones completed during the five-year implementation included development of training and resources to support fidelity in the use of the tool, leadership engagement, creation of “superusers” embedded at each location with specialized knowledge, field staff workgroups to enhance ARM features for specialized populations such as sex offenders and those with mental health issues, module and report improvements, and creation of an ARM utilization dashboard to provide implementation feedback to leadership within the pilot sites. During the ARM evaluation, VADOC was provided the opportunity to contribute to the body of evidence-based research available on a national level related to swift and certain responses to behavior under supervision. Presentations were made at national forums including the American Probation and Parole Association, the Corrections Technology Association, the Forum on Criminal Justice, the National Association of Sentencing Commissions, and the Council of State Governments.

Implementation challenges during the project included impacts from COVID on supervision activities, (including extension of this project for one year), high turnover rates of leadership, “zero tolerance” practices of certain court jurisdictions in tolerating drug relapse during supervision, and the overall impacts of probation reform legislation.

Outcomes from the evaluation includes conclusions that the ARM provided a high degree of structure and continuity in decision-making, support the officers in incentivizing positive behaviors consistent with treatment goals and compliance, and reduced the number of individuals with technical violations, particularly in the types that were compliance-driven supervision activities, such as failing to follow supervision instructions. ARM successfully increased VADOC capacity to capture valid data on officer use of incentives and sanctions. On average ARM groups spent slightly less time incarcerated on violations, resulting in costs savings to Virginia.

Based on the findings of the study, VADOC is planning to work towards statewide implementation of the ARM in 2024.



## **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 to appropriately address public safety needs. In FY2023 43 new Sex Offender Supervision Specialist positions were funded and allocated to districts, enabling districts to achieve the recommended specialist-staffing ratio.

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 718 units.

In February 2013, VADOC 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 six contracts statewide providing sex offender assessment and treatment and seven 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 FY2023 probation and parole Officers investigated 154 home plans for offenders being considered for conditional release, and of those on conditional release, 490 six-month reports were submitted. The number currently being supervised under conditional release is 255. Of that number, 132 are "pure" conditional release, meaning that they have no criminal obligation. Also notable for FY2023 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. Six sexually violent predators absconded from supervision during this reporting period and all but one has 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 these jurisdictions impact resources in those districts. In these identified areas are a total of 13 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 4,440 adult probation and parole offenders that are required to register on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. The VADOC 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 25,993 persons are on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry that is operated by the Virginia State Police.
- About 3,775 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**

The District Mental Health Clinicians (DMHCs) continue to cultivate and nurture relationships with community stakeholders who are vital to successful reentry efforts for probationers. On January 24, 2023, the VADOC Community Corrections staff partnered with Virginia Community Services Boards to hold a multi-agency Summit to discuss co-occurring mental health, substance abuse, and trauma issues for the criminal justice population. The Summit was hybrid event, held in-person at five sites linked virtually via Zoom across the state (Virginia Public Training Center (DJJ) in Hanover, George Mason University Mason Square Campus in Arlington, Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, and Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap. The Summit, entitled, “Building Bridges Co-Occurring Community Treatment Summit on Criminal Justice Populations: Recovery Through Connections” was designed to inspire hope for recovery, nurture professional collaboration, and enhance treatment for the mutual individuals served by these agencies. Featured speakers included: VADOC Director Harold Clarke; Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Robert Mosier; Ms. Tonier Cain, a world renowned Trauma-Informed Care expert and survivor; Dr. Stephen Loyd, expert in public health policy and addiction treatment and survivor of opioid addiction that was fictionalized in the book and limited Hulu series Dopesick; and Judge Robert MacDonald who was instrumental in the formation and operation of the Behavioral Health Court docket in Chesapeake General District Court. Following the speakers, participants had the opportunity to dialogue within their local community groups on the issues, challenges, and opportunities they faced locally, as well as policy, treatment, or collaboration changes that could be implemented. The Community MH&W staff is in the process of planning for the next multi-agency Summit, “Building Bridges Co-Occurring Community Treatment Summit: Partners in the Continuum of Care” scheduled for November 16, 2023, to continue momentum built by the inaugural Summit.

In March 2023, VADOC was selected nationally as one of ten Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Sites by the Council of State Governments (CSG). In this role, the Community MH&W Team will work closely with the CSG Justice Center to provide peer-to-peer learning and mentoring opportunities to programs nationwide. The focus will be mentoring other states on setting up MH&W services in community corrections, as well as learning best practices from other states to refine and enhance our VADOC policies and procedures. The Community MH&W Team continues to prioritize service to VADOC Probation and Parole Districts and the Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) and collaboration with community partners to improve the success of SR supervisees. These relationships have resulted in smoother transitions for inmates released from incarceration to community supervision, as well as prevented re-incarceration by steering the probationers towards treatment and resources instead of revocation.

## Mental Health and Wellness Services

	2022 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	2022 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	2023 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2023 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
<b>Direct Mental Health Contacts</b>				
• VADOC facility inmates (virtual/in person)	417/269	559/291	398/330	467/302
• Jail/court inmates (virtual/in person)	815/474	845/505	731/512	870/520
• CCAP Probationers (virtual/in person)	38/325	3/296	5/303	8/298
<b>Intensive Treatment Intervention (emergent cases)**</b>				
• VADOC facility inmates (virtual/in person)	29/37	30/14	33/31	168/105**
• Jail or court inmates (virtual/in person)	68/36	106/29	96/30	139/113**
• CCAP Probationers (virtual/in person)	1/2	0/5	5/3	4/14**
<b>Community Mental Health Codes Assigned</b>	2145	2606	2931	3488
<b>MH-9 (Release Summary) reviews</b>	1237	927	833	1068
<b>Case Consultations</b>				
• Probation Officers	3255	2847	3146	3733
• Institutional/Other VADOC staff	960	715	637	1379
• Local & Regional Jail staff	364	123	146	170
• Community Services Boards (CSBs)	346	310	403	511
• Other (state hospitals, private providers, CRPs, DJJ, Reentry Councils)	1553	1674	1750	1953

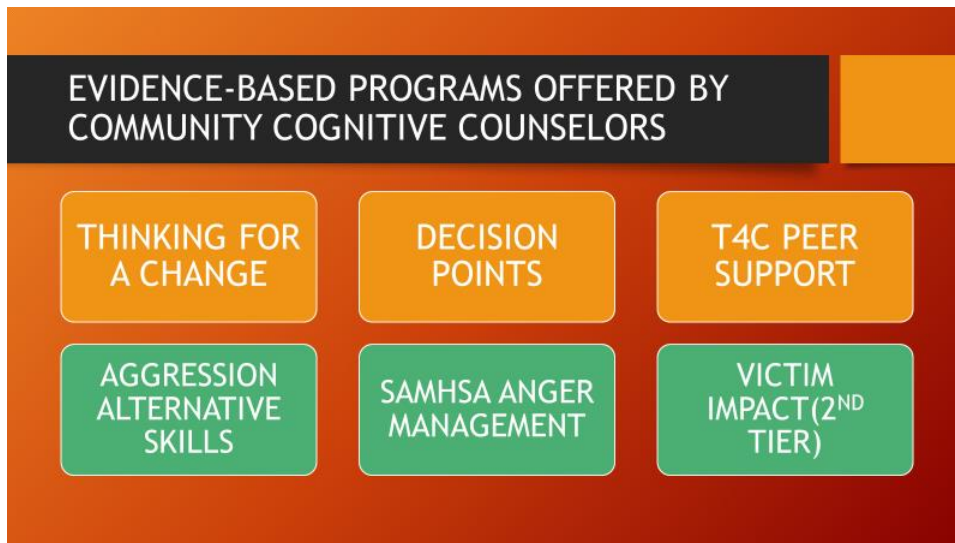
*\*\*Starting in the 2nd quarter of 2023, Intensive Treatment Interventions were re-defined to better reflect cases that are considered “intensive” on the basis of: requiring hospitalization or consideration of hospitalization; case management/assistance due to homelessness; time spent on case management or initial assessment exceeded one hour; required multiple meetings with the same probationer; emergent cases involving suicidality/danger to self or others; for CCAP requiring Treatment Team or FRP meeting due to mental health or behavioral issues.*

With 36% of State Responsible (SR) inmates in VADOC prisons having mental health issues, we have every reason to believe that this is also true for community justice-involved individuals on supervision. The data presented above delineates the services that Community MH&W staff provided to facilitate the successful transition of probationers, parolees and SR individuals releasing from jails in FY2023.

Additionally, key Community MH&W staff are serving on the Mental Health/SUD Task Force that originated from the from the larger “Right Help Right Now” initiative addressing community service needs for supervisees. The professional activities noted above specifically serve to fulfill Governor’s Goal #10: Promote the mental health continuum of care for inmates transiting from incarceration to community in order to ensure mental health stability and increase public safety.

## Community Corrections Cognitive Counselors

In FY2023, VADOC received legislative funding to expand the number of Cognitive Counselors within Community Corrections from 7 to 26 positions. 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 and parole districts had no positions allocated for cognitive-behavioral programming. Hiring for these positions began in January of 2023, and there are currently 22 counselors serving 28 Districts. Implementation support for the positions includes onboarding support from district field staff, monthly meetings with statewide program staff, program facilitation coaching and support, and training on evidence-informed cognitive curricula. Data collection will be focused on determining if these positions improved access to programming for medium-to-high risk probationers and parolees with identified cognitive behavioral needs.



## **Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision**

As of June 30, 2023, there are 5,308 Virginia probationers and parolees transferred to other states via the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and 2,475 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](http://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, Offender Management Services at VADOC 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 VADOC 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 the Unit Head (Major), two Captains and six Lieutenants. This unit is responsible for locating and apprehending probationers/parolees who have absconded and/or are wanted by the VADOC.

FY2023 accomplishments for this unit include:

- A total of 433 wanted persons were arrested, resulting in 1,139 cleared warrants.
- The Unit assisted local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the arrest of 121 fugitives, clearing 413 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 1,095 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 110 out-of-state extraditions without incident.
- Over 26 case transfers were completed and documented in VADOC'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 FY2023, these Task Force Members assisted with 325 arrests of violent fugitives.
- During FY2023, this Unit targeted fugitives wanted by VADOC that have a history of violence against persons and are considered dangerous. Fugitives meeting these criteria were added to VADOC's Most Wanted website. As a result of this revised initiative, this Unit was responsible for the capture of 16 Most Wanted Fugitives.

## Education Services

Correctional Education provides a range of academic and career and technical education courses to individuals in prison and in CCAP's. These services prepare them with the skills they need to obtain employment and support themselves and their families in the community after release.

Research on recidivism has found that education and employment are two major determinants in successful reentry and lowered recidivism. Currently, our recidivism rate for our Adult Basic Graduates is 16.9% down from 14.4%, and for CTE it is 12.4% down from 14.4%. 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. The chart below shows current CTE programming offered:

- Auto Body Repair
- Automotive & Technology Services (ASE)
- Barbering
- Building Maintenance and Repair
- Business Software Application
- Cabinet Making
- CAD Drafting
- Canine Handler
- Carpentry
- Commercial Foods
- Commercial HVAC
- Communication Arts & Design
- Computer Literacy
- Computer Systems Technology
- Construction Surveying
- Cosmetology
- Custodial Maintenance
- Custodial Maintenance and Sanitation
- Drafting/CAD
- Economics and Personal Finance
- Electricity
- Floor Covering
- Graphic Communications & Print Prod
- Horticulture
- HVAC/Refrigeration
- Introduction to Computers
- Masonry
- Motorcycle Repair
- Optical Technology
- Painting & Drywall
- Pipe Fitting
- Plumbing
- Roofing and Siding
- Sheet Metal/HVAC
- Small Engine Repair
- Upholstery
- Welding

Our College Programs is a growing area in Correctional Education because of the re-authorization of the Second Chance Pell Grants. The Sunshine Lady and The Laughing Gull Foundations assist with funding. Pre-Pandemic there were eleven of our larger facilities collaborating with Colleges and Universities across the state. We had around 350 students taking classes. These numbers have grown and will continue to grow in the near future.

### **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 Comunitarias

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 Tazwell Probation and Parole and Appalachian CCAP (along with three Career and Technical programs).

The VADOC 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.

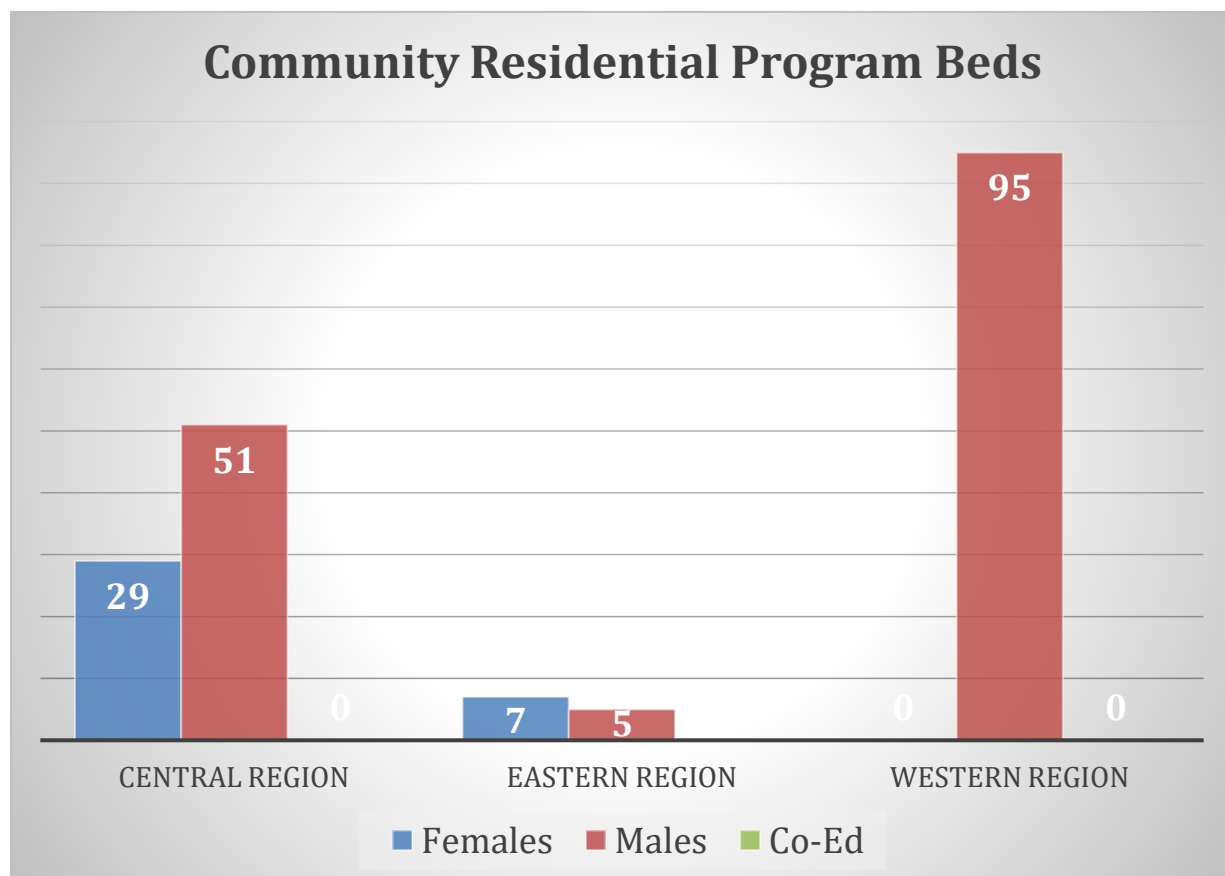
The Program is designed to provide community supervision programs to support Probationers/Parolees in their re-entry journeys. Program participants receive supervised housing for up to 90 days, an extension is also possible. In FY2023, CRPs were required to provide monthly data reports which outlined all programs offered. This includes life skills, financial assistance, assistance with transportation, employment coaching, educational assistance, medical assistance, basic counseling, substance abuse education, job placement, discharge planning, group/individual counseling, 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 10CRP vendors throughout the state. There are 199 beds in total throughout the state.

- Total beds Central Region: 86
- Total beds Eastern Region: 12
- Total beds Western Region: 95
- TOTAL BEDS STATE-WIDE: 199



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**

In FY2023, the Virginia Department of Corrections has moved strongly forward to provide evidence-based probation and parole supervision and program services. Through a steadfast commitment to evidence-based practices and an unyielding dedication to safety measures, VADOC achieved critical outcomes of great significance. Notably, for the seventh consecutive year, the Virginia Department of Corrections is a national leader with one of the lowest recidivism rates in the country. Presently, it stands as the second lowest, boasting an impressive rate of 20.6%. This public safety achievement directly translates into a reduction in criminal activity, a greater number of probationers and parolees leading productive lives, and an overall enhancement of safer communities for Virginians.