

Status Report on Inmate Transitional and Reentry Services



*Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and
Homeland Security*

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Executive Summary

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) compiles an annual “Status Report on Inmate Transitional and Reentry Services” to report on the efforts of VADOC and 17 other executive agencies to ensure that inmate’s transition smoothly from incarceration into the community. The report is produced per Item 377 of the 2025 Budget Bill (<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/get/budget/5130/HB1600/>):

B. The secretary shall continue to work with other secretaries to (i) develop services intended to improve the re-entry of offenders from prisons and jails to general society and (ii) enhance the coordination of service delivery to those offenders by all state agencies. The secretary shall provide a status report on actions taken to improve offender transitional and reentry services, as provided in § 2.2-221.1, Code of Virginia, including improvements to the preparation and provision for employment, treatment, and housing opportunities for those being released from incarceration. The report shall be provided to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees no later than November 15 of each year.

VADOC greatly appreciates the contributions of the 18 Virginia agencies in developing this report. Through collaboration, the Commonwealth provides services to inmates, from the time of their arrest to their release into the community, by consistently approaching reentry needs. State agencies assess the status of their programs, services, and collaborative efforts during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Through their assessment, agencies report on both assets and barriers. Reported barriers include housing and treatment needs as well as issues with funding, participation, and access.

Numerous pre- and post-release strategies were implemented throughout FY2025. Pre-release services focused on mental health, substance abuse treatment, employment, life skills, and education. Post-release services included assistance in acquiring food, housing, transportation, medical health, identification, and employment. The services aim to facilitate an inmate’s seamless reintegration into the Commonwealth.

Addressing reported funding and policy barriers will facilitate seamless reentry services. Successful programs should be identified through evidence-based research and replicated throughout the Commonwealth. Increasing complete and accurate data collection is imperative to assist Virginia in its program evaluation and fidelity measurements of statewide initiatives. This effort will ensure available funds are targeted toward effective programs that meet reentry needs.

Highlights of this year’s efforts and barriers include:



Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) had 887 reentering individuals with disabilities who applied for Vocational Rehabilitation services in federal FY2025. Of those, 98.5% were eligible for services, and 287 became successfully employed, at an average hourly wage of \$16.60.



Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority’s Community Health and Engagement division coordinates Virginia’s Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (VOSAP) and the Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC).

This division also offers alcohol education and prevention programs; implements new initiatives of community engagement, community health data, and research; and does community capacity building. Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) launched its new Alcohol Health and Safety Community Dashboards on Virginia ABC's website and shared the national resource of 'Talk. They Hear You.' via public service announcement and social media campaign in FY25.



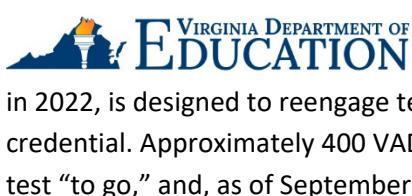
According to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), State Opioid Response funding of \$55.9 million dollars for prevention, treatment and recovery were awarded from 2022 to 2024. These funds enable expansion of substance use disorder programming in Virginia.



Reentry planning begins the first day individuals are under the care of VADOC. As individuals approach their expected release date from correctional facilities, programs are intensified that include citizenship engagement, financial planning, problem solving skills, cognitive restructuring and workforce readiness. A Virginia-specific Reentry Resource Packet and a Reentry Wellness Kit are provided to every inmate releasing from incarceration. The kits contain Naloxone, a medication destroyer pack, harm reduction tools and hygiene items. In addition, District-specific resource guides are also available to assist in the reentry process.



According to State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 data, PAPIS programs provided state funded pre-release services to 1,705 new individuals and 2,079 existing pre-release program participants. In SFY2025, PAPIS programs provided state funded post release services to 2,092 new individuals and 3,888 existing post release program participants.



The *GED® 1 to GO* campaign, a statewide adult education promotional initiative that the Department of Education launched in 2022, is designed to reengage test takers who lack one test subject completion from earning a GED® credential. Approximately 400 VADOC students were identified on the initial list of test takers with one test "to go," and, as of September 1st, 2025, 64 of those individuals (16%) had earned a GED credential.



The Department of Forestry trained inmates at Patrick Henry CU and Appalachian CCAP in forest fire fighting. Inmates received refresher training for the fall season in early October 2025. Skills learned through this collaborative effort are applicable to many career disciplines.



This state-level interagency effort is dedicated to assessing needs and barriers for returning residents. Efforts are focused on assessing the current needs of returning residents, mapping current resources supporting these individuals, and identifying gaps for this population. Forensic Discharge Planning funds (\$1,600,000 starting in FY19, increased to \$3,700,800 in FY22) were awarded to the regional and local jails with high percentages of inmates with serious mental illness. Funding was used to create staff positions through the Community Service Boards to provide discharge planning/case management services to individuals

being released with SMI. In FY24, 21 CSBs provided forensic discharge planning services in 22 correctional facilities in the Commonwealth.



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) notes that many justice-involved veterans cannot access community housing or veteran-specific housing directly on reentry. VDVS continues to partner with VADOC to prioritize veterans experiencing homelessness on community supervision to help connect veterans to housing resources in the community. Justice-involved veterans with complex medical and mental health needs face housing barriers due to a lack of long-term care housing options and restrictive long-term care facility policies. In addition, justice involved veterans continue to face barriers to housing due to their criminal and incarceration history.



A dozen court service units across the state have begun the Gang Resistance Education and Training ([GREAT Program](#)) as part of the Department of Juvenile Justice's efforts to guide youth away from gang involvement, criminal activity, and violence. Successful program completion is celebrated with a graduation ceremony, followed by regular group check-in meetings and recreational outings.



The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) notes that data sharing between DMAS and the DOC has created an efficient eligibility process as the CVIU is able to identify Medicaid enrollees that require a redetermination for incarcerated Medicaid at intake and for changes to their coverage upon release. Collaboration and regular review with VADOC, DMAS, and the CVIU, has allowed the team to continue to improve and address gaps, as well as inefficiencies, in these processes.



Inmates can now leave correctional facilities with an official state identification card from Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that will assist them in their transition and reentry into society. As of August 2025, the DMV Connect program has successfully issued around 41,000 ID credentials to inmates leaving VADOC facilities.



Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) collaborates with VADOC to provide training and Registered Apprenticeship programs for inmates seeking licenses in Barbering, Cosmetology, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical Trades. For Fiscal Year 2025, 88% of all applicants with prior convictions were approved for licensure by DPOR boards.



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Office of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives (OISI) in the Department of Social Services supports a priority to encourage and increase sustainable partnerships between LDSS and Reentry Councils to efficiently and wholly serve returning citizens and their families. FES case managers actively educate and provide justice involved parents with Bonding Program Eligibility Letters (BEL). For Federal Fiscal Year 2025, FES provided parents with 105 BELs. The BEL is a wonderful resource to help people with convictions find and keep a job by providing the employer business insurance.



The Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (Virginia Works) was created in the Virginia Code in 2023 as Virginia's designated workforce agency. Virginia Works provides workforce guidance, support, and training for individuals and employers. Virginia Works collaborates with the Virginia Department of Corrections to assist reentering citizens with workforce services, just as resume building and job searches. Veterans' Services staff works with the Department of Labor ETA VETs Program to provide "stand down" services for homeless vets who are ex-inmates. They collaborate with businesses to offer job opportunities and services such as free haircuts, clothing, and personal care supplies.



Several public defender offices in the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission cited housing as a major barrier to successful reentry. When Charlottesville's largest shelter closed in 2023, most unhoused clients had nowhere to go; while there are plans to convert the shelter to supportive housing, that facility is not slated to be livable until 2025. As a stopgap, the city removed the curfew in a downtown park, allowing unhoused individuals to camp there. The PWOPD helped establish a Drug Treatment Court for Prince William in FY2023, pushing for an equitable and defendant-centered approach to the Court, and the OPD continues as a standing member on the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee, as well as staffing all DTC dockets. The court has expanded from a capacity of 10 in its first year to 30 in FY2025, its third year, and has a target of further increasing capacity in FY2026.



The Department of State Police (VSP) focused on fully reporting criminal history information to the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) by notifying agencies of missing or discrepant criminal history information. For FY2025, 18% of records requested could be included on the CHR. VSP is working with a vendor, Voyatek, (formerly GCOM), to design and release a new state-of-the-art Criminal History System in 2026. This new system will add expungement and sealing capabilities. The Department implemented the Rap Back program, a subscription-based service for continuous monitoring for Fairfax and Chesterfield County Public Schools in 2025. Future role-outs will include additional qualified entities.



As of September 30, 2025, there were 2,334 incarcerated discretionary parole eligible inmates (1,719 of those inmates are currently eligible for discretionary parole, with 615 of them becoming discretionary parole eligible sometime after September 30, 2025). This population includes the 311 parole eligible inmates that were determined eligible per the Fishback legislation (HB33) and the "juvenile at the time of the offense and served over 20 years" legislation (HB35). The Parole Board serves a population of 1,899 geriatric conditional release eligible inmates, many of whom are also discretionary parole eligible. Per Department of Corrections, of the 26,000+ currently incarcerated inmate population, approximately 7,232 of those inmates either are or will become geriatric conditional release eligible during their incarceration. The Parole Board works in cooperation with local probation and parole offices to ensure public safety and to respond quickly to warrant requests.

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Adult Protective Services Division

The Adult Protective Services Division (APSD) oversees local departments of social services Adult Services (AS), and Adult Protective Services (APS) activities. APSD also develops and interprets law, regulation, and policy for these programs. APSD regional consultants provide direct consultation, training, and technical assistance to local AS/APS units. Home office and regional APSD staff participate in the following prisoner re-entry efforts:

- Provide information and consultation to VADOC re-entry staff on services and supports that may be available to re-entering prisoners, with the understanding that AS/APS programs do not provide housing.
- Work with re-entry staff and other agencies to clarify and expedite applications, screenings, and documentation for eligibility for Medicaid, AS, AG, long-term care and other benefits and supports.
- Provide information to local departments on prisoner re-entry, as well as their responsibilities and options in working with re-entering inmates.
- Monitor cases which involve special-needs inmates and provide consultation and technical assistance to local AS and APS involved.
- Act as liaison between local AS/APS workers and VADOC release and re-entry staff on challenging cases, including confined inmates with special needs.
- Advocate for the safety and health of special-needs inmates and the safety and security of the communities where they wish to locate

Pre-Release Services

DARS vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors from across the Commonwealth continued their active involvement in local Re-entry Councils and workgroups throughout 2024, offering expertise on employment services for justice-involved individuals with disabilities. Although the statewide Reentry Task Force concluded its meetings following the successful launch of Group Intake and the issuance of Executive Order No. 36, DARS' commitment to supporting returning citizens remains strong and ongoing.

DARS maintains a close partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) Pre-Release Centers, providing information on VR eligibility and connecting facilities with local DARS Field Offices. The VR program continues to offer Federal Fidelity Bonding for consumers who require bonding as a condition of employment. Additionally, DARS leverages the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), On-the-Job Training (OJT), and both paid and unpaid internships to promote employment opportunities for justice-involved individuals.

Throughout 2025, DARS staff have remained engaged in organizing and participating in community resource fairs and second chance job fairs, which promote employment access and connect returning citizens with vital community resources.

DARS remains a key partner in the Reentry Optimization Initiative, a collaborative effort led by the Governor's Office, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), VADOC, and DARS. This initiative continues through pilot projects designed to improve training and employment outcomes for returning citizens. These projects include access to industry-recognized training and credentials, apprenticeship pathways (e.g., with the Department of General Services), Peer Recovery Specialist opportunities, and rapid engagement for individuals receiving Social Security benefits.

Group Intake sessions continue to be held in Probation and Parole offices statewide. DARS staff attend these sessions to present services and eligibility information, accept referrals on-site, and complete initial VR applications for new parolees.

Under Executive Order No. 36 (STAND TALL – STAY STRONG – SUCCEED TOGETHER Reentry Initiative), the Virginia Works/DARS partnership with VADOC Probation & Parole continues to strengthen supervisee referrals and increase utilization of workforce readiness, training, and job placement services upon reentry.

Disability Determination Services (DDS) continues to participate in the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Program in all regions of the Commonwealth. This program was designed to assist homeless individuals with severe mental, physical or a combination of both impairments to gain access to mainstream benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid. It is believed that this program benefits those with criminal backgrounds, but our current record keeping system does not allow us to substantiate this type of impact at this point. A total of 94 applications under the SOAR program were processed for State Fiscal Year 2025, with 70 claims approved.

DDS has maintained the cooperative agreement with the Department of Corrections which identified and formalized procedures that facilitated the timely entitlement to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for disabled and aged inmates of the Virginia Department of Corrections system. These pre-release application procedures were implemented throughout the Commonwealth and allowed inmates to file for SSI benefits prior to their release, providing for a smoother transition back into the community. These pre-release procedures apply to the initial determination only and are not used during any appeals processes. A total of 160 inmates, who were pending release, had their applications processed during State Fiscal Year 2025. Additional information on the DDS SOAR and Pre-release programs can be obtained by contacting Danita Scherff, DDS Chief of Staff, at Danita.Scherff@ssa.gov.

Employment/Job Training

DARS had 1,115 ex-offenders with disabilities who applied for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services in federal fiscal year 2023. Of these applicants, 89% (n= 988) were found eligible for services. DARS spent a total of \$393,512.67 on ex-offenders in FFY23 with an average of \$21,527.76 per case. The services provided ranged from job training and job development to purchasing uniforms and equipment

enabling these ex-offenders to start employment. Two hundred and fifty-seven ex-offenders with disabilities became successfully employed after receiving VR services throughout 2023. The average hourly wage for those employed after closure from DARS was \$15.04 in 2023. The average hours worked per week was 32.3 hours.

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority

Virginia ABC's Community Health & Engagement division has a mission to strengthen the capacity of communities across Virginia by providing data, research, evidence-based programming, strategic resources and genuine partnership in order to ensure Virginians are able to make informed choices and Virginia ABC values community health and engagement. Virginia ABC offers programming for youth in elementary, middle, and high school; adults, including college students, parents, and older adults; Virginia ABC licenses, health care providers, and prevention professionals. Programming includes conferences, free online trainings, grants, social media resources, statewide strategic planning, data, research and trend monitoring, publication series that spans all age groups, and toolkit series, which help to build the capacity of prevention-minded organizations. In FY25, five organizations across the state were awarded Alcohol Education and Prevention grants totaling \$45,290 to help reduce underage and high-risk drinking in their communities. In total, these five grants reached 883,396 individuals.

Two of Virginia ABC's newest prevention initiatives are the Virginia Alcohol Health and Safety Community Dashboards and the Alcohol Health and Safety PSA Campaign. The Community Dashboards were designed to empower local communities and individuals with the most relevant alcohol data affecting their communities so that they can make informed decisions to improve local health outcomes. The Dashboards offer curated data points from multiple state and federal health agencies as a convenience to concerned citizens of the commonwealth. The PSA Campaign is a new annual campaign that Virginia ABC is using to reach various regions of the state with targeted messaging to inform the public about the dangers of high-risk drinking and excessive alcohol use.

Virginia ABC Community Health & Engagement coordinates Virginia's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (VOSAP), formerly the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), and the Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC). VOSAP is collaborative of all state agencies that conduct underage substance use prevention and VHESUAC is a statewide strategic planning group for substance use prevention across Virginia's colleges and universities. VHESUAC's recognition program, which honors Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) that apply by sharing their campus substance prevention plans with VHESUAC, recognized three IHEs in FY25.

In an effort to decrease social providing and high-risk drinking, Virginia ABC is continually working to provide educational materials and training to those who are 21 and older by increasing knowledge of alcohol products and health and safety guidelines. Efforts are in place to strengthen communication and engagement with the communities by providing a variety of accessible and meaningful ways for employees to engage in their communities and ways for communities to engage with Virginia ABC. Additionally, Community Health & Engagement conducts statewide needs assessments for the youth, adult, and licensee communities as an ongoing effort to identify and improve existing and develop new programming that addresses relevant alcohol education and prevention needs of each population. All these education and prevention efforts work to decrease the probability of underage alcohol use, unsafe drinking practices and alcohol-related consequences by increasing the capacity of Virginia's communities to combat these issues.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is involved both directly and indirectly in the provision of behavioral health services to inmates leaving VADOC custody with the goal of ensuring all individuals with behavioral healthcare needs have access to services. DBHDS operates eight adult inpatient mental health hospitals, providing services to adult inmates released to the community and those in need of acute mental health services. In FY25 a total of 9 individuals had completed their court-imposed sentence and had served their time in the Virginia Department of Corrections but were felt to be at risk of harm to self or others (due to mental illness) and in need of inpatient hospitalization. These individuals were committed to DBHDS custody rather than being released to the community. An integral part of the treatment for these individuals is the development of comprehensive discharge plans to address their reentry needs to try to minimize the risk of reoffending.

In FY25 a total of 654 individuals were committed to DBHDS facilities from local & regional jails as needing emergency behavioral health services. An integral part of the treatment for these individuals also included the development of discharge plans that link the individual to behavioral health services both in the jail and in their home communities. An additional 1,118 individuals were admitted to DBHDS facilities in FY25 for the purpose of restoring their competency to stand trial. Almost all these admissions were from local/regional jails, and again, these individuals participated in discharge planning to link them to behavioral healthcare services both in the jail and in their communities.

The following chart shows the number of individuals receiving services from Community Service Boards (CSBs) who are somehow justice involved. CSBs provide publicly funded (local and state funded) behavioral health and developmental services to individuals in need. DBHDS has provided training and technical assistance to CSBs on the Risk Need Responsivity model of risk management.

| Referral Source Code | Referral Source Description | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|----------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 11 | Local Correctional Facility | 5661 | 5451 | 5361 | 3994 | 3986 | 4583 |
| 12 | State Correctional Facility | 403 | 395 | 332 | 283 | 273 | 205 |
| 13 | Local Community Probation and Pretrial Services (Formerly CDI) | 6315 | 5324 | 4295 | 4198 | 3933 | 3682 |
| 41 | State Probation and Parole | 4014 | 3904 | 3763 | 3042 | 3133 | 2740 |
| 42 | Federal Probation | 203 | 1038 | 1058 | 243 | 230 | 202 |

DBHDS also provides some targeted funding to CSBs who in turn provide direct services for jail diversion related initiatives and to provide mental health services in juvenile detention centers. DBHDS facilitates development of local programs and provides technical assistance to programs housed in CSBs which may serve inmates with behavioral health disorders re-entering from jail and prison.

DBHDS has strong collaborative relationships with Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC), Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Department of Veterans Services (DVS), State Compensation Board (SCB), State Board of Local and Regional Jails, and other state agencies as well as with local entities such as CSBs, community corrections agencies, police and sheriffs offices, and other local and statewide organizations and individual stakeholders, on issues pertaining to persons with behavioral health disorders and intellectual disabilities with criminal justice involvement. Specific collaborations impacting individuals reentering from prison or jail include the statewide expansion of Crisis Intervention Teams, Jail Diversion, Jail Forensic Discharge Planning, and Behavioral Health Docket programs, as well as the Mental Illness in Jails Annual Report and the Annual Crisis Intervention Team Conference and Training.

Other specific efforts include:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between VADOC, DBHDS, and CSBs remains in place and is currently in revision.
2. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Statewide Expansion – This project is a collaborative effort among DCJS, DBHDS, local CSBs, police, sheriff, consumer, and other service agencies.
 - a. There are now 38 local CIT initiatives developed and supported through Federal, State, and local funding.
 - b. 36 programs operate 37 CIT Assessment sites throughout the Commonwealth, serving over 8,000 consumers, with nearly 65% transfers of custody, in FY23.
 - c. The Crisis Diversion Coordinator at DBHDS provides technical assistance to the 37 CIT Assessment Sites. She also works with the CIT Coalition to attempt to bring uniformity to CIT operations.
3. CSB Jail Diversion Program Initiatives continue to receive support and provide data on outcomes at all intercepts, including reentry.
4. DBHDS continues to fund Forensic Discharge Planning grants within the CSBs to serve individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) in Virginia Jails. In FY25, 21 CSBs are providing forensic discharge planning services in 22 local or regional correctional facilities in the Commonwealth.
5. Behavioral Health Docket Expansion – In November 2016, The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia issued Rule 1:25 that authorized the expansion of Behavioral Health and other Specialty Dockets and established procedures for application and development of new dockets.

DBHDS and the State Compensation Board (SCB) collaborated on the development of the July 2020 annual Mental Illness in Jails Survey. DBHDS partnered closely with the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) on the development of statewide standards and has provided training in conjunction with OES to the Courts, CSBs, and local and state probation and parole on implementation and best practices. DBHDS provides partial funding to six of the 22 operating Behavioral Health Dockets to support staffing and treatment services.

6. DBHDS provided input to the State Compensation Board (SCB) for their 2024 annual Mental Illness in Jails Report survey.

Collaborative Efforts

1. Crisis Intervention Team Statewide Expansion
 - a. The annual CIT Conference and Training Symposium is scheduled for October 27-29, 2025, and is for representatives of Virginia's 38 CIT programs and other stakeholders. The conference is a collaborative project with DBHDS, DCJS, and the Virginia CIT Coalition (VACIT).
 - b. During the 2020 session, the General Assembly directed DBHDS to conduct a work group and draft a report regarding the expansion of CIT Assessment Sites to full services sites that include medical and psychiatric care. The report was submitted in October 2020 and has been utilized by the General Assembly.
 - c. The Virginia CIT coalition is now a registered non-profit with Board and structured process for identifying executive officers and regional representation, including the hiring of an Executive Director to oversee VACIT.
2. In FY25, 11 CSB Jail Diversion Program Initiatives and four Rural Intercept 2 Diversion programs continue to receive support and provide data on outcomes at all intercepts, including reentry.
3. DBHDS continues to fund Forensic Discharge Planning grants within the CSBs to serve individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) in Virginia Jails. In FY25, 21 CSBs are providing forensic discharge planning services in 26 local or regional correctional facilities in the Commonwealth.
4. DBHDS will continue efforts to collaborate with SCB around data sharing and will continue to integrate the data from SCB into DBHDS's Data Warehouse for analysis. The goal will be to establish a new data sharing agreement with the SCB and plans to use the newly acquired data to measure criminal justice outcomes for its Jail Diversion, Forensic Discharge Planning, and Behavioral Health Docket Programs. The data sharing agreement is on hold while SCB performs updates to its system of record but will resume in FY25
5. DBHDS will continue to serve on the Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee established by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and will continue to partner with OES in providing training to localities that are starting new dockets, at their discretion.

At the local level and the state level, there continue to be challenges in coordination of care and information sharing between the behavioral health system and criminal justice agencies, including courts, prisons, corrections, and others, concerning individuals with behavioral health disorders. At a macro level, this is due in part to a patchwork of state level IT systems and software which are often incompatible, and a lack of IT resources and personnel, as well as staff with substantive knowledge, to develop appropriate and effective work-around to share macro information. Criminal justice information is housed in multiple systems, for example, jails use the local inmate data system, VADOC uses CORIS, and the state police manage Virginia Criminal Information Network and National Crime Information Center. While each has a willingness in theory to share information that is not sensitive or protected, it is difficult to find the time and resources to bring the necessary partners to the table to address access issues at either the macro or micro level.

There also are various interpretations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) with regard to sharing of information and the inconsistent interpretation of HIPAA often becomes a barrier to collaboration. Some communities have been able to overcome this at the individual (micro) level and share information regularly, but this appears to be the exception rather than the rule. The SCB, DCJS and DBHDS have had discussions about ways to facilitate better access to data in adult populations, and DBHDS and DJJ have collaborated on cross-system information sharing with youth. Continued efforts will be made to facilitate sharing of data between DBHDS, LIDS, and DCJS through other avenues.

During the 2020 legislative session of the General Assembly, several bills were passed to address the barriers with information sharing between CSBs and local and regional jails. Specifically, mandating any healthcare provider who provided services within the last two years to a person committed to a local or regional jail shall, upon request, disclose information necessary to ensure the continuity of care except for information protected under 42 CFR (substance use related information).

DBHDS continues to advocate for a sufficient continuum of community based mental health and substance use services and access to the full range of supports for continuity of care including housing, mobile emergency services, crisis stabilization and Program of Assertive Community Treatment programs, detox centers, medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction, counseling, medications, and benefits restoration. While these resources may be difficult to put in place, local, regional, and state partners continue to collaborate and understand each other's system needs and goals, more efficient utilization of current resources that can have a positive impact in addressing these missing assets.

Law Enforcement

There are now 38 CIT initiatives across Virginia. 38 programs operate 36 CIT Assessment Sites, four of which have expanded capabilities through support from DBHDS to include 23-hour observation capabilities with medical and psychiatric support. Data shows a significant decrease in officer involved time for those localities which have CIT Assessment Sites, thus freeing up officers to return to their duties of providing community policing. It is anticipated that the expanded services offered at the 23-

hour capable sites will provide less restrictive care options thereby reducing the number of people in crisis who must be directed to inpatient hospital commitment as well.

DBHDS also partners with DCJS to implement training for law enforcement agencies to help officers better understand and more effectively respond to youth in both crisis and routine encounters. This includes assistance in the school resource officer training program that is mandatory for all public safety officers serving in that role, and other training to assist officers working outside the school setting.

Employment/Job Training

DBHDS provides limited employment/job training programs within its inpatient psychiatric facilities. Such services are offered to those in need of and who can benefit from employment/job skills training. In addition, DBHDS has long been a strong advocate for the hiring of Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS). This includes PRSs trained in the integrated Forensic Peer Recovery Specialist (iFPRS) endorsement. PRSs are better equipped to provide support and guidance to others with similar experience living with, and recovering from, behavioral health challenges. DBHDS developed a 72-Hour Peer Recovery Specialist Training. This training is one of the essential and foundational components toward certification with the Virginia Certification Board (VCB) and Registration with the Department of Health Professions. Once certification with VCB and registration with DHP have been achieved, the Registered and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (R-CPRS) is then eligible to bill for services under the DMAS Medicaid ARTS Waiver. Certification of the peer workforce continues to elevate the role of peers within healthcare agencies, public behavioral health settings, justice involved institutions, recovery community organizations, and the list of potential employers seeking PRS's continues to increase. As of September 15, 2025, 1,729 Peer Recovery Specialists hold an active credential in Virginia.

DBHDS will continue to collaborate with other agencies on addressing the new requirements for peer certification.

DBHDS funds more than 4,000 slots of supportive housing for a variety of target populations including individuals with serious mental illness, developmental disabilities, and pregnant or parenting women with substance use disorders. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a national evidence-based practice shown to reduce inpatient and emergency care, as well as incarcerations. The model combines affordable rental housing with supportive services to address the treatment and recovery needs of participants, and PSH programs prioritize individuals with histories of homelessness, hospitalizations, and justice involvement. In keeping with national outcomes for PSH, Virginia's programs effectively support individuals to dramatically improve housing stability and to reduce the use of institutional care.

Alcohol/ Drug Addiction

State Opioid Response (SOR): The SOR grant has been provided since 2018 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). DBHDS was awarded \$28,929,334 for the period of September 30, 2024, to September 29, 2025. Eligible entities include behavioral health organizations

such as non-profits, for-profit, educational institutions, correctional facilities, and other public/state establishments.

Mental Health

DBHDS funds 15 jail diversion programs to enhance mental health services to those involved in the criminal justice system.

Assets: DBHDS continues to hold meetings with DJJ and local detention centers to discuss and address behavioral healthcare gaps for juveniles involved in the justice system. DBHDS funds several behavioral healthcare programs for juveniles in detention.

DBHDS provides training and consultative support to local detention centers and DJJ regarding reentry, community supervision, and addressing mental health needs of detained juveniles. DBHDS also participates in DCJS-led training of school resource officers to increase understanding and improve interactions with adolescents in an effort to improve police-youth interactions and decrease arrests. DBHDS also provides clinical support and consultation to detention center staff and mental health staff to improve interactions and care.

Data and Information

DBHDS continues to progress in the development of an electronic health record (EHR). The new EHR is now in all DBHDS behavioral health facilities. The advent of the EHR will improve DBHDS' ability to share information with other providers and adhere to federal mandates regarding having accessible records. DBHDS has also created a data warehouse and via this warehouse DBHDS has begun to analyze data from various sources to better measure outcomes from our jail diversion programs. In FY24, DBHDS also completed the building of a new database specifically for our forensic data which will enable us to do more complete and accurate reporting.

We have been able to acquire a significant amount of information from our jail diversion initiatives and will be able to report information more accurately concerning the clinical and criminal justice outcomes for these individuals going forward. Similarly, we are collecting data on the CIT Assessment Sites funded through DBHDS by the General Assembly and will be able to more accurately describe criminal justice and clinical outcomes for individuals who are served in the CIT Assessment Sites.

Forensic Discharge Planning (FDP) funds (\$1,600,000 starting in FY19, increased to \$3,700,800 in FY22) were awarded to the Community Services Boards serving 1 local and regional jails with high percentages of inmates with Serious Mental Illness. In FY26, there are 21 Community Services Boards providing Forensic Discharge Planning Services in 25 local and regional jail sites. The programs are expected to follow a baseline protocol for program service delivery, outlined in ***Forensic Discharge Planner Protocol for Community Services Boards & Local and Regional Jails***. In Fiscal Year 2025, FDP programs enrolled a total of 1,916 individuals for services. In 2023, in response to the growing numbers of SMI inmates in Virginia's local and regional jails, as well as the growing number of inpatient competency restoration orders to state hospitals, DBHDS staff began efforts to move FDP programs

toward implementing earlier diversion for participants [pre- or post-booking which results in a reduction of time in custody]. While these efforts are still in development for many programs, there are several that have made significant strides toward earlier diversion. In FY25, the average length of time in custody for an FDP client was 117 days.

Governor's Initiatives

Under Governor's Executive Order 26, paragraph 8, the Governor required the development of a workgroup with the mission to "improve pathways for incarcerated individuals with substance use disorders to remain drug-free when they are released from incarceration (May 9, 2023)." The Reentry to Recovery Workgroup was established in accordance with the Executive Order, and is co-chaired by DBHDS, VADOC, and DJJ and includes members from various state agencies and the private sector. A primary goal of the Reentry to Recovery workgroup is to develop pathways for formerly incarcerated people to achieve sustained recovery. So far, the workgroup has developed a charter and strategic plan, has surveyed VADOC and jails about substance use services provided during incarceration and at the point of reentry, coordinated various pieces of data and information between groups, and links to other workgroups including the Governor's Transformation Office's Reentry Optimization workgroup and the Recovery Behind the Walls group.

Virginia Department of Corrections

Correctional Center Reentry Services

Reentry planning begins the first day individuals are under the care of Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC). As individuals approach their expected release date from correctional centers, programs are intensified that include citizenship engagement, financial planning, problem solving skills, cognitive restructuring and workforce readiness. Community collaboration is key to reentry planning; therefore, various state agencies, community partners, faith-based organizations, housing services and employers regularly visit the correctional facilities to provide up to date resource information and establish a connection. Based on individual needs, those at highest risk for recidivism are assigned to an Intensive Reentry Programs seven months prior to release. Here inmates live together in a residential setting where they receive both support and correction in a structured environment. The program addresses criminal thinking through cognitive restructuring interventions and provides reentry preparation to support a prosocial lifestyle after release. Pre-release discharge planning involves an approved home plan and connection to probation/parole supervision. Specialized resources including social security disability, social security income, sex offender registry, post release referrals for behavioral health services to include mental health and substance use disorder. A designated unit within the Department addresses problematic release cases. A Virginia-specific Reentry Resource Packet and a Reentry Wellness Kit are provided to every inmate releasing from incarceration. The kits contain Naloxone, a medication destroyer pack, harm reduction tools and hygiene items. In addition, District-specific resource guides are also available to assist in the reentry process.

Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP)

Facilities offer circuit courts a sentencing alternative to incarceration for defendants who need intensive substance use disorder or cognitive behavioral services. CCAP's provide treatment within the structure of a VADOC operated community residential facility. The Code of Virginia establishes the authority and minimal eligibility criteria for CCAPs. 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. 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, contributing to lasting public safety. Participants receive intensive cognitive behavioral treatment, intensive substance use disorder services, education services, vocational training such as welding and masonry as well as engage in the community employment opportunities. The needs of the participant will determine the duration of CCAP, approximately 22 to 48 weeks. CCAPs utilize a peer community model where structure, accountability and support are essential ingredients to the program design. The community offers an opportunity to practice the skills they learn and apply feedback. Female participants receive gender responsive substance use disorder curriculum to address their unique needs. The current capacity for the 5 CCAP programs is 532 beds for males and 168 beds for females. Research data provided shows that CCAP non-graduates are nearly twice as likely to recidivate than graduates.

For the FY2020 cohort, CCAP graduates recidivated at 25.7% while non-graduates recidivated at a rate of 48.5%.

Victim Services

While facility and community staff are preparing inmates for reentry, the VADOC Victim Services Unit is working to prepare the crime victims. Any crime victim/survivor whose perpetrator is in the custody of the Department of Corrections can elect to register with the agency's Notification and Assistance for Victim Inclusion (NAAVI) notification program (learn more at <https://naavi.virginia.gov/>). NAAVI provides statutorily required notifications during an individual's incarceration. The assigned Regional Victim Advocate will first contact each registered victim upon initial NAAVI registration and will address any concerns that arise throughout the perpetrator's incarceration and supervision. The advocate will reach out again six months prior to an inmate's release to offer the victim reentry wraparound services. As per each victim's individual needs, advocates provide support; explain time computation, reentry, release planning, community supervision, and other aspects of the correctional process; make referrals for additional services and resources; and engage in safety planning with the victim. Advocates collaborate with facility and community staff before an inmate's home plan is approved, to ensure that it is compatible with public safety. They also share any relevant concerns and information the victim provides to the probation office that will be supervising the individual upon his or her release, to assist the Probation & Parole Officer in supervising the individual more effectively.

Parenting Programs

VADOC recognizes the importance of providing parenting programs and services to the incarcerated parent population. The two evidence-based curriculums utilized by the Department are InsideOut Dad, offered at male facilities, and Partners in Parenting facilitated at female sites. Through program engagement, inmates learn basic parenting techniques, effective communication skills, alternative methods of discipline and co-parenting skills. Inmates also practice providing positive affirmations to their children, stress management skills, and steps to reinforce positive behaviors. In addition, plans are developed for parents to successfully reenter the lives of their children and family while still incarcerated and upon release. Through ongoing staff and volunteer facilitator training, regularly scheduled parenting classes are offered statewide at correctional centers and Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) in all three regions. To support the reentry process, the VADOC utilized grant funding to revamp visitation rooms in 18 correctional facilities. The refresh brightened up the visitation rooms and created a more inviting space for children and their families.

Family Reunification

To better support the family reunification process, the Department has developed a welcome video for children, along with a caregiver guide. In addition, a specialized Reunification House has been established adjacent to a female correctional center. The space provides a home-like environment for extended visits between incarcerated mothers and their children. Reentry Family Reunification events occur throughout the VADOC in both correctional centers and probation and parole districts. Typically, the events incorporate multi-agency resources and specialized activities to enhance family connection.

Substance Use Disorder Services

Within the VADOC, over 66% of the inmate population and 70% of the population on community supervision have an assessed substance use disorder (SUD) need. Therefore, the Department offers comprehensive SUD services at all levels of care. SUD impacted individuals can access support across correctional centers, Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) and in probation districts.

In correctional centers, this includes targeted residential programming, outpatient, evidence based, group facilitation, system-wide medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) access, and peer recovery services. The Department has launched a series of initiatives aimed at directly addressing the opioid and fentanyl crises. These include the Residential Illicit Drug Use Program (RIDUP) for individuals who experience an overdose, the Fentanyl Response Programs (FRP) for those who test positive for fentanyl, and the Aftercare Center at Green Rock to support continued recovery after a residential treatment episode. Voluntary treatment programs and cognitive therapeutic communities also continue to support the SUD treatment needs of inmates.

Furthermore, incarcerated Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS), trained within VADOC, provide mentorship across facilities. Through their lived experience and completion of the 72-hour DBHDS PRS Training, inmate PRS facilitate support groups, offer individual support and inspire hope by role modeling life in recovery. The Department now has Certified PRS inmates who secure ongoing supervision and training to maintain their certification. In addition, 12 SUD Social Workers assist individuals impacted by SUD and those releasing on MOUD to return to the community with an appointment to continue MOUD care post release. They assist with the completion of both continuing care plans between facilities and for those released into the community.

CCAPs are a sentencing option devised to reach the targeted population of non-violent felony defendants, either at initial sentencing and/or at probation revocation proceedings. CCAPs are designed for those probationers who are most in need of substance use disorder or cognitive behavioral services. Research based treatment interventions are utilized to address these needs. Participants receive intensive cognitive behavioral treatment, MOUD if needed, intensive substance use disorder services, education services, and vocational training. Virginia's probation and parole districts support probationers accessing the full continuum of care of SUD services through Medicaid enrollment, program referrals, and peer support. This is accomplished through MOUs with local CSBs, 955 contracted vendors, and regional certified peer recovery specialists. Additionally, VADOC continues to co-chair and host the monthly Executive Order 26 interagency meetings to improve outcomes for justice involved individuals with SUD.

Veteran Services

The Virginia Department of Corrections provides veteran-specific initiatives that support justice-involved veterans from intake through release. Working in partnership with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and community organizations, the Department connects veterans with benefits, healthcare, housing, employment resources, and programs that promote successful reentry. The Veterans Expecting To Transition Successfully (V.E.T.S.) program at Haynesville Correctional Center prepares participants for life after incarceration, and veteran-specific housing offers a supportive environment for those in custody. Veterans are also provided with Veterans Affairs forms and on-site Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams to help them secure eligible benefits. To coordinate these efforts, the Department uses the Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES), Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS), and internal offender management alerts to identify and track veterans across facilities. Additional support is provided through A Reentry Roadmap for Justice-Involved Veterans in Virginia, which offers a statewide directory of veteran resources. The Department further strengthens engagement through site visits, stakeholder meetings, and annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day events. Veterans on supervision are supported through the Probation and Parole District Office, offering linkage to veteran-specific resources.

Identity Documents

The Virginia Department of Corrections prioritizes and supports individuals in obtaining essential identity documents to promote successful community reentry. Staff assist individuals in obtaining birth certificates through the state's vital records offices, with fees covered through institutional loans when necessary. Replacement Social Security cards are obtained through a formal agreement with the Social Security Administration, allowing requests up to 180 days prior to release.

Since 2012, the Department has partnered with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to issue state identification cards through the DMV Connect program, which provides mobile ID services at correctional facilities and Community Corrections Alternative Program locations. The initiative includes options such as REAL ID and veteran designations and ensures individuals leave custody with valid identification critical for employment, housing, and access to services. Probation and Parole Districts support identification efforts by issuing an official, watermarked Offender Information Form to verify identity when other documents are unavailable.

Recent legislation, House Bill 2221, is expected to strengthen the partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles by streamlining the post-release identification process through electronic data sharing. Planning and implementation are currently underway to allow individuals who are unable to obtain a DMV ID before release, to use an official Department-issued identity document for identity verification and issuance of a state ID after release.

Medicaid and Disability Services

The Virginia Department of Corrections continues to partner with the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services to expand Medicaid enrollment for individuals in custody and those under community supervision. A data-sharing agreement allows both agencies to coordinate coverage redeterminations and ensure continuity of health coverage during incarceration and after release, including hospitalization services for eligible adults.

In coordination with the Virginia Compensation Board, local and regional jails, and Community Services Boards, the Department helped implement new federal requirements expanding Medicaid eligibility for incarcerated youth. Under this initiative, youth receive diagnostic and screening services, referrals, and targeted case management prior to release to improve behavioral health outcomes and continuity of care.

The Department also maintains an interagency agreement with the Social Security Administration to support disability benefit applications. Correctional facilities work directly with local Social Security offices to help eligible individuals complete and submit applications for Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, and Social Security Retirement Insurance before release. Staff assist with documentation and coordination to ensure timely processing and support financial stability during the transition to the community.

Child Support Enforcement

The Virginia Department of Corrections partners with the Virginia Department of Social Services to assist incarcerated parents with child support matters. Staff help facilitate case inquiries, order reviews, and adjustments to reflect current financial circumstances. These efforts reduce arrears, promote compliance, and support family stability after release by addressing key legal and financial obligations in advance of reentry.

Workforce Development

The Virginia Department of Corrections focuses on workforce development strategies to assist incarcerated individuals find meaningful employment post-incarceration. Workforce Development Specialists implement pre-release initiatives, offering instruction in interview techniques, résumé building, financial and computer literacy, soft skills, and related employment programs such as the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit and the Virginia Bonding Program. Biannually, staff collaborate with employers and organizations including Virginia Works, Goodwill Industries, and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to conduct job and resource fairs within correctional facilities, highlighting resource and employment opportunities. In addition, employer-specific referral procedures have been implemented to enhance the efficiency of the hiring process and address the distinct needs of individual companies. Furthermore, The Job Portal Program operates at four correctional facilities, advancing registration with the Virginia Workforce Connection. Using a secure intranet portal, inmates engage in job search, résumé development, and research into training opportunities. To offset transportation barriers, the Virginia Department of Corrections collaborates with Drive to Work, an

adult reentry program, allowing participants to complete the Driver Improvement Clinic, an essential requirement for reinstating driving privileges. In 2025, the Department created the position of Community Workforce Advisor, serving exclusively within probation districts, the Advisor provides job referral assistance and develops partnerships with businesses to support employment opportunities for those on probation and parole supervision.

Inmate Work Programs and Certifications

The Virginia Department of Corrections offers a range of employment opportunities to individuals during incarceration. Departments including Agribusiness, Food Service, and Buildings and Grounds provide on-the-job training, enabling individuals to engage in daily operations alongside staff. Participation in these employment programs allows individuals to strengthen technical skills, cultivate a strong work ethic, and benefit from workforce coaching of professionals in the field.

Mental Health and Wellness Services

The mission of the Mental Health and Wellness Services program within the Virginia Department of Corrections is to promote public and institutional safety by delivering high-quality mental health assessment and treatment services to incarcerated individuals. The program also provides expert consultation and training to correctional staff, adhering to the highest professional and ethical standards of practice.

A comprehensive continuum of care has been established to address the mental health needs of individuals during incarceration and to support their successful reintegration into the community upon release. Most individuals receive outpatient-level care, which is available at all major correctional facilities. Crisis intervention and assessment services are also provided as needed to those housed in field units.

Acute mental health care is offered at designated facilities: male inmates receive services at Marion Correctional Treatment Center, while female inmates are served at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Additionally, Residential Treatment Mental Health Units are located at Fluvanna, Greensville, and Marion. These units provide structured, therapeutic environments for individuals with mental health disorders who do not require inpatient hospitalization, offering care in a setting separate from the general population. All mental health units operated by the Department are licensed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Furthermore, the units at Marion Correctional Treatment Center are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), reflecting a commitment to excellence in mental health care.

General Programs

The Virginia Department of Corrections offers an array of evidence-based and skill-building programs across all Institutions, Community Corrections Alternative Programs, and Probation/Parole offices. Curricula focused on substance use, criminal thinking, anger management, victim impact, citizenship, parenting, and reentry are prioritized. Gender-specific programs are offered at women's

facilities. Priority programs are supplemented with offerings designed to engage the population in productive activities such as topical seminars and voluntary participation in support groups often led by community volunteers. VADOC follows the evidence-based principles of risk-needs-responsivity, which means referring to programs based on an individual's risk of recidivism, targeting programs to the needs that have the highest impact on crime reduction, and using materials inclusive of different modalities, such as manuals, journals, videos, role-plays, and out-of-class assignments. Peer-led programming is encouraged across all institutions with approved curricula as a supplement to staff-led programs. Probation and Parole Districts offer programming through contracted local providers and referrals to community-based partners on a sliding scale basis, as well as the use of Community Cognitive Counselors at specific locations that offer cognitive-behavioral programs. Peer Support programs to reinforce concepts learned in cognitive-behavioral curriculum are also offered at Probation/Parole Districts. VADOC offers facilitation training through our Academy for Staff Development to support fidelity and adherence to curriculum standards, and tracks program success measures such as referrals, enrollments and completions.

A list of programs for facilities and Probation/Parole Districts can be found on VADOC's public website at:

<https://vadoc.virginia.gov/inmates-and-probationers/incoming-inmates/facility-programs/>

Peer Mentoring

Mentors play a vital role supporting reentry efforts in prisons across the Virginia Department of Corrections. Inmates are carefully screened and selected for these roles and receive specialized training. Mentors serve as positive role models for their peers but also support a variety of reentry and stabilization efforts including working with individuals in Cognitive Community Programs, Shared Allied Management (SAM) units, Restorative Housing units, and general population units. They provide valuable guidance and support to their peers, assisting as a link between staff and inmates. Additionally, VADOC expanded its mentoring program equipping Mentors with program facilitation training and skills. With this progression, Mentors can offer inmates additional Reentry Programming in groups or individually. In 2025 to date, there have been 1,494 successful peer-led reentry program completions facilitated by Peer Mentors in facilities across Virginia. VADOC's Peer Programs continue to foster a sense of community, hope, and empowerment through shared experiences.

Reentry Councils

Reentry councils are community-based organizations that support individuals reentering society after incarceration. Their primary goal is to assist these individuals in successfully reintegrating by providing a variety of services, including but not limited to:

- o Job training and employment assistance
- o Housing support
- o Access to education resources

- o Mental health services
- o Substance abuse treatment
- o Social services

These councils promote collaboration among stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-profits, businesses, and community groups. Reentry councils play a crucial role in reducing recidivism, enhancing public safety, and improving overall well-being by addressing the challenges returning individuals face. There are 43 Virginia Department of Corrections involved Reentry Councils across the state of Virginia.

Community Residential Programs

Community Residential Programs (CRPs) are group homes, halfway houses, other non-restrictive facilities that provide housing, treatment, and support for adult probationers and parolees, helping them successfully reintegrate into the community, particularly when stable housing or family support is unavailable. These programs offer supervised housing for up to 90 days, with possible extensions of up to six months, and provide a wide range of services such as life skills training, financial and transportation assistance, employment coaching, educational and medical referrals, substance abuse education, job placement, discharge planning, counseling, and mental health support, along with random urinalysis testing.

Eligibility is open to inmates being released without a viable home plan and to probationers or parolees already in the community who have no pattern of violence, are mentally and physically capable, and meet facility admission criteria. The Virginia Department of Corrections partners with 10 CRP vendors operating 12 houses across the state, five in the Central Region, three in the Western Region, and two in the Eastern Region, providing a total of 234 beds for both male and female inmates under supervision. These beds play a vital role in supporting VADOC's Reentry. The Community Residential Program is authorized under the Code of Virginia §§53.1-10, 53.1-177, and 53.1-178.

CTE, Academic and College

Virginia Department of Corrections Correctional Education program is a full school system that includes Virginia Department of Education (VADOE) licensed and certified educators as in any Virginia school system. We offer Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes. VADOC's 2020 data shows that students who earned their General Education Development (GED) diploma recidivated at 11.1%, while those who completed a CTE certification were even lower at 9.5%.

Our Academic Programs help adult learners build skills, earn credentials, and prepare for future success. Programs include Adult Basic Education with emphasis on foundational reading, writing, and math skills. Adult Secondary Education designed to prepare students for the high school equivalency (HSE) credential through the GED® test. English Language Acquisition focuses on English for everyday life, work, and education. Career Readiness is integrated education to develop the workplace skills employers look for and earn WorkKeys® certification. We also provide specialized instructional services

and reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of learners identified under Special Education guidelines, ensuring compliance and equitable access.

Our CTE support includes Certificates, Industry Certifications in the areas of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCR), and Microsoft Office Specialist to name just a few. With our CTE programs we offer 31 different courses across the state. There are around one hundred sixty-four of these types of classes which range from Commercial Driver License (CDL), Automotive Repair, Food Services, Pipefitting, CAD, Masonry, HVAC, Optical, Electricity and Welding among others. We also offer registered apprenticeships and opportunities to be licensed by the state in many of these areas where students can find sustainable employment once released.

Virginia's correctional facilities offer a comprehensive range of college-level opportunities that blend Career and Technical Education (CTE) with academic programs, all aimed at equipping incarcerated individuals with the skills and credentials necessary for successful reentry into society. VADOC currently partners with 10 active colleges, serving students across 20 statewide facilities. This network is expanding, with two additional institutions joining in Spring 2026, including the first public university to offer a bachelor's degree program within the correctional system. We are also proud to collaborate with Virginia Wesleyan University, our first private university partner, which provides pathways toward a bachelor's degree. In total, four colleges now offer associate degree programs across our facilities. Through the expansion of the Second Chance Pell Grant program, VADOC and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) have established a College Consortium to enhance coordination and broaden access to high-quality education. Educational offerings include hands-on CTE training in trades such as welding, HVAC, and culinary arts, alongside academic coursework that supports both workforce readiness and continued educational advancement. These programs reflect our commitment to transforming lives through education and preparing individuals for meaningful opportunities beyond incarceration.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Pre-release and Post-Incarceration Services (PAPIS)

DCJS administered funds to nine PAPIS programs, which received a state appropriation totaling \$3,596,429 to provide professional reentry services in 96 of the 133 jurisdictions in Virginia. PAPIS programs support individuals in increasing their opportunity for, and their likelihood of, successful reintegration into Virginia communities upon being released from local or regional jails and state prisons. The nine PAPIS programs are Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center (Winchester), Colonial Community Corrections (Williamsburg), Northern Neck Regional Adult Detention Center (Westmoreland), OAR-Arlington, OAR-Fairfax, OAR-Jefferson Area, OAR-Richmond, STEP-UP (Tidewater), and Virginia CARES (seven locations mainly located in the southern and western parts of Virginia).

PAPIS programs continue to collaborate with local and regional jails, the Virginia Department of Corrections, community-based nonprofit organizations, and other reentry-invested stakeholders to deliver a continuum of wraparound services that promote public safety and effectively leverage both justice system and community resources. These partnerships assist with the successful transition from carceral facilities to communities. PAPIS programs are represented on community criminal justice boards, local reentry councils, and statewide reentry steering committees. These partnerships allow them to better coordinate with community providers and address gaps in reentry services in their areas.

PAPIS programs assess clients and co-develop individualized reentry success plans that address the individual client's needs, strengths, and risk factors to promote positive change in behavior, and mitigate risks to public safety. By either directly providing the assistance or through partnerships with various community organizations, PAPIS programs assist clients with numerous services in correctional facilities and in the community.

According to State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 data, PAPIS programs provided state funded pre-release services to 1,705 new individuals and 2,079 existing pre-release program participants. In SFY2025, PAPIS programs provided state funded post release services to 2,092 new individuals and 3,888 existing post release program participants. Professional reentry services included medical health (Medicaid) assistance, mental health and trauma-informed services, cognitive behavioral therapy, substance use disorder services, peer support services, employment readiness and employment placement, crisis stabilization services, housing support services, identification and vital record assistance, life skills, family reunification services, and transition success planning.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, DCJS administered funds to six RSAT programs and one locality planning an RSAT program. Federal grant funding totaled \$483,098, which did not include a mandatory 25% local match. The six RSAT programs were located at Newport News Jail, Norfolk City Jail, Western Virginia Regional Jail, Franklin County Jail, Henrico County Jail, and George Mason University. Fairfax County was awarded the planning grant for their Juvenile Detention Center. RSAT programs provide

evidence-based residential substance use treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for incarcerated individuals to prepare them for reintegration into the community by incorporating reentry planning activities into treatment programs. RSAT programs also provide aftercare services after release from a residential substance use treatment program. The goal of the RSAT programs is to assist people in breaking the cycle of drug use by providing them with the treatment and resources needed to maintain sobriety once released into the community.

Jail Mental Health Pilot Program (JMHPP)

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, DCJS administered funds to five JMHPP sites, which received a state appropriation totaling \$1,875,000. These five JMHPP sites are located at Chesterfield County Jail, Middle River Regional Jail, Prince William Regional Detention Center, Richmond City Jail, and Western Virginia Regional Jail. During SFY2024, a sixth JMHPP jail, Hampton Roads Regional Jail, ceased operations. This closure resulted in a reduction in JMHPP SFY2025 state appropriations. The JMHPP provides mental health services and transitional services for incarcerated individuals with mental health needs. Reentry planning includes wraparound services for psychiatric medications and appointments, housing assistance, transportation assistance, employment assistance, and connection to Medicaid. The goal is to promote a supportive transition back into the community by connecting individuals with community resources, such as community service boards, probation officers, and healthcare providers in a way that prioritizes stability and a continuity of care.

Addiction Recovery Grant Program (ARGP)

DCJS administered funds to four ARGP programs, which received a state appropriation totaling \$153,600. The four programs are located at Franklin County Jail, Newport News Jail, Norfolk City Jail, and Riverside Regional Jail. ARGP provides model addiction recovery programs that are based on best practices in existing research, related standards developed for substance use disorder treatment and criminal justice programming, and practices identified by experienced practitioners that are effective interventions in criminal justice settings. Programs also provide various reentry services, such as reentry planning, connection to aftercare resources in the community, peer support services, and funding for housing upon release.

Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Grant Program (JSUT)

The purpose of JSUT programs is to increase access to substance use disorder treatment and transitional services for individuals incarcerated in local and regional jails in Virginia. Programs may include Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), addiction recovery and other substance use disorder services, and reentry and transitional support services. This is a special fund that was included in the 2024 Appropriation Act and is currently funded by the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund. Ten three-year awards starting January 1, 2025, were awarded, totaling \$1,301,514. The ten sites were Danville City Jail, Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center, Henry County Adult Detention Center, Middle River Regional Jail, New River Valley Regional Jail, Norfolk City Jail, Northern Neck Regional Jail, Rappahannock Regional Jail, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren (RSW) Regional Jail, and Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail.

Virginia Department of Education

Virginia school divisions and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) State Operated Programs (SOP) maintain student information systems that collect demographic data about all enrolled students, including those in detention educational programs. The data meets federal and state reporting requirements including students' schedules, grades, teachers, and test scores. The data system enables the sharing of student information to facilitate re-enrollment and placement in schools upon release and preparation of reentry plans prior to release. Timeliness in providing information from students' records to agencies and school divisions is crucial to the preparation of students' enrollment plans upon release and academic course planning when the juvenile is admitted to a correctional facility. Training to reinforce enrollment regulation procedures and designating personnel within agencies to work with reentry and re-enrollment have facilitated the timely receipt of young students' information for transition planning.

Adult Education

The VDOE Office of Adult Education serves as a key resource to the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and State Responsible (SR) facilities with direct education and training services and by supporting the agency's efforts to promote continuity of educational opportunities for adults and assist individuals in their transition back into the community, including offering programming in collaboration with that leads to industry-recognized credentials. In Program Year (PY) 2024-2025, the VDOE Office of Adult Education participated in statewide efforts to address the Governor's Executive Order #36, aimed at strengthening the collaboration between service agencies to close gaps experienced by returning citizens.

In PY2024-2025, adult education programs were funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) and administered by the VDOE served inmates, mainly in SR facilities. Correctional education services were offered in local and regional jails, community institutions, and community reentry, with 1,055 individuals having received at least 12 hours of instruction. Many more were served in cooperation with Probation and Parole offices.

Of the incarcerated participants, 397 (37 percent) were enrolled in an integrated education and training (IET) cohort, a programming model that pairs academic and workforce preparedness skills with occupational training toward earning an in-demand industry recognized credential. Participants had the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials such as Solar Panel Installation, ServSafe Manager, Certified Logistic Associate, Certified Maintenance, and Horticulture/Landscaping.

Returning citizens who have not yet passed all four sub-tests of the GED® test battery are encouraged to continue their studies by enrolling in a local adult education program, which provides a variety of classes, tutoring, and opportunities to earn GED® testing vouchers. The High School Equivalency Specialist provides technical assistance and responds to a variety of VADOC and SR requests, which include researching GED® test records, verifying duplicate accounts, verifying

credentials, and authenticating transcripts and certificates, to reconnect students' testing records upon release so that students can continue to make progress toward their credential. This is done on a case-by-case basis; there is no ready mechanism to transfer accounts from inside a facility to community programs.

The VDOE continues to involve the VADOC in the GED® 1 to GO campaign, a statewide adult education promotional initiative launched in February 2022, designed to reengage and motivate test takers who lack one test subject completion from earning their GED® credential. This ongoing campaign provides testing vouchers at no cost to enrolled adult education participants in the community and SR facilities. Approximately 400 VADOC students were identified on the initial list of test takers who started the current GED® test series, launched in 2014, and only had one test "to go." As of September 1, 2025, 64 of those individuals (16 percent) had earned their credential.

Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) maintains work release agreements with facilities in the Department of Corrections, as well as three regional jail authorities. Through these agreements, the agency provides specialized training and supervision of inmate crews that support wildland fire suppression operations in their region of the Commonwealth.

VDOF trained inmates in forest fire fighting at the following Department of Corrections facilities during FY 2025:

- Patrick Henry Correctional Unit in Henry County
- Camp 18 at Coeburn in Wise County
- Appalachian CCAP in Russell County
- Duffield Regional Jail in Scott County

Inmates from these facilities were used on multiple wildfires during the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025, and these same resources have already received refresher training ahead of Virginia's fall season which officially began on October 15, 2025.

The training and skills learned through this collaborative effort are applicable to a number of career disciplines and can be of benefit to the inmates upon release.

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

DHCD supports interagency efforts at the state level that assess the coordination of and collaboration on permanent supportive housing resources dedicated to vulnerable populations. DHCD staff continue to support efforts to improve outcomes for vulnerable residents, including individuals who are exiting institutions.

Additionally, DHCD's Homeless and Special Needs Housing (HSNH) division continues to work with homeless services providers to remove barriers to accessing housing and services. All emergency shelters and all other service providers receiving funding from DHCD must follow a low-barrier, housing-focused approach. Additionally, the HSNH division supports housing search and location efforts for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing providers, which includes advocacy and outreach aimed at encouraging landlords to remove barriers to permanent housing such as criminal background checks.

In rural communities, staff support local efforts in addressing the current needs of returning residents, mapping local resources that support these individuals, and identifying resource gaps for this population. DHCD staff also provide training to members of community agencies that includes providing information on accessing resources for housing assistance for returning residents.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Assets: The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Justice Involved Services (JIS) program assists justice-involved veterans through diversion efforts in jurisdictions such as veteran treatment court dockets, during incarceration and upon release, and on probation/parole supervision to connect veterans to services in the community. The VVFS JIS program and VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists (VJS) provide resource connections, care coordination, and support to veterans and service members in the criminal justice system. The VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists (VJS) assist justice-involved veterans with connections to housing, employment, benefits, treatment, peer support, and other supportive services. The VVFS VJS continue to provide assistance pre-release to incarcerated veterans. They also assist veterans after release and veterans on probation and/or parole supervision with connections to community resources. The VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists assist incarcerated veterans via in-person meetings and/or phone calls arranged by correctional facility counselors. The VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists provide in-person and/or virtual assistance to veterans on probation and parole supervision. The VVFS Justice Involved Services program staff conduct in-person information sessions with veterans in VADOC correctional facilities. In 2022, VDVS added a Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator position to the VVFS team. The Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator provides additional information on veteran housing during the veteran information sessions for incarcerated veterans.

In addition, the VDVS staff currently participate in VADOC reentry resource events and reentry council meetings. VDVS is also a member of the VADOC Veterans Quarterly Stakeholders group, which meets to discuss issues and services for incarcerated veterans. The VDVS Housing and Criminal Justice Director collaborates with VADOC and the VADOC Statewide Veteran Services Manager to address gaps and barriers for justice-involved veterans. The VDVS Housing and Criminal Justice Director and VDVS Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator also sit on several workgroups to advocate for the needs for justice-involved veterans.

DVS is a collaborative partner in the Governor's Stand Tall-Stay Strong-Succeed Together Reentry Initiative to work on reentry efforts for justice-involved veterans. The VADOC staff and VDVS Housing and Criminal Justice Director worked together to prioritize veterans experiencing homelessness on community supervision. The VVFS JIS program receives referrals from the probation and parole district teams to assist veterans with housing. The VVFS VJS staff assist with connecting veterans on community supervision to housing and other community resources.

VDVS Benefits staff partners with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to assist incarcerated veterans with benefits claims development and technical assistance, as needed. The VDVS Benefits staff respond to inquiries from incarcerated veterans and VADOC staff for assistance with initial VA benefits claims, appeals, and other VA benefits related concerns. The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director works with the VDVS Benefits team to pass on referrals for incarcerated veterans that need assistance with VA benefits claims.

VDVS also works closely with the VA, veteran service organizations (VSOs) and other local, state, and federal partners to provide a comprehensive network of services to justice-involved veterans. Virginia has developed a streamlined procedure for the compensation and pension (C&P) exam process for incarcerated veterans. The VDVS collaborates with the VA and VADOC to coordinate compensation and pension (C&P) exam requests for incarcerated veterans in VADOC correctional facilities. VDVS also works in partnership with the VA and VADOC on the Justice Involved Veterans with Special Needs workgroup to help coordinate discharge planning efforts for justice-involved veterans with serious medical and/or mental health needs.

The VDVS VJS also partner with the VA Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) Specialists on referrals from VADOC. The VVFS VJS and the VA HCRV Specialists work collaboratively on referrals and supportive services (housing, treatment, healthcare) for incarcerated veterans in VADOC.

VDVS partners with VADOC and the VA to revise the Reentry Roadmap for Justice Involved Veterans in Virginia guide. The new guide will be updated in 2025. The 2023 guide is currently available on the VDVS and VADOC websites. Once updated, the VVFS JIS program staff will distribute the guide to facility and community corrections staff.

Barriers: Housing access for justice-involved veterans continues to be an issue, particularly for justice-involved veterans with serious medical and/or mental health needs. Many justice-involved veterans are not eligible for or able to access community housing or veteran-specific housing directly upon release from incarceration. Criminal history, HUD and housing policies, tenant screening policies, previous incarcerated status, and lack of affordable housing options are barriers for justice-involved veterans. The lack of housing options leaves justice-involved veterans competing for the same limited resources with other individuals who do not have a criminal history. Justice-involved veterans with complex medical and mental health needs face additional housing barriers due to lack of long-term care housing options and restrictive long-term care facility policies.

Gaps: Housing instabilities for justice-involved veterans diminishes efforts to improve health outcomes and can increase the risk of re-offending.

Lack of a shared data collection system. As agencies work with criminal justice agencies on improving client connection to services, data collection and sharing is key. There is no unified multi-agency data sharing information system between VADOC and other agencies that assist individuals in VADOC custody or in community supervision. Data sharing would help enhance discharge planning services, resource connections, and promote better cross agency collaboration for justice-involved individuals.

Efforts: VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists assess the housing needs for justice-involved veterans and connect veterans to housing resources. The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator provides housing technical assistance to VADOC staff, veterans, and the VVFS VJS staff. The VVFS program provides financial assistance to assist in bridging housing gaps for veterans. The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director and the VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator sit on several workgroups to advocate for and address the needs of veterans in the criminal justice system and veterans experiencing homelessness.

The VVFS Justice Involved Services (JIS) program revised the program referral form to assist VADOC staff and community providers on providing more information for referrals.

VDVS will be pursuing a data sharing agreement (MOU/MOA) with VADOC to obtain limited data on veterans being released from VADOC within a particular timeframe to assist incarcerated veterans with reentry needs.

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) protects the public by preparing court involved and committed youth to be successful citizens. To accomplish this mission, DJJ uses an integrated approach to juvenile justice, bringing together current research and best practices to target delinquent behavior; meet the needs of court-involved youth, victims, and communities; and manage activities and resources in a responsible and proactive manner.

DJJ partners with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Office of Children's Services (OCS), Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of Education (VDOE), Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Community College Systems (VCCS), Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and a host of public and private providers to link juveniles returning to the communities after commitment with the highest and most appropriate levels of support. Expanded partnerships include partnering with DSS to serve committed youth aging out of foster care and partnering with VADOC to serve youth transitioning to the VADOC community supervision. Additionally, the Department continues to work with our community partners (e.g., local departments of social services, secure juvenile detention centers, and community-based non-profits) to provide step-down and wrap-around services for released juveniles.

Reentry Programs and Services

Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI): The Department's partnership with Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) continues to be available to provide transportation to families visiting Bon Air, the Community Placement Programs (CPPs), and other placements.

Since June 2021, AFOI has continued to partner with DJJ to offer funds through a HEARTY Grant (Health Encouragement and Assistance in Reentry for Thriving Youth) that addresses transition service gaps that cannot be met by the department, thereby reducing risk factors. HEARTY may be used to help youth maintain their physical and mental health by paying for prescriptions, medical care, and health insurance co-pays. Funding may also be used to support educational goals, equipment, transportation, and other reentry needs. The targeted population is youth returning to or residing in the Richmond metropolitan area, with some assistance available for youth outside of the Richmond area HEARTY funding is supported through grant opportunities with the Nunnally and Jenkins Foundations.

Greater Richmond Transportation Company (GRTC): DJJ continues to partner with GRTC to address the transportation needs for our youth and families in Central Virginia. GRTC provides free bus passes and Microtransit Services, like Uber and Lyft.

Partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS) on Foster Care Children: The DJJ and the DSS continue to collaborate based on the guidance set forth in a previous MOA for the local departments of social services and DJJ to effectively manage committed juveniles who were in foster

care immediately prior to commitment and who will be released prior to their 18th birthday. The MOA has been revised to enroll youth who age out of foster care while in commitment into Fostering Futures. Fostering Futures provides independent living resources to support youth over the age of 18 as they return to the community.

Partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles on Licenses and Identification Cards: The partnership with DMV continues to support issuing state IDs and remote learner's permits testing at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC). DJJ continues to partner with the DMV to provide opportunities for paroled youth to secure state issued IDs at sites in the community.

To meet the needs of youth released without IDs, an appointment is scheduled with the local DMV office 30 days prior to release.

When practicable, our education department provides driver's education as a part of the 10th grade Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Medicaid Applications: HB2183 required the DMAS to convene a workgroup to identify and develop a process to streamline Medicaid applications for individuals incarcerated in DJJ, VADOC, and local jails. As a result, the Cover Virginia Incarcerated Unit (CVIU) was developed. Medicaid applications for juveniles over the age of 18 are streamlined through the CVIU prior to release.

Workforce Development DJJ is expanding its efforts to connect juveniles to career opportunities in industry recognized trade programs. The expanded efforts include partnerships with community colleges, trade schools and mobile training programs. Partnerships involve but are not limited to: C-Tech programming. C-Tech is a hands-on portable technology training program with built in security features designed specifically for secure environments such as local detention centers. C-Tech offers certification in the areas of Telecommunications, Network Cabling, and Grounding and Bonding. DJJ offers juveniles committed educational and vocational training programming on Plumbing, HVAC, AC/Refrigeration, Electrical, Carpentry, and Construction Program. Through our partnership with local trade schools and colleges, juveniles released in the community continue to participate in those programs, and other industry recognized trade programs.

Other CTE include Barbering and Culinary Art.

To support youth in accomplishing their career goals, DJJ's Workforce Development Center continues to operate within Bon Air.

The Workforce Development Supervisor continues to seek partnerships with organizations willing to train and hire youth released from commitment. Through our partnerships, youth have received in-person interviews and hired for employment prior to being released.

Network Industries: DJJ has partnered with Network Industries to hire youth in the maritime industry as a shipyard fire watch and general laborer.

Dominion Energy: DJJ has partnered with Dominion Energy to provide employment opportunities for juveniles that complete the trades program. Dominion Energy will collaborate with the Workforce staff to provide information sessions to students in the trade programs.

After being released to the community, committed youth continue to need support and resources to accomplish and sustain long-term career opportunities. To meet this need, DJJ established contracts with multiple community-based providers to support wraparound “education to employment” services for youth in the community under the supervision of DJJ. These combined efforts will increase the likelihood of juveniles achieving continued success in the community.

Regional Service Coordinators (RSCs)

In January 2017, DJJ adopted a regionalized service delivery model utilizing two contracted companies, AMIkids (AMI) and Evidence-Based Associates (EBA), to serve as Regional Service Coordinators (RSCs). The RSCs support DJJ’s continuum of services by managing centralized referrals, service coordination, quality assurance, billing, and reporting. They are responsible for assessing existing programming, developing new service capacity, and selecting and subcontracting with Direct Service Providers (DSPs). They also are responsible for monitoring the quality of the DSPs and fidelity to evidence-based practices and programs, completing ongoing service gap analyses, and filling those service gaps.

In an effort to streamline processes and increase efficiency, DJJ moved the RSC contractual/operational functions under the QA unit. Since that time, the QA unit has worked diligently to assess the model’s impact on our youth/families and implement written protocols for the model. Additionally, in March 2024, DJJ decided to move towards a sole RSC agency for the entire Commonwealth to increase effectiveness and efficiency. On 7/1/24, EBA became the sole RSC agency. As we approached FY 2026, it became evident we could become more impactful by returning the service coordination roles and responsibilities to DJJ. The endorsement of the Model in the recent 2025 JLARC report reinforces our decision. This allows DJJ to adapt and build on the existing model, expand upon our already robust variety of services by working directly with providers, and pay special attention to individual youth needs. This collaborative approach allows us to better meet the needs of the youth and families we serve.

Pre-Release Services: A significant effort is underway to ensure that youth are linked with community providers prior to release. In March 2024, updates to the Reentry Manual included requirements for parole officers to submit RSC referrals for pre-release services 90-days prior to the youth’s anticipated release. Training and coaching in this expectation have been facilitated for the RSCs to ensure referral processing and service linkages. The QA unit is currently working on a pre-release services matrix to more clearly define specific service expectations for pre-release transition meetings and service initiation. The QA unit will also be creating specific referral guidelines for pre-release services.

Pre-Placement Services: DJJ identified a gap in services while youth in direct care intake placements within the juvenile detention centers were waiting for final placement. The QA unit instituted a process

for pre-placement services through the RSC model. Initiating these services address the youth's direct care treatment needs, reduce time gaps in service delivery, and provide youth with coping mechanisms to ultimately have better outcomes/behavior while in direct care. Services may include individual and/or group sessions to address aggression, substance use, and other mental health needs. In FY 2025, this was embedded into procedure for the Central Admission & Placement Unit to facilitate the referral process as part of the intake process.

Transitional Living Programs: Through the RSCs, DJJ initiated an RFP for a third transitional living program (TLP). A contract was secured with Intercept and a new TLP, Summit West, was opened for youth on 2/1/24. DJJ now has three TLPs, Summit West and Summit (Chesterfield) operated by Intercept and the Apartment Living Program (ALP) operated by Tidewater Youth Services Commission (TYSC), for a total of 24 beds dedicated to youth returning to the community from direct care. The QA unit is collaborating with the RSCs and TLPs to develop a statewide action plan for implementing structured processes for parole placements.

Services Re-Alignment: The service subcategories were revised to more accurately reflect the types of services available to address youth needs. Service names were amended to be more representative of the provider's service names. The service descriptions have been enhanced to include expectations on service delivery, purpose of the intervention, typical dosage/duration guidelines, and billing requirements. Some service rates were also adjusted to align with DMAS rate changes. These changes went into effect for FY25.

Quality Assurance Implementation of a Validated Evaluative Process

The QA unit spearheaded a contract with Vanderbilt University to implement the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™), which is a validated, data driven evaluative tool for determining how well an existing program matches to research evidence for the effectiveness of reducing the recidivism of juvenile offenders. SPEP™ will assist DJJ in its mission to establish sustainable performance improvement and maximize positive youth outcomes. In partnership with Vanderbilt University, a team of DJJ staff earned their Level I SPEP™ Specialist certificate in June 2022. Staff from the QA unit completed Level II SPEP™ training with Vanderbilt University in 2023 to be SPEP™ trainers in an effort to sustain SPEP™ in Virginia. Level II training included the training of a new cohort of Level I SPEP™ Specialists; individuals in that training included DJJ staff and RSC staff.

In September 2023, QA staff facilitated an overview of SPEP™ implementation in Virginia during Vanderbilt's International Learning Lab for SPEP™ Specialists throughout the US and Australia. In October 2023, QA staff also facilitated a workshop on SPEP™ implementation in Virginia during the 29th National Symposium on Juvenile Services hosted by the National Partnership for Juvenile Services.

To date, SPEP™ teams have partnered with Merrimac CPP, Virginia Beach CPP, Chesterfield CPP, Prince William CPP, Bon Air JCC, and the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth to evaluate a total of 33 services offered to DJJ youth. SPEP™ teams are currently evaluating services at Blue Ridge CPP and Shenandoah Valley CPP.

Division of Education

The Division of Education operates under the authority of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to ensure that all educational services provided within the juvenile justice settings comply with state and federal regulations and align with academic standards. This oversight fosters accountability and provides access to valuable resources, innovative teaching strategies, and effective assessment tools. Together, the Division of Education and VDOE work to enhance student outcomes, promote equity, and support successful transitions for youth reentering their communities.

High School Programs: The Division of Education offers students multiple graduation options, including the Standard Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and GED. Instruction is delivered through a blended learning model that combines direct instruction, digital coursework, and hands-on learning experiences. Student progress is continuously monitored through online platforms, allowing teachers to tailor instruction to individual needs. This approach ensures students receive targeted academic support as they work toward graduation and future success.

Post-Secondary Programs: The Division of Education is committed to providing high school graduates with access to post-secondary education and workforce training opportunities through partnerships with community businesses, colleges, and agencies. These collaborations create seamless pathways that bridge secondary and post-secondary learning, expanding access to advanced coursework, vocational training, college credits, industry credentials, and workplace skills aligned with local workforce demands. Enrichment programs further support student talents and confidence, empowering students to achieve their goals and contribute meaningfully to the community while building a foundation for lifelong success.

College: Through its collaboration with Reynolds Community College, the Division of Education offers the Career Studies Certificate Program focused on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for post-secondary students. This program equips participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the business world. It empowers aspiring entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into viable ventures, fostering innovation and economic growth in the community.

Workforce: The Division of Education has also implemented comprehensive trades programs in Carpentry, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical fields for both high school and post-secondary students. These programs offer hands-on training that provides real-world experience and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications. This initiative reflects our commitment to preparing all students for high-demand, sustainable careers, while also supporting the skilled workforce needs of our communities.

Support for Students with Disabilities, English Learners, and Gifted Learners: Between 2020 and 2024, students with disabilities consistently made up a significant portion of the Division of Education's total student population, averaging 44% annually. The highest percentage was reported in 2022 at 50%, and the lowest in 2021 at 38%. This group includes both students receiving special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and those supported under Section 504.

To effectively support these students, the Division of Education utilizes the state's online IEP management system, VA IEP, which facilitates efficient and secure exchange of special education documentation with detention centers and public-school divisions. This expedited process significantly reduces delays in implementing services upon entry to Bon Air and ensures continuity as students transition back to their local school divisions.

Beyond services for students with disabilities, the Division of Education also provides support for English Learners (ELs), whose numbers have remained between 1% and 5% over the past several years.

Additionally, the Division of Education identifies and serves students who qualify for gifted education under specific academic aptitudes, primarily in Language Arts and/or Mathematics. Students entering the Juvenile Correctional Center with a prior gifted identification are reassessed through the Division of Education's eligibility process to confirm continued qualification. Over the past five years, fewer than 1% of the total student population has met the criteria for gifted services.

Reenrollment The Division of Education collaborates closely with local school divisions and partner agencies to ensure the timely reenrollment of juveniles returning to public schools upon release from commitment. School divisions, state-operated programs, and the Division of Education systematically collect demographic data for all enrolled students, adhering to federal and state reporting requirements while monitoring academic and behavioral progress.

The comprehensive exchange of student records is critical both when a juvenile enters a correctional facility and when planning their transition into the school system. Representatives from the Division of Education work collaboratively to share pertinent student information, enabling the development of effective transition plans prior to release. This coordination supports the seamless reenrollment and appropriate placement of students in schools upon their return.

To streamline these processes, the Division of Education, local school divisions, and partner agencies have established clear timelines and designated personnel responsible for enrollment procedures. Targeted training for staff further enhances the efficiency of student entry, enrollment, and transition planning, ensuring continuity and support throughout the juvenile's educational journey.

Transition Services: The Division of Education collaborates extensively with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Center for Innovative Transitions, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Transition, and the Virginia Community College System. This partnership promotes shared expertise, resources, and joint responsibility among all stakeholders to deliver targeted services and develop opportunities and support for the students served.

The Division of Education participates in two key initiatives with the VCU Center for Innovative Transitions. The first, "Project Belong," includes the Division of Education's Lead Transition Specialist as an active committee member who identifies eligible students using various assessment tools. The second, a grant-funded project called "Discovering Me!" involves three students with significant cognitive disabilities who are in middle school or ninth grade. This project tracks their career

development progress as they prepare for the workforce and continues to monitor their transition post-release. Both initiatives are in the early stages, with implementation details still evolving.

As part of “The Profile of a Virginia Graduate, VDOE expects students to connect their knowledge, skills, and personal interests with career opportunities while developing productive workplace skills, qualities, and behaviors before graduation. The Division of Education’s Transition Specialists ensure this alignment for all students enrolled in high school and post-secondary programs. For students with disabilities, the Transition Specialists work closely with DARS to facilitate access to the full range of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) while students attend school at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

To further support students’ social and emotional growth, the PEERS Social/Emotional Group, operating under DARS, provides an additional layer of support by helping students develop the essential soft skills needed for workforce success.

All students have access to Virtual Job Shadow’s Pathful Explore (VJSPE), an online platform that allows them to research and explore various careers and virtually “shadow” professionals through typical workdays. The Division of Education’s Transition Specialists assist students with completing online lessons, career assessments, career planning activities, cover letters, and resumes through the VJSPE platform. Additionally, the Transition Specialists support students and families in completing federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) applications, college applications, and scholarship submissions.

For students interested in entering the workforce immediately upon release, the Division of Education’s Transition Specialists assist with researching job opportunities, completing and submitting applications, making employer contacts, and arranging interviews. Those pursuing military careers are provided opportunities to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test at Bon Air. Transition Specialists also continue to explore and promote new programs offered at Bon Air, which are aligned with students’ Academic and Career Plan goals and informed by career assessments, including related credentials and certifications.

Throughout the transition process, Transition Specialists collaborated closely with the agency’s Reentry Team to share relevant documents and information, ensuring a coordinated approach to support students upon their release from the Bon Air JCC.

Improvements and Updates to DJJ’s Information Systems

DJJ continues to implement regular updates for the main DJJ application ecosystem (BADGE), which allows continuous reporting and operational improvements for DJJ staff. The primary updates within the last year include:

Web Application Migration: In August 2025 DJJ went live with the first BADGE modules on the new web version of BADGE. These first modules moved were Juvenile search, Juvenile Information, Offense History, and Caseload management. The remaining modules and multifactor authentication implementation are being worked into the next year’s development schedules.

- Prohibited Diversion Pop-Up
 - Updated offenses triggering the pop-up box and the wording on the pop-up box
- Disposition Recommendation Tool (DRT)
 - Added a new tab to the UI in the Caseload Module to track the DRT
 - Inserted three tables in the database to store the information
 - Inserted a new column to the existing Offense Code table
 - Updated Offense Code categorizations
 - Created and added two data management reports to the Community Insight Reports Module
- Detention Reentry Report Updates
 - Updated eleven reports in the Community Insight Reports Module to include the newly created Detention Reentry case statuses
 - Updated one report in the CSU Intake Module to include the newly created Detention Reentry case statuses
- Contact Data Entry Compliance Report
 - Created and added a data management report to the Community Insight Reports Module
- PREA Vulnerability Assessment Updates
 - Inserted and removed fields on the UI in the Direct Care Module and in the database
 - Updated the business rules for existing data management reports
 - Created and added one new data management report
 - Updated scoring for several items
 - Added the ability for users to edit a record
- FOCUS
 - Updated the UI for Contacts in the Caseload Module to incorporate data entry screens for FOCUS
 - Inserted one new table in the database to store FOCUS information
 - Inserted, updated, and expired contact codes in the database
 - Created and added two data management reports to the Caseload Module
- JDC SIR Incident Type Names
 - Updated the values of seven incident type codes in the database to include the new telephone number for the Certification Unit
- GMS Reports
 - Added data management reports back into the GMS Module that had previously been removed
- Chargeable Offenses
 - Inserted, updated, and expired chargeable offense codes in the database
 - Inserted, updated, and expired serious incident report codes in the database
 - Created a new user privilege for accessing the chargeable offense screen in the Direct Care Module

- Inserted and updated fields on the UI in the Direct Care Module and in the database
 - Created and added seven data management reports to the Direct Care Module
- Reentry Tab Checklist
 - Updated the UI for Reports Provided in the Caseload Module to incorporate data entry screens for the Reentry Checklist
 - Inserted one new table in the database to store Reentry Checklist information
 - Created and added two data management reports to the Caseload Module
- Services Tab Phase I
 - Reordered and renamed the tabs on the UI in the Caseload Module
 - Inserted, updated, and expired service and contact codes in the database
 - Expired thirteen data management reports in the Caseload Module
- DNA Samples
 - Removed old fields from the Juvenile Information UI
 - Inserted a new tab on the UI to collect additional information related to DNA verification
 - Inserted two new tables in the database to store DNA verification information
 - Created and added a new data management report in the Community Insight Reports Module
- Resident Grievance Change User Button
 - Updated the UI to include a button allowing the user to change the Human Rights Coordinator's name

In addition to the internal DJJ application work, DJJ continues to improve the security posture of those applications, increase network capabilities and resiliency, and push to leverage software as a service (SaaS) application where applicable. In FY25 and FY26 DJJ implemented and is in the process of completing the following items:

- Upgraded 12 Court Service Unit (CSU) locations with improved networking speeds and uptime.
- Completed the Bon Air Fiber replacement project, which consisted of over 5 miles of underground new single mode fiber installation at the Bon Air campus. This new fiber installation provides services to all of the existing networks at Bon Air and provides backup fiber connections in the event of outages.
- Completed an evaluation project to begin migrating the DJJ DOE environment over to a COV managed and secured platform. This will allow greater security and oversight for Education IT operations and ensure DJJ compliance with COV standards.

The Violence Intervention Unit and Virginia's GREAT Program

The Violence Intervention Unit (VIU) develops, implements, and monitors gang and violence intervention program planning for reduced recidivism and improved intervention services, and ensures appropriate allocation of services and personnel in support of program objectives. VIU has successfully developed, implemented and is currently monitoring programming within the court service units and Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

All 30 state-funded court service units have successfully implemented and have capacity to deliver the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program to their communities as part of DJJ's efforts to guide youth away from gang involvement, criminal activity, and violence. The 15-week GREAT curriculum includes developing positive relationships with law enforcement and instilling life skills, goal setting, empathy and pride for the community, violence-intervention and conflict-resolution techniques, decision making, and problem solving. The Program also incorporates supplemental services through the RSC to include Casey Life Skills individual sessions, Casey Life Skills group sessions, and transportation to and from groups. Successful completion of the program is celebrated with a graduation ceremony, followed by regular group check-in meetings and recreational outings coordinated by GREAT facilitators until each youth is released from supervision. In an effort to ensure fidelity to DJJ's program model, the QA unit is also providing intensive monitoring of service delivery by the providers who are delivering the supplemental services through the RSC.

VIU has designed a gang and violence intervention program known as ASPIRE within Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. Developed in 2023 as a pilot program, the program has successfully worked to promote positive peer engagement, positive leadership development in an effort to reduce or eliminate deviant behavior within the juvenile correctional center. The program has 4 phases in which residents progress through the stages by adhering to program and facility rules and expectations and actively participating in intervention programming and psycho-educational groups. The program includes a specialize unit and gang and violence intervention services for residents when they are released. The ASPIRE program is comprised of a 3-violence intervention specialist and a violence intervention therapist that are responsible for providing interventions, supporting, and monitoring residents. The program employs evidence-based practices from the National Gang Center to reduce or eliminate negative peer associations and violent behaviors.

Establishment of the Behavioral Assessment Unit

The Behavioral Assessment Unit (BAU) was established on March 1, 2025, within the Placement and Program Implementation Division. BAU serves as the centralized referral source for all intake behavioral health evaluations, ensuring each youth receives assessments tailored to their individual needs.

The unit collaborates with internal and external partners across the intake process and has implemented tools to align treatment recommendations with the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) and the agency's Risk-Need-Responsivity Model. BAU staff conduct supplemental assessments at CAP intake sites statewide to support informed placement decisions and contribute to

ongoing quality improvement in assessment and case planning practices. These assessments strengthen the intake process and inform placement decisions for youth placed in Direct Care.

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services & Virginia Department of Social Services (Medicaid):

The Cover Virginia Incarcerated Unit (CVIU) and DMAS continue to meet monthly with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to share updates on the progress of the CVIU Eligibility Unit, the CVIU Call Center, Medicaid policy updates, and changes to CVIU operational processes. This regular collaboration, and ad hoc meetings scheduled outside of this recurring time, is used to share new initiatives and brainstorm solutions to changes in process or policy, discuss performance and areas of concern with interactions with the CVIU, and celebrate successes. These meetings continue to strengthen the communication between the two agencies in their efforts to ensure continuity of care for the justice involved population.

During the last year, the state eligibility system known as the Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS), was updated to allow for improved and more efficient processing of coverage changes, particularly upon release. In addition to those changes, improvements were also made to the Ex Parte process which is an automated renewal of benefits for members due for their annual renewal. These improvements have resulted in higher levels of efficiency for VADOC, DMAS and the CVIU with more enrollees successfully renewing via the automated Ex Parte process, as well as having a shorter turnaround in ensuring released offenders have the community Medicaid coverage needed upon release.

The system (VaCMS) has previously had limited system functionality to transfer mid-month Medicaid enrollments and changes to enrollments to the Medicaid Enterprise System (MES), impacting most of the incarcerated enrollments processed by the CVIU. The solution was to handle via manual updates. In May 2024, a VaCMS Change Request (CR) was approved and was implemented in mid-November 2024, to successfully bridge the mid-month enrollments systematically. This has created less manual work and resulted in faster (and more accurate) updates to a released offender's coverage.

DMAS works closely with the VADOC in identifying cases that fail to match the data between Medicaid and VADOC systems. The DMAS information technology team added two Medicaid emergency services aid categories to the VADOC and MES data matching process for incarcerated enrollees. This ensures that all incarcerated Medicaid aid categories are identified in the VADOC files. The VADOC also provided the CVIU a transfer reason crosswalk to help the CVIU to identify incarcerated individuals transferring from one facility to another.

In July, a Coverage Correction Portal (CCP) was implemented to have one place to submit enrollment corrections and updates that cannot be completed in the VaCMS. The portal provides a secure, streamlined communication process for participating agencies. The CVIU uses the portal to submit coverage corrections that are unsuccessful in VaCMS.

The data sharing between DMAS and the VADOC has created an efficient eligibility process as the CVIU is able to identify Medicaid enrollees that require a redetermination for incarcerated Medicaid at intake and for changes to their coverage upon release. Collaboration and regular review with VADOC,

DMAS, and the CVIU, has allowed the team to continue to improve and address gaps, as well as inefficiencies, in these processes.

DMAS has a workgroup preparing for the coverage requirements in Section 5121 of the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA). There will be minimal changes needed to the existing data exchange to identify this population

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

The DMV has partnered with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to develop innovative ways to provide inmates who are preparing for release with official state identification cards. The DMV Connect program has been fully implemented in all correctional facilities. DMV Connect is an outreach program where DMV personnel use portable equipment to process transactions for individuals and groups who may not otherwise have access to DMV. Examples include correctional facilities, VA hospitals, and areas hit by natural disasters. The program started in 2012 as a partnership with VADOC to serve incarcerated persons who are preparing for release by providing them with state identification cards. Identification is required for people to obtain employment, housing, transportation, banking, and other necessary daily life activities. Inmates are now able to leave the correctional facilities with an official state identification card that will assist them in their transition and reentry into society. As of August 2025, the DMV Connect program successfully issued over 41,000 credentials to inmates leaving VADOC facilities.

This year DMV has finalized system enhancements to begin issuing REAL IDs to inmates. The REAL ID issuance process is currently available to inmates at all VADOC facilities.

DMV has also worked collaboratively with VADOC to establish a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program for inmates that are incarcerated. In the program, non-violent inmates who are eligible for a driver's license receive training by VADOC staff to obtain a CDL to operate a commercial motor vehicle. CDL holders may drive trucks to deliver products produced in the VADOC agribusiness program. DMV provides training curriculum, testing, and licensure. This program helps keep VADOC costs lower since inmates are paid much lower wages than a private commercial motor vehicle operator. The program also provides inmates with viable job skills that they can utilize upon release. As of October 2025, DMV successfully implemented the CDL program and issued over 80 CDLs to inmates leaving VADOC facilities. The partnership originated with Greensville and expanded to Brunswick, Caroline and then expanded to women in Powhatan. Most recently we have established partnerships in the southwestern area of the state.

Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) collaborates with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to provide offenders training and Registered Apprenticeship programs for offenders seeking licenses in Barbering, Cosmetology, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical Trades. This collaborative effort not only equips inmates with valuable skills but also offers them a chance for a fresh start, encouraging their successful reintegration into the workforce and society.

The training program offered to offenders interested in Barbering is 28 months, while the training for Cosmetology is 12 months. The Registered Apprenticeship program is offered in partnership with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI). The Barbering (RA) program requires 2000 hours of training while the Cosmetology program is currently 3000 hours of training. Students are taught to the exams and DPOR works with VADOC to provide testing materials to incarcerated students with the hope that students will successfully pass their exams and secure gainful employment upon release.

VADOC Maintenance provides the on-the-job training for offenders in the Trade areas. Offenders install, repair, replace, and maintain the mechanical and electrical systems throughout correctional facilities in Virginia. Once the training/Registered Apprenticeship program is complete, inmates may apply to sit for licensure examination with DPOR's Virginia Board for Contractors.

In 2019, DPOR's Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals voted to allow a Registered Apprenticeship program to apply to VADOC facilities. The VADOC Wastewater Apprenticeship Program offers on-the-job training as well as classroom and computer coursework sanctioned by DPOR that qualifies offenders to take the licensing examination. This program is limited in scope and only available to those incarcerated at VADOC facilities with wastewater treatment plants.

DPOR's boards do not share statistics on how many inmates obtain licensure. DPOR is unable to verify information within the VADOC database and VADOC is unable to verify information within DPOR's database.

No DPOR-regulated professions or occupations have "barrier crimes" that expressly prohibit entry due to a prior criminal conviction. Offenders are evaluated in accordance with the criteria enumerated in § 54.1-204 to determine whether a prior criminal history directly relates to the license sought by the applicant. For Fiscal Year 2025, 88% of all applicants with prior convictions were approved for licensure by DPOR boards. However, due to the U.S. anti-terrorism act, there are crime-type barriers that prevent some offenders from working in public wastewater jobs after release; these are reviewed by VADOC on a case-by-case basis before entering the Wastewater Apprenticeship Program.

Virginia Department of Social Services

Local Engagement and Support

The Division of Local Engagement and Support (LES) collaborates with the VADOC Division of Programs, Education, and Reentry to expand partnerships between state social service programs and Local Department of Social Services' (LDSS) involvement in Reentry Councils. LES worked closely with the Governor's Transformation Office to revisit our reentry supports and determine how to reprioritize these efforts. LES participated in VADOC state calls, internal leadership discussions, and facilitated direct communications between LDSS and corresponding Reentry Councils to bolster reentry efforts. The Division supports a priority to encourage and increase sustainable partnerships between LDSS and Reentry Councils to efficiently and wholly serve returning citizens and their families.

Division of Child Support Enforcement

The Virginia Division of Child Support Enforcement's (DCSE) Family Engagement Services (FES) Team is a statewide team of specialized case managers that provides intensive case management to noncustodial parents facing barriers such as housing, transportation, food insecurity, mental health, substance use or other barriers to child support payment compliance and offers them the opportunity to overcome obstacles so that they are better able to provide emotional and financial support for their children.

FES collaborates with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to connect justice-involved parents and those facing reentry who owe child support with vital community resources. FES actively engages with reentry councils statewide, attending meetings to share insights and learn about available services. This collaboration enhances support for FES participants by facilitating access to comprehensive community resources and provides an opportunity for DCSE to share information about child support services with community partners.

FES case managers actively educate and provide justice-involved parents with a Bonding Program Eligibility Letter (BEL). For Federal Fiscal Year 2025, FES provided parents with 105 BELs. The BEL is a wonderful resource to help people with convictions find and keep a job by providing their employer with business insurance.

FES case managers work closely with various probation and parole offices to identify parents in need of supportive services. This partnership not only aims to enhance family stability but also promotes a smoother reintegration process for parents upon their release, ultimately benefiting both the children and the communities to which parents return.

Since the spring of 2025, FES has been working to expand outreach and service delivery to Recovery Courts throughout Southwest Virginia. Recovery Courts are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision in drug or drug-related cases. FES has visited Recovery Courts in Smyth, Dickenson,

Buchanan, Russell, Tazewell, Bristol City, Pulaski, and Giles counties. As a result of these meetings, 17 individuals requested one-on-one meetings with an FES case worker, and 12 participants were successfully enrolled in the FES program.

This expanded outreach has significantly increased the visibility and credibility of FES in the Southwest region. Court staff and Recovery Court coordinators have expressed sincere appreciation for the involvement of FES and emphasized the importance of maintaining FES as a consistent partner in their efforts. FES plans to expand this outreach to new Recovery Courts across Virginia in Federal Fiscal Year 2026.

DCSE is pleased to share that the Next Generation: Forging Innovative Roads to Stability and Transformation (NextGen FIRST) grant is close to launching services. This \$2.1 million grant runs through September 2029 and will give parents with barriers the tools they need to find jobs, support their children, and stay connected as a family through the activities below:

- **Job Training:** Parents will take part in training programs that match job openings in their area. They will receive help with career planning and job placement.
- **Support for Barriers:** Each parent will work with a staff member to make a plan and get help with issues such as transportation, past records, or missing documents.
- **Ongoing Support:** Staff will meet with parents every week to check in, offer encouragement, and connect them to other services they may need.
- **Mentorship:** Parents will connect with mentors as they return to work and build a stronger life.

Although the NextGen FIRST grant will serve all eligible parents with barriers, justice-involved parents are a priority population. The grant will provide services to facilities and parents located in areas served by the Crater Regional and Capital Region Workforce Development Boards. Partners include those two workforce boards, the VADOC, local probation and parole offices, and fatherhood groups.

In 2025, DCSE has taken or will take the following steps to advance the grant.

- **Hiring a project manager.** Angela Dotson started September 25, 2025. She brings over 15 years of experience in social services, case management, and reentry support across state and local government. This role will oversee day-to-day project operations, manage partnerships with the Crater and Capital Workforce Boards, and coordinate closely with the VADOC to support recruitment and service delivery for justice-involved parents. She will also guide implementation activities to ensure the project launches smoothly and delivers consistent, high-quality services across both regions.
- **Hiring a case manager.** This role will work directly with participating parents, providing individualized case management, completing assessments, and helping participants access workforce training, supportive services, and family engagement resources. The case manager will also coordinate closely with the VADOC reentry staff to ensure seamless transitions from incarceration to employment and family support.

- **Finalizing a memorandum of agreement with the Crater Workforce Board.** DCSE expects completion in November 2025. The Board will coordinate regional service delivery, manage the two dedicated Employment Specialists funded through the grant, and ensure participants are connected to industry-aligned training and job placement opportunities in high-demand sectors such as manufacturing, transportation, and logistics.
- **Supporting the Crater Workforce Board in hiring two Employment Specialists.** DCSE expects completion by January 2026. These Employment Specialists will serve as the bridge between parents, employers, and training providers - helping participants build job-readiness skills, obtain credentials, and secure sustainable employment.
- **Finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VADOC.** DCSE expects completion in December 2025. VADOC will assist with identifying and referring eligible parents for participation, support coordination with probation and parole offices, and facilitate access to facilities for outreach and engagement activities. The MOU will formalize this collaboration and set the foundation for aligning reentry services with workforce and family support opportunities available through NextGen FIRST.
- **Preparing for recruitment and enrollment.** DCSE expects services to launch in January 2026. Early outreach will begin in coordination with VADOC, local Department of Social Services offices, and workforce partners. The first cohort of participants will be enrolled in early 2026, with employment and family engagement support beginning shortly thereafter.

Virginia Works

Status Report on Inmate Transitional and Reentry Services

The Department of Workforce Development and Advancement—known as Virginia Works—serves 14 workforce regions and integrates data systems from three state agencies. Established to foster collaboration across Virginia’s workforce network, the agency is focused on improving program outcomes and delivering more effective services to all Virginians.

Partnership with the Department of Corrections

In January 2024, Virginia Works launched a pilot initiative in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Corrections. This effort was later incorporated into Governor Youngkin’s Executive Order #36 (2024): Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together Inmate Reentry Initiative.

As part of this initiative, Virginia Works staff participate in weekly intake sessions at district probation and parole offices, both in-person and virtually. During these sessions, supervisees receive region-specific employment and service information. Staff collect contact details and follow up within days to schedule appointments for workforce assistance.

Through personalized intake interviews, staff assess individual needs and connect participants to relevant support services, including Medicaid, TANF, and behavioral health resources. Those seeking job training are referred to Title I programs, the Virginia Community College System, or Registered Apprenticeship opportunities.

Virginia Works staff also provide direct assistance with job seeking and employment preparation. These efforts have expanded access to workforce services for supervisees, increased engagement at Career One Stop Centers, and strengthened connections with job service partners. While full program data is still being compiled, early reports indicate a positive impact.

Pre-Release Outreach and Community Engagement

Virginia Works continues to collaborate with workforce partners and community organizations to deliver pre-release information sessions in jails and prisons across the Commonwealth. These sessions cover:

- Labor market trends and employment opportunities
- Interview preparation and resume writing
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) eligibility
- Training and certification pathways
- Referrals to pre-employment support services
- Job search strategies and workshops

The goal is to equip individuals with the tools and knowledge needed to successfully reenter the workforce prior to release. Post-release, staff provide one-on-one support at Career One Stop Centers and probation and parole offices.

Services for Veterans

Virginia Works' Veterans Services team partners with the U.S. Department of Labor's ETA VETS Program to deliver "stand down" services for homeless veterans who are also justice-involved. These services include job placement assistance, free haircuts, clothing, and personal care supplies—often in collaboration with local businesses.

The Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) staff also conduct pre-release sessions and provide intensive case management for veterans facing significant barriers to employment, including incarceration. Services are tailored to individual needs and may include housing assistance, job training, and ongoing support.

Data Integration and Workforce Expansion

Virginia Works has enhanced its data sharing and reporting capabilities through active participation in the Data Trust, ensuring confidentiality while improving collaboration with workforce partners.

The agency also hosts statewide virtual and in-person job fairs to connect job seekers—including ex-inmates—with employers. These events generate valuable employer relationships and job leads that support successful reentry.

While Virginia Works does not directly provide formal training beyond resume writing and job search workshops, staff refer interested individuals to WIOA Title I partners, the Virginia Community College System and Registered Apprenticeship.

Virginia Works remains committed to equitable service delivery and does not differentiate services based on gender.

Virginia Indigent Defense Commission

Alexandria Public Defender Office:

Staff from this office serve on the City's reentry taskforce that is led by the Adult Probation and Parole office. The task force is a collaboration of City and state agencies and private entities who work together to identify resources and services for those citizens returning to the community following incarceration to aid them in making a productive transition. Staff from this office also serve on the City's Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) and the Behavioral Health Alliance, a CCJB subcommittee that addresses diversion alternatives for individuals with mental illness at all stages of the criminal justice process. Early diversion of those individuals who may be safely managed in the community results in better outcomes and less jail days.

The Behavioral Health Alliance oversees the CIT program and the Forensic Team, a group of treatment providers through the Community Services Board. The Forensic Team coordinates with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Mental Health Initiative to identify individuals whose mental illness contributed to the alleged offense. The Public Defender and the Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney are notified when an individual with mental health issues is arrested, and both work closely with the Courts and the Forensic Team to develop a treatment plan that will quickly release the individual from the jail. The Public Defender's representation at the earliest possible moment protects the rights and dignity of the accused.

Although there is no Behavioral Health Court in Alexandria, we continue to meet with the Chief Judge of the General District Court, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, staff from the Community Services Board, the Chief Magistrate and other stakeholders about the creation of a BHD. We continue to work with the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney to identify those vulnerable clients whose cases stem largely from their mental health issues. We advocate for diversion whenever possible and prioritize treatment over incarceration.

The Alexandria Circuit Court's Recovery Court began in August of 2019. One attorney – currently the Public Defender – is designated from our office to represent our clients that choose to participate in this program. The Public Defender and the mitigation specialist attend weekly staff meetings and court hearings and handle all Recovery Court-related matters throughout the week. The participants appear in person every Thursday for their court appearances. The treatment provided to participants is also in person, though there are virtual options on a case-by-case basis. The Recovery Court is set to have another successful graduation September 26, 2024. The Recovery Court utilized last year's grant money well and continues to grow in participants, some of whom come from other jurisdictions. The team attended a two-day training in July provided by All Rise, the national recovery court body, at which time new best practices were discussed and adopted. The mitigation specialist successfully participated in a Layperson Naloxone Administrative Program's Overdose Lifeline Course through Purdue University. The Recovery Court's advisory board meetings are currently held monthly as the team prepares their city budget requests for the coming fiscal year.

The Public Defender serves on the Correctional Services Advisory Board to the Sheriff. The Board is composed of representatives from various criminal justice agencies and from the business community as well as citizen representatives. Its mission is to provide input on programming at the jail that can ease the transition of those leaving custody to the community and to enhance inmate rehabilitation efforts. The Board recommends and supports innovative programming at the jail to include college courses for inmates offered through the local community college. The courses offer an introduction to college and the opportunity for inmates to begin their college careers, which they can resume on campus once they are released. The Board has recently created a committee, of which the Public Defender is a member, to investigate the inmate fees at the Alexandria Adult Detention Center and recommend changes so as to ease this significant financial burden.

Housing and long-term stability due to legal status continue to be a significant issue for many clients returning to the community. We are hoping that the new Recovery Court coordinator can look into different and more creative housing options for those clients in the program and liaise with the city to get their assistance when possible. The mitigation specialist attended the job fair at the Alexandria Detention Center to connect with clients about release challenges and learn more about reentry services. Alexandria is down to one shelter now, which has a substantial waitlist. Lack of stable housing can be a significant barrier to successful reentry. We continue to work with other agencies and the CSB to address difficulties in securing housing for our clients. Public housing is often denied to our clients because of their criminal history. Sex offenders are constantly denied housing and are usually placed in one hotel. We actively engage with out-of-state Medicaid providers and the CSB to support clients who reside in neighboring jurisdictions.

Arlington Public Defender Office:

The Public Defender's Office for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church is on the front line of Virginia's mental health crisis insofar as it intersects with the criminal legal system. The Office sends more defendants to state hospitals for competency restoration than any other jurisdiction. The Office also continues to urge police to refine their policies in making charging decisions regarding mentally ill clients whose criminal conduct is the result of psychosis. We encourage police to refrain from seeking warrants for people who can be managed and stabilized through the mental health system. The Office works with the CSB regularly to help divert clients from the criminal legal system and helps educate the community about alternatives to police involvement in mental health crises. The Office is also engaged in a number of efforts to aid and assist with reentry for our clients.

Bond Diversion

Beginning in 2015, the Office of the Public Defender has worked with the Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS) to utilize bond diversion plans to divert defendants who are mentally ill from pretrial detention following the Sequential Intercept Model – a way of conceptualizing and organizing local diversion programs. Bond Diversion takes place at intercept 2.5, following arrest and charging, but before adjudication. Bond Diversion has historically been one of the most impactful diversion programs.

However, DHS had no bond diversion coordinator for approximately a year, between Summer 2023 and Summer 2024. Moreover, as reconstituted, the eligibility criteria for bond diversion appear to be narrower, or applied more narrowly, with the majority of clients we refer to bond diversion deemed ineligible. Development of bond diversion plans typically takes a minimum of several weeks, even for non-complex cases.

Competency and Restoration

The Office of the Public Defender works with a large number of clients who are incompetent to stand trial. These clients often spend months at state psychiatric hospitals receiving forensic interventions in order to be restored to competency. The Arlington Jail's DHS team continues to monitor these clients during their time at the hospitals and provides reentry and discharge services upon their return. Forensic Discharge Planners with DHS are supposed to create and submit reentry plans, but their quality has waned over recent years, now often consists of nothing more than confirming a family residence or cabbing the client to a shelter that may or may not have beds available and identifying publicly accessible social services wherever the client resides. The challenge of securing reentry services is exacerbated by residency restrictions on funding/eligibility, which although not unique to Arlington, does impact clients in Arlington disproportionately compared to other Virginia jurisdictions, given that Arlington borders on multiple other densely populated jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., an out-of-state jurisdiction that around half of the Office's clients call home. Arlington's rigid residency rules prohibit anyone from accessing shelter and CSB services if they have not lived at least 90 days in the county and are able to demonstrate that. Additionally, time spent in residential addiction treatment programs in Arlington does not count toward the 90 days required to achieve Arlington residency, even when programs exceed 90 days in length. Finally, shelter space in Arlington is at an all-time low, with months'-long waiting periods to get a bed (recently, up to six months). The County's Hypothermia Shelter runs from November 1 to March 31 each year and consists of daily overnight placement only. The Arlington CSB Jail Forensic Team is seeking to be the first Virginia jail to receive approval for administering medication-over-objection for competency restoration of detainees.

Behavioral Health Docket

After 15 years of planning, in September 2020, Arlington's Behavioral Health Docket (BHD) began taking clients. The Office of the Public Defender is both a member of the advisory committee and the BHD treatment team. BHD only accepts individuals deemed "high risk" of reoffending and "high need" in terms of therapeutic services. Thanks to advocacy by the Public Defender's Office, clients who enter BHD can do so either on a pre-plea or post-plea basis. The Office of the Public Defender is one of the program's primary stakeholders, and its primary referral source. The Office's representative participates in the weekly staffing calls and docket appearances to ensure clients in the program continue to receive zealous advocacy during their journey through treatment. Though capped at around 12-15 participants, BHD has already had some notable successes. Several clients whom the Office has represented for well over a decade have graduated in recent years and have not been rearrested for a jailable offense since.

Project EARLY

Project EARLY is a DHS-run diversion program aimed at supporting clients with serious substance use disorder and diverting them from the jail. The services provided by Project EARLY are robust wraparound services, and the plans devised often include residential treatment, transitional housing, medication management, case management, and/or outpatient groups. The program was disrupted this year during the main coordinator's parental leave, leaving a 3–4-month gap in processing referrals.

MHCJRC

The Office of the Public Defender is a member of the Mental Health Criminal Justice Committee (MHCJRC) and CCJB. MHCJRC began in 2005 as a way for DHS to bring stakeholders to the table to develop systems to divert mentally ill arrestees as much as possible from the criminal legal system. It continues to serve as a way for local stakeholders to meet monthly and discuss the status of services at the various Sequential Intercepts, including pre-arrest crisis intervention, bond diversion, specialty dockets, reentry planning, and community supervision. CCJB is a statutorily mandated group, which since 2024 has been run by Matt DeFerranti of the Arlington County Board. Recently, CCJB has focused on discussing access to housing and residential treatment for individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorder.

Reentry Programming Unit (RPU) and Shelters

The RPC Shelter (Residential Program Center through New Hope Housing) and the PathForward shelter are the only shelter options for the unhoused community in Arlington. Additionally, these shelters operate under the same residency requirements as the CSB services. Many clients are unable to access shelter due to these residency constraints. Additionally, as discussed above, the growing unhoused population and other factors have contributed to extensive waitlists, with clients spending weeks in custody waiting for shelter so that they are not released to the streets. The Reentry Programming Unit (RPU), previously, part of this subsection's title, closed in Summer 2025 with no notice to the court or our office, when we had active applications pending. This leaves a lack of residential services for clients in the community without housing who are facing serious mental illness (and potentially dual-diagnosis SUD needs as well) and need a higher degree of structure.

National Capital Treatment and Recovery

Arlington has one widely-used residential program for treatment of substance use disorder—National Capital Treatment & Recovery (formerly Phoenix House)—and one smaller residential program – ARC. It has no long-term programs for treatment of SUD, and it has no residential programs for treatment of serious mental illness, and no dual-diagnosis programs well-equipped to meet individuals who have both intensive SMI needs and SUD. NCTR patients must either have Virginia Medicaid or be residents of Arlington County, in which case they would receive funding from the county. In cases where individuals are not residents of Arlington, they must have active insurance. This often creates a significant barrier, as Medicaid automatically deactivates at the start of a period of incarceration, and it can take weeks to reactivate it. Treatment at NCTR's most populous program includes a 28-day stay at

its inpatient facility and intensive treatment for substance use. NCTR also provides outpatient treatment that is usually used as a step-down mechanism for those coming from inpatient, and it runs Independence House, a sober living environment for individuals who completed inpatient treatment, which is similar to an Oxford House but more closely connected to treatment services. Independence House is also only available to Arlington residents, due to funding restrictions discussed above. Lastly, the Arlington Recovery Center (ARC) is a partnership between Arlington DHS and NCTR, used almost interchangeably with NCTR, but which can exceed 28 days in duration (up to 90 days), and which also has withdrawal management services. ARC requires a referral from DHS, again due to funding restrictions.

Mobile Outreach Support Team

Beginning in the summer of 2023, Arlington DHS began operating its Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST), a mobile mental health crisis unit akin to the well-known CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon. As its name suggests, MOST is a mobile treatment team, with clinicians, social workers, and peer recovery specialists using a retrofitted van to provide treatment services and other interventions to those with critical behavioral health needs, with one of the goals being diversion away from the criminal legal system. MOST maintains close communication with the Arlington County Police Department and Fire Department due both to the diversionary, decarceral goals, but also to ensure seamless provision of services. Our Office's attorneys and mitigation staff have expressed strong support for MOST, and remain in regular contact with organizing staff and with local leaders responsible for approving additional funding. Under the initial grant, the MOST van only operated half of each day, despite the demands for the services it provides. However, due to an increase in funding and demand, MOST has expanded its hours in accordance with data on when the highest number of crisis calls are made. In general, MOST cannot be contacted directly. Referrals to MOST are made by police telephone dispatchers responding to calls that come through the general emergency line (911). Despite the proposed accessibility of MOST and the range of services it provides, we continue to see many cases enter the criminal legal system that are more appropriate for MOST intervention, as opposed to law enforcement arrest.

Offender Aid Restoration (OAR) Diversion Program

OAR works with Arlington County and the City of Falls Church Courts on many fronts, including direct support for our clients, and by administering alternative sentencing programs. OAR's community service program provides an option for courts to order individuals to volunteer in the community, often in lieu of jail time, and also as a means of paying fines and court costs. OAR also works within the Arlington jail, leading rehabilitative programs and classes for many of our clients, including those offered by the Community Reentry Unit, discussed below.

Over the past year, OAR has implemented a diversion program in partnership with the Vera Institute and Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church to reduce recidivism and racial disparities amongst individuals sentenced to diversion programs. Although slow to take shape, and initially with an unclear process, OAR diversion is now one of the easiest programs for

our Office and clients to access, due to its alignment with de-carceral goals, its strong relationship with public defender staff, and its lack of restrictive residency and funding rules. OAR diversion plans are often just as robust as those from County-run diversion programs, covering housing, treatment, and other supportive community-based services. Further, OAR utilizes a harm-reduction and incentive-based model, which is flexible enough to meet the needs of even our most complex and transient clients.

OAR is in the process of developing an expanded diversion plan that has different tracks for individuals with varying needs. For example, it is aiming to create a track specifically for young people, and another for individuals who have dual-diagnosis challenges. Lastly, these new diversion plans purportedly contain more structure than its previous iteration did, creating more accountability between the participants, program staff, and the courts.

The Arlington Community Reentry Council

Consistent with a statewide mandate, Arlington established a reentry council that brings together all stakeholders that work in the local criminal legal system and who work with justice-impacted individuals returning to the community. The ACRC's mission is to promote public safety through collaboration, and by providing resources and support to returning citizens. The Council assists court-involved individuals and their families with essential services that ease the transitional period from incarceration to community integration and reduce the risk of recidivism. Our office is actively involved in our local reentry council, helping to organize resource fairs and expungement clinics.

Community Readiness Unit (CRU)

The Community Reentry Unit (CRU) is a specialized division within the Arlington jail dedicated to providing comprehensive rehabilitative programming for detainees who have demonstrated a commitment to self-improvement and personal growth. In partnership with Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), the CRU aims to reduce recidivism by providing targeted mental health support, self-empowerment, skill-building resources, as well as access to post-release services, education, and employment opportunities. OAR's pre-release programs encompass evidence-based cognitive-behavioral, fatherhood, and group psychotherapy programs. Additionally, participants engage in vocational, educational, personal development, transition planning, and ready-readiness programs designed to facilitate successful reintegration into the community.

ACT Unit

The Addictions, Corrections, and Treatment (ACT) program is a 37-week program located in the Arlington County Detention Facility that provides substance use treatment to men and women. Participants engage in group counseling, individual classes, and structured activities designed to help them prepare for sober living once they have re-entered their communities. The ACT program offers CBT, MRT, AA, NA, and other forms of substance use-specific counseling. Its stated goals include preventing recidivism and relapse, promoting pro-social behaviors and social alliances, improving communication skills and self-esteem, and encouraging participants to enroll in 12-Step programs upon release. ACT screenings, which must be court-ordered, are completed by jail-based intake clinicians. If a

client is determined eligible, they may be ordered to complete the ACT program. To be eligible for ACT, clients may not have a yellow band jail classification or above. They must have a substance use disorder diagnosis, which can include a diagnosis made through the ACT assessment. They do not need to have residency in Arlington.

Public Defender clients have noted disparities between the ACT men's program and women's program. Clients have informed our office that very few women are part of the ACT Unit. Female clients have expressed that the program's small numbers hinder the community and peer-based recovery process for which ACT strives. In addition, because this is the only long-term residential program in Arlington for treatment of SUD, defendants are often "funneled" into jail-based treatment when treatment in a less-restrictive environment would be more effective and appropriate.

Veterans Re-Entry Search Service (VRSS)

The mission of the Veterans Justice Programs is to identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through outreach to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between the VA and key elements of the criminal legal system. The Veterans Re-Entry Search Service (VRSS) states that it serves to combat this problem, helping employees working in the criminal legal systems identify Veterans who could benefit from VA assistance to aid in their reentry after incarceration.

Miscellaneous Services and Meetings

In addition to the resources utilized by the OPD, there are various programs and resources that are available to our clients outside of their work with our office. Some of these services are as follows:

The Crisis Intervention Center, which opened in May 2023 and is being utilized as a psychiatric urgent care for anyone who needs immediate psychiatric care. It has been under-funded and under-staffed, and until October 2023 had not served individuals who were at significant risk of arrest. Moving forward, the County hopes it can be used as a form of "pre-arrest diversion."

The Wellness Circle is a short-term residential treatment program located in Fairfax County, with whom Arlington contracts for some bed space, aimed at treating individuals who are having trouble maintaining stability on their medications. The Wellness Circle is often utilized as a "step-down program" from incarceration to the community for those who are seriously mentally ill. A referral to this program must be made through the Department of Human Services and/or a clinician.

Restorative Arlington is a nonprofit organization that focuses on bringing restorative justice practices to the County's legal system, schools, and the community. We have had fewer clients than we hoped to work with RA thus far, partly due to the program being slow to materialize, and then experiencing funding challenges.

Rapid Reentry Housing is a partly federally funded resource used by the Department of Human Services for people who qualify for permanent housing assistance beyond emergency shelter. It is

intended to help individuals transition from temporary supportive housing to a more permanent arrangement.

MHAP: One of the Circuit Court judges started a program, in collaboration with the Office of Probation and Parole, which is essentially court-ordered and supervised reentry planning for individuals with serious mental illness. It is primarily used with persons who are before the court on a violation of probation but has also been ordered at the time the original sentence is imposed.

The Arlington Office of the Public Defender is a stakeholder, consumer, or participant in the following diversion initiatives and alternatives to incarceration: Arlington County Recovery Court (formerly Drug Treatment Court); Arlington Addiction Response Initiative (AARI); Reducing Ethnic Disparity [RED] team (for juveniles); Aurora House (for juveniles); and Argus House (for juveniles).

Bedford Public Defender Office:

At this time there exists no formal reentry program at any of the jails in the BRRJ system (which now consists only of the Amherst and Lynchburg jails given the closing of the local Bedford jail). The jails provide the opportunity to enroll in the Interfaith Outreach life skills improvement course, which meets twice a day for six weeks covering such topics as anger management, parenting skills, dealing with issues of substance use and abuse, and life skills of all kinds. Initially, the program was limited to Department of Corrections inmates who will never actually be transferred to VADOC custody (inmates with sentences under two years), but it has since been expanded to include local inmates.

A major barrier to the effectiveness of this program is the lack of incentives for inmates to participate. At the VADOC such programs are mandatory but that is not the case within the regional jail systems. While the regional reentry coordinator would like to somehow make such programs mandatory, this office would prefer the carrot (additional time suspended for participation) to the stick (a new and onerous condition of release). It also seems clear that VADOC could support these programs immeasurably by increasing good time credits for inmate participation.

A recent issue that has presented itself is the difficulty in completing program pre-screen admissions conducted over the phone with incarcerated clients. Many programs are switching to "over the phone" pre-screens and admissions process which creates many issues such as clients having to three-way call with another individual and the program within the 15 minute jail call limit, a lack of privacy for clients during these phone calls as they are in general population, and just an overall lack of autonomy for our clients as they are being asked private questions about trauma, addiction and general information such as social security numbers.

Starting in 2017, the Bedford Office of the Public Defender officially joined the Blue Ridge Re-Entry Council (BRRC). The BRRC is comprised of representatives from the Department of Social Services, Probation and Parole, Horizon, Johnson Medical Center, School Board, Family Preservation Service of VA Humankind, Interfaith Outreach, Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, Dillwyn Correctional Facility, and

various other local community service organizations to include residential treatment programs, homeless shelters, and veteran's affairs. It is our understanding that through new administration within the Blue Ridge Reentry Council, there will be an increase in utilization and participation of local resources. Through this group, our Mitigation Specialist receives updates on programs/admissions, upcoming job fairs, transportation assistance, available housing, food banks, and free adult education classes.

As Bedford does not have any specialty court dockets at this time, this office has strived to work with the Commonwealth Attorney's office in recognizing and treating cases where the offense is laden with severe underlying mental health and or substance use disorder issues such as pseudo-mental health or drug court cases. Depending on the success of the Mental Health Court docket in the Lynchburg GDC, we will be working with our GDC to implement it here in Bedford. Our Mitigation Specialist will meet with the often-incarcerated individual to assess their particular needs, develop a treatment plan, and get the proper services set in place. This office follows their progress, will alter the plan accordingly, and provide updates of services and progress to the Commonwealth Attorney and the Court. Even after the desired goal of either an amended or dismissed charge is attained, the Mitigation Specialist can continue to keep up with the client to ensure their needs are continuing to be met for successful reentry.

Our office partners occasionally with Roanoke Rescue Mission, the Oxford House, and many local drug treatment and housing programs. Along with substance abuse treatment plans, we also work with Horizon Behavioral Health and Blue Ridge Behavioral Health by referring our clients there once they are released for continued mental health services. We have had a large increase in the number of clients we have been sending to both the Eagle's Nest and Hope Center in-patient programs over the last year, and hope that we can continue with these placements. Celebrate Recovery is now offered in Amherst and Lynchburg Jails. This program is a religious-based program offered to incarcerated men and women that focuses on addictions, past-trauma, codependency, etc. Once clients are released, Celebrate Recovery meetings are held throughout our community, and our mitigation specialist encourages our clients to continue with this program.

In addition to the above, the Bedford Public Defender Office works with both Probation and Parole and Court Services Unit to identify alternatives to incarceration on the sound theory that avoiding an "exit" precludes any need for reentry. The lawyers in this office are also trained to advise their clients that a probation officer is better viewed as a resource than as jailer. In our experience this can increase the level of communication between the probationer and the officer and often serves to encourage probation officers to assist released offenders with such things as life skills counseling when difficulties arise, rather than simply punish the released offenders.

Charlottesville Public Defender Office:

The major shortage of stable, affordable housing options in our area remains the largest barrier many of our clients face to successful reentry. Region Ten CSB, the organization responsible for

connecting clients to services, is contending with staffing shortages and financial constraints which leave them scrambling to fill the vacuum caused by this ever-growing housing crisis. The number of homeless individuals in Charlottesville continues to rise and continues to squeeze the number of short term/ long term affordable housing in the area. The lack of bed space is a significant problem with regards to helping people who are re-entering the community.

Our Therapeutic Docket Program continues to be successful, and most participants are doing well, especially given the numerous challenges this population faces. The "navigators", a staffing role provided by community partner, Partner for Mental Health, continue to serve a critical role in the successes of our clients by helping to overcome barriers to service. Our General District Court judge is committed to the docket and cares deeply about program participants, and our community partners have stepped up with enthusiasm, contributing mightily to the docket's success. The Drug Court program remains robust, offering treatment services to individuals struggling with substance use disorders.

In our regional jail, in-person visitation for both families and attorneys work well and is relatively easy to navigate. While personal visitation is limited to two 30-minute visits per month for each client, it is well run. Incarcerated individuals are allowed tablets with which to video chat their families and friends, but the cost for use is prohibitive for many of our clients. The tablets do allow clients to work their way through a variety of educational courses at no charge, an opportunity that many report not only taking advantage of but thoroughly enjoying.

Our attorneys, office staff, and our community have done an outstanding job of facilitating the release of more clients than ever on Home Electronic Incarceration as an alternative to jail. This has allowed some of our clients the opportunity to show the courts that they can be successful outside of a carceral setting. Reentry presents a multitude of challenges, but programs like HEI can help to mitigate these challenges and make the process easier on the individual and the community. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with our community partners, the Commonwealth Attorneys and community corrections in order to expand and improve upon the services available to reentering populations in this district.

Chesapeake Public Defender Office:

The Chesapeake Public Defender's Office is committed to enhancing the role of mitigation and social work within our office to develop more comprehensive reentry connections and services, reducing the rate of recidivism and barriers that our clients face when returning to the community.

Chesapeake, while a city, faces challenges typical of more rural and suburban areas. Many of our clients struggle with limited transportation options, as bus routes are sparse and bus tickets often pose a cost barrier. Additionally, our clients are geographically dispersed and often transient throughout the Hampton Roads and North Carolina regions. The lack of accessible public transportation places a great

burden on our clients attempting to make court dates, report to probation, and seek services once released.

Housing presents a significant barrier as well. Like many places nationwide, Chesapeake lacks sufficient shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness and affordable housing options. The Housing Choice Voucher program waiting list is currently closed and the CRHA is not accepting any applications. Our clients face additional barriers when seeking public service assistance as many programs require documents such as birth certificates, tax returns, and other forms of identification. Unfortunately, many of the jails destroy the property that individuals are processed in with when going through the intake process after 30 days. Being in the Hampton Roads region, many of our clients are transported from the various jails throughout the cities, and their property more often than not, has been destroyed upon release. On occasion, our office has driven half an hour to pick up property from an out of jurisdiction jail to ensure that they can have their SSDI card and other vital personal belongings. Due to the lack of housing, including crisis and long-term public housing, many of our clients are incarcerated longer in pre-trial due to the lack of address for bond purposes.

Moreover, last year, Chesapeake opened its own crisis center, Heron's Cove. We are grateful that Heron's Cove has been able to extend its hours to operate 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays to welcome community members in active crisis. We are enthusiastic about this development, though we acknowledge the ongoing need for more widespread continuous behavioral and housing crisis care.

Our office has one full time mitigation specialist who has her Master of Social Work (MSW), this has allowed our office to be in the second year of proudly hosting MSW student interns from Norfolk State University for their practicum. Additionally, we have recently gained a Peer Recovery Navigator, who is an AmeriCorps member serving through the Recovery Corps. She assists with peer support and resource navigation with our clients who have an opioid use disorder. With these roles and our newly minted mitigation department, we are optimistic about addressing the gaps in services and limitations faced by our clients.

Judge Bedois leads a behavioral health docket, and our office remains actively engaged with the mental health criminal justice team. Each week, an attorney and MSW intern attend the behavioral health docket, maintaining client contact and advocacy. Concurrently, our mitigation team conducts mental health check-ins for clients who require wellness assessments.

Our mitigation specialist, two of our attorneys that are on the Behavioral Health Docket, and Judge Wagner recently made a trip to Eastern State Hospital (ESH) to meet with the psychologists and evaluators and receive a tour of the facility. We engaged in a substantive and fruitful discussion about the various issues that forensic clients encounter when they enter the competency, restoration, and/or NGRI process as well as the challenges the evaluators and defense team face in the legal process. Our conversation produced a mutual agreement and eagerness to build our relationship and develop a more holistic approach to understanding our clients with severe mental illness (SMI) and meeting their needs, specifically through the forensic criminal justice system lens.

Our office actively participates in Recovery Court, previously referred to as Drug Court, with the CSB, police department, Probation and Parole and the CWA in the circuit court. Because many drug involved cases are often dual diagnosed, Recovery Court often identifies and makes referrals for mental health treatment as well as substance misuse treatment. The drug court number of participants has significantly expanded and there have been a handful of graduation ceremonies!

Unfortunately, the Restoration Docket was removed from the General District Court. Previously, when our office had clients that were flagged for competency concerns and restoration services ordered, they would be reassigned to the designated attorneys on the docket. These clients were set on a dedicated docket apart from the regular criminal docket to allow a more confidential setting, as well as direct access to the evaluators and representatives from ESH, CIBH, and the jail who were also present. The dedicated restoration attorneys would receive updates from evaluators on the progress and outcomes of the evaluations and restoration. If a client was restored, the case would then be reset and returned to the original appointed attorney. However, if they were URIST, the restoration attorneys would keep the cases for review, or potential of dismissal, if agreed upon by the CWA. Since the removal of the restoration docket, clients who are evaluated for competency remain on the regular docket and with their individual attorneys.

Last year, our office met with Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare (CIBH) to strengthen our partnership to better assist with wrap-around services for our clients. CIBH also has a forensic discharge planner inside the jail, who works with clients with severe mental illness (SMI).

Recently, our Chief Public Defender, Senior Assistant Public Defender, and Mitigation Specialist met with the newly hired Chesapeake jail discharge planners, one of which is employed through the jail and the other four are employed through the Sheriff's Office. We had a great meeting with them and are ecstatic about the opportunities to close the loopholes and barriers that our mutual clients face. We look forward to spending this upcoming year developing this partnership and connection.

Earlier this year, we had representatives from Minority Aids Support Services (MASS) present to our office to learn more about the services they provide such as HIV/STI testing, case management, and serving as the sole sanctioned Harm Reduction Clinic in the Hampton Roads Region. Despite the enactment of the 2020 Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) bill in Virginia, which allows for participants who receive supplies such as syringes from a CHR program to not face repercussion for possession of paraphernalia, some of our clients who participate in the syringe exchange program through MASS have been arrested on paraphernalia charges. We are grateful that we have been able to create a relationship with MASS to obtain the necessary documentation for these clients for them to be released from jail on related charges. We are hopeful that with more education and awareness around the CHR legislation and existing program, that this issue will decrease.

We are dedicated to expanding the scope of mitigation and social work within our office. Over the past year, we have been able to greatly expand our referrals to substance use treatment programs, connecting clients to housing and social services, and fostering community partnerships. Our mitigation specialist is particularly focused on developing comprehensive sentencing memos, alternative

sentencing plans, and mitigation defense themes to fully represent our clients' needs and circumstances to showcase the wholeness of the individual.

Chesterfield Public Defender Office:

The Chesterfield Public Defender Office actively participates in Chesterfield County Community Justice Board. In 2022, the bylaws of the Board were amended to add the Chesterfield Public Defender Office as a required member. We also participate in the Chesterfield Re-Entry Council which meets on a regular basis.

The Office participates in the Overdose Review Committee. Unlike other review committees, this committee reviews both fatal and non-fatal overdose cases in the community. During the review, a timeline is created for each overdose which the interdisciplinary team reviews. Through the collaboration of various offices in the County, the Committee evaluates each case for "missed opportunities" to improve future interactions with persons who suffer from substance use disorders.

Additionally, the Office participates in Juvenile Leadership Meetings on a regular basis. Public defenders represent adults placed into the Chesterfield County Recovery Court. The Office also attends the weekly Recovery Court staff meetings and dockets. We also regularly refer clients to mental health and substance use disorder services available in Chesterfield and in surrounding areas. In 2024, the Office increased the services that it provides to its clients by adding a peer navigator and two client advocates to its staff. We currently have three client advocates dedicated to service our clients. Both of these positions are new to public defender offices in the Commonwealth. The peer navigator assists clients who suffer from substance use disorders and the client advocates provide clients with case navigation and wraparound support.

The Office was involved in the creation of a Veteran Treatment Docket in Chesterfield. As a part of the team, attorneys from the Office meet bi-weekly to set up the policies and procedures for the docket. In addition, attorneys attended multiple training sessions in person and virtually. This treatment docket is the first of its kind in the tri-cities area and is currently in its pilot year. We regularly attend the bi-weekly staff meetings and dockets. We also participate in all routine trainings for members of this docket.

The Office participates in the Trauma Informed Community Network. This network supports and advocates for trauma informed practices in the community and in the court system. We have also participated in the National Night Out Kickoff event sponsored by the County. As a new office, we have worked hard to establish relationships with local providers that can benefit our clients as they re-enter society. We have invited many of these providers to our monthly meetings to educate the attorneys and defense team about the services available.

Since the office started taking cases in the County, each public defender has worked hard to make sure that our clients are in contact with the service providers that they need. We routinely find

substance use disorder treatment programs for clients. We also, with the assistance of our mitigation specialists, assist clients with housing stability issues.

Danville Public Defender Office:

We've seen some positive changes regarding reentry in Danville in the past year. The Danville Adult Detention Center has a new Director who has a plan to revamp the reentry process at the facility. He's already added some beneficial programs to their facility. The Danville Police Department offers a job readiness program called Incarceration Doesn't Define Us (IDDU) that's led by their community liaison, Ashtyn Foddrell. Ms. Foddrell has always wanted to incorporate the program into the ADC but the previous director had no interest in that. The ADC has also incorporated the Alpha Program into their facility. The Alpha Program is a 12-week SUD treatment program. It's not a court ordered program but that may be something that changes in the future. They're also offering GED classes. We recently had 3 former clients pass their GED test. One of those clients also completed the IDDU program and recently had their graduation. That person has finished his sentence and is currently working. I'm hoping these changes and the ones to come will offer sentencing alternative to our clients.

The Danville PD Office has a new Peer Navigator position. We're very excited about our new employee. She seems eager to help others and excited about the work. It's been about a month since she started. We're finding our way with the new position. She's already assessed some clients, and we have some more people for her to meet with. There are some limitations because of the grant requirements but we're hopeful she will be able to provide help to many of our clients.

We still work closely with Probation and Parole, both Adult and Juvenile, to identify services that may benefit our clients or be an alternative to incarceration. We utilize the VADOC's CCAP program when appropriate. I've talked with the attorneys about possibly using the Youthful Offender Program if we have a client who would benefit from that. We've seen an increase in younger clients being charged with violent crimes. A lot of programs won't accept people with violent charges, but Youthful Offender has more flexibility with that than some other VADOC programs.

Probation and Parole also offers SUD treatment through Intercept Health. Intercept Health also has a residential treatment program. We've had one client complete the program. She found it helpful. I think it's a good option for people on probation because after they complete the inpatient portion, they can continue with IOP treatment while being supervised.

We have a new Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge. I'm hopeful we'll now have the opportunity to offer more alternatives to commitment for our juvenile clients.

The Bridge Ministry is an 18-month program for men in Buckingham. They have changed their admissions criteria somewhat and seem to be focused on people with first time, less serious offenses.

The Hope Center is a substance abuse program currently in the Henry County and Pittsylvania County areas. It's a 12-month program that includes a work component. However, due to some issues

with reporting, our judges seem unlikely to sentence our clients to the program. We still inform clients about the program if they want treatment and it's not an alternative to sentencing.

The Roanoke Rescue Mission is also an inpatient recovery program that is available to our clients. Our judges are hesitant to use it because they don't think it's a secure facility. However, it's still a good option for those who just want or need treatment, not necessarily in lieu of an active sentence.

We've been using the Pyramid Program in Radford as a residential treatment option for clients. We've seen our clients be successful with this program. We will continue to utilize their services as long as we see our clients being successful.

Epic Health Partners is an outpatient treatment program that offers evidence-based substance use treatment. They are located in Danville, Martinsville, and Richmond. Epic offers additional services such as crisis stabilization, mental health skill building, psychiatric services, and outpatient therapy. They can also help with connecting clients to housing resources if needed, but the clients must have mental health or substance use issues in order for Epic to assist with housing. Epic accepts Medicaid and can help clients sign up for Medicaid if needed. Epic opened a residential program this year but then it closed soon after. However, I recently heard it's reopened. We haven't sent anyone there, so I'm not able to give any opinion on how effective it is.

Calm Source is an outpatient-based substance abuse program located in Danville that offers services to people with mental health and substance abuse issues. They also offer temporary housing in hotels.

Spero Health offers medication assisted treatment along with counseling services. Brightview is an outpatient substance-use treatment program located in Danville that offers medication-assisted treatment (MAT), individual counseling, group therapy, and care coordination and peer support. Brightview can provide assistance with organizing transportation to and from their facility (this has no cost if client lives in city of Danville). Brightview can also assist clients with food stamp needs, employment, child support, and Medicaid. Brightview accepts most commercial insurances as well as Medicaid and Medicare. They also accept walk-ins on weekdays until 3pm.

The Life Center of Galax, located in Galax, is a 45–60-day inpatient substance use program. The Life Center accepts Medicaid and can conduct assessments over the phone to determine if clients are eligible. They have a treatment team made up of doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and counselors. The Life Center also includes an introduction to AA and NA meetings, as well as Celebrate Recovery which is a Christian-based recovery meeting. This program also offers outpatient treatment, though we usually use them for the inpatient component.

We continue to have an increased number of clients with Behavioral Health issues. Earlier this year, I coordinated a trip to the Lynchburg General District Court to observe their Behavioral Health Docket. We were all very impressed with their program. It's our hope that we can incorporate something similar here. The Director of Behavioral Health Services at our local CSB indicated that the Virginia Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services may have some additional funds to help employ a

Behavioral Health Coordinator for forensic cases for our area. I'm not exactly sure what that will look like because it's still in the beginning stages.

The jointly operated recovery court for Danville and Pittsylvania County is operational and counts twelve participants out of a cap of fifteen at present. This docket is moving toward best practices and has in the past months implemented weekly court hearings with all scheduled participants appearing together. The local CSB and state probation provide treatment and supervision.

Fairfax Public Defender Office:

The Fairfax County Public Defender attorneys and staff have continued to cooperate and collaborate with various agencies and boards in our jurisdiction. The Office continues to be active members of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Community Criminal Justice Board, and the Council to End Domestic Violence. Our Mitigation Specialists are part of the Fairfax Reentry Council, whose collective mission is to provide avenues of support and resources for returning citizens.

Our attorneys and Mitigation Specialists continue to apply and successfully connect clients to a wide range of services, including but not limited to, residential and outpatient substance abuse programs (National Capital Treatment and Recovery, Mainspring Recovery, A New Beginning, Cornerstones, Crossroads, New Generations, Chris Atwood Foundation, Oxford Housing, Warrenton Woods, etc.), mental health treatment providers (Fairfax CSB, Pyramid Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente), as well as any other services unique to the needs of the client (Brain Injury Services, Neuro-Restorative, Friends of Guest House, VA Career Works, etc.).

The office has partnered with many different county agencies, including the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department, the Fairfax CSB, local police departments and Commonwealth Attorneys' office in helping propel the Diversion First efforts. At this point, hundreds of public defender clients have already been moved from the jail and into the community by connecting them with mental health services through the Sharon Bulova Center. This means that we can use these same resources to get our clients out of jail on bail and to ensure that they have services when they re-enter the community. We also have a partnership with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Transformation Team, which is a team aimed at diverting children away from the juvenile system before they reach intake. Additionally, we continue to be a primary stakeholder in the Court's Veteran's Treatment Docket, Recovery Court, and Mental Health Treatment Docket.

Outside of religious services, the In2Work program, and GED classes, in-person courses are still not available within the Fairfax ADC. Programs such as anger management, domestic violence, parenting skills, behavior modification, and first aid are virtual and completed via tablet. While programming options have decreased, the number of treatment options for individuals struggling with mental illness and substance abuse have increased. There has been a 66% increase in the number of incarcerated clients receiving jail-based mental health services. Since last year's report, the ADC's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program have

continued to grow. Nearly 2,158 individuals received MOUD while incarcerated in FY2024. With the help of the ADC's Reentry Coordinator, 160 MAT/MOUD participants were provided with pre-programed cellphones at their release and 75 received recovery housing scholarships. Additionally, the Striving to Achieve Recovery (STAR) program has continued to operate within the Fairfax ADC. This intensive, highly structured addiction treatment and recovery program provides participants with trauma-informed care and social support to aid in their reentry.

Fauquier Public Defender's Office:

The Fauquier Public Defender's Office proudly serves the communities of Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties—not only as dedicated advocates in the courtroom, but also in advancing community-based solutions that transform lives beyond incarceration. Our Office has become a regional leader in reentry and rehabilitation initiatives by actively partnering with and evaluating top-tier recovery programs, including Boxwood Recovery Center, Mainspring Recovery, Sobrius, Skypoint Recovery, Pyramid Healthcare Center, National Capital Atlantic, and many others that are joining the Substance Use Recovery field each month. Each program is personally toured and vetted by our Office to ensure they deliver meaningful, evidence-based rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities for our clients. We also prioritize harm reduction, providing direct access to lifesaving tools such as NARCAN and fentanyl test strips to reduce the risks of overdose and death.

Within the Court system, the Fauquier Public Defender's Offices prioritizes outcomes that assist indigent individuals with drug or mental health concerns the assistance they need to reduce recidivism. To that effect the Office has worked with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and other stakeholders to create a Domestic Violence docket in our JDR court. This docket is geared towards agreements of deferrals that allow those charged with Domestic Violence charges to get assistance with education and self-improvement as an alternative to incarceration.

Beyond assisting clients reentering communities via these rehabilitative programs, the staff of the Fauquier Public Defender's Office works with the Partnership for Community Resources (PCR) group and co-chairs the organization. The PCR strives to strengthen, support, raise public awareness, and enhance the collaboration and communication between community-based organizations, churches, and government, concerning health and human service needs of our community. This assists the community in being more aware of what needs are not being met in the community as well as spreading the resources that are available. Through this, Mental Health has become a much bigger conversation and education about it has become more of a priority for our community as well as resources for mental health assistance.

We extend our efforts beyond substance use to address mental health with equal vigor, forging strong partnerships with the PATH Foundation, CAYA, Pasadena Villas, Sandstone, Verdun, Encompass, and the S.E.E. Center, among many others. These collaborations allow us to connect clients to critical services that target the root causes of justice involvement. Our Office continues to innovate, pursuing expansions into long-term recovery programming and even connecting our clients to alternative

therapies such as art therapy, family therapy, equine therapy, music therapy, light therapy, etc. Furthermore, our Office's Mitigation Specialist serves as a driving partner in producing and distributing thousands of free community resource guides for Fauquier County each year through partnerships with the PATH Foundation and the Partnership for Community Resources (PCR).

In addition to leading the Partnership for Community Resources Group, the Fauquier Public Defender's Office works to increase services for juveniles and families through the creation of a Family Treatment Court which is currently in development through a partnership with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and other local criminal justice actors. To promote a productive and easy reentry to the work force the Public Defender's Office assists reentering clients with a variety of employment-oriented services, including assisting clients with securing drivers' licenses, educating them on employment opportunities in our community, and formalizing payment plans to assist with any court ordered costs.

In bridging the gap between incarceration and reentry, the Fauquier Public Defender's Office works with clients and employers, as well as the Sheriff's Office, to secure approval for Workforce and Work-Release assignments for inmates preparing for release. The Office also assists recently released clients in securing transportation to and from Adult Court Services, State Probation, the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, and other court ordered requirements. Through the Public Defender's Office's assistance, underlying criminogenic facts such as mental health, substance abuse, employment, housing, and food security are addressed to reduce rates of recidivism throughout our community.

Fredericksburg Public Defender Office:

Our office serves clients in the City of Fredericksburg as well as King George, Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties. The Fredericksburg office currently employs twenty-three full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney. The court support staff includes two full-time Investigators, two full-time Mitigation Specialists, and two full-time Paralegals. One paralegal is specifically assigned duties to include coordinating program evaluations and processing for clients who are working toward bond or therapeutic sentencing options. As a means of achieving this goal, this paralegal is also responsible for seeking out and building relationships with treatment providers and staying abreast of new program options within the community.

Each of our localities participates in the Rappahannock Regional Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts to address substance abuse issues. The expanded Veteran's Treatment Docket now includes participants from all jurisdictions. This office works closely with the Veterans Administration and VVFS (Virginia Veterans and Family Support) to help serve our veteran clients' needs and provide services. Our office has also been a stakeholder and participated in the planning and implementation of the first mental health docket in the area. The Spotsylvania Behavioral Health Docket is staffed by one of our attorneys and will soon be celebrating its first graduation ceremony. Our office has been in talks with the Fredericksburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office about establishing a General District Court level mental health diversion docket and is part of the planning team for that docket.

The Fredericksburg office plays an active role on the Community Criminal Justice Board and regularly interacts with a variety of government and private support agencies in the jurisdictions we serve. An attorney representative from the office sits on the Board of the Fredericksburg Area HIV Aids Support Services, which focuses on assisting LGBTQ clients and community members with housing, medical care, trans care, and other needs to stabilize and be safe and healthy in the community. Both our attorneys and support staff regularly interact with representatives of the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board regarding clients with mental health and substance abuse issues. The RACSB has caseworkers assigned to the Rappahannock Regional Jail to assist clients with mental health issues and coordinate services as they transition back to the community.

The Fredericksburg office attends the monthly meetings of the Reentry Council and works closely with Virginia Cares, People Inc. as well as FailSafe. In addition, this year we have re-started attending the monthly Community Collaborative meeting, which is a gathering of community stakeholders (community members as well as non-profits and government agencies) that work with youth, including detained and incarcerated youth, and their families to provide services and resources. We receive referrals and hold classes in resume writing and job search for individuals referred from these organizations. Quarterly we attend a community resource fair along with Adult Ed., DMV, and Social Service so we can provide a single location for all returning citizens to receive assistance. The office is also now receiving direct referrals from District 21 Probation Officers for individuals on supervision that are not employed. These referrals are contacted and invited to attend an in person or virtual workshop to register in the Virginia Workforce Connection. This year we also attended a new community connections fair that was organized and held by FAHASS, a local non-profit that specializes in providing medical and other services (such as housing and therapy) to those in need, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS. The fair was a one-day, one-stop event that provided clients with information on local resources and services for housing, food, health, employment, and veterans, and also provided services on-site such as haircuts. Finally, our public defender has been part of a year-long collaborative working group run by California non-profit HomeBaseCCC (www.homebaseccc.org), in which public defenders and those serving the un-housed community have worked on ways to better collaborate and serve the needs of our mutual clients.

Additionally, the Fredericksburg Office was recently one of the offices where a peer recovery specialist position is being established, funded by a grant from the Opioid Abatement Authority. This position in Fredericksburg will be used to help clients leaving incarceration and transitioning into diversion dockets, probation, or deferred dispositions, as well as working in concert with the paralegal specializing in treatment programs.

Barriers: Housing and transportation. Transportation is particularly problematic with little to no public transit, and expensive private carriers that are outside our client's resources. Additional barriers are high levels of incarceration due to zero tolerance for positive narcotics screens on bond and on probation violations; a high number of clients on probation; and high rate of incarceration for probation violations. The Regional Jail has almost no substance abuse or mental health programming, inhibiting reentry as clients often start from scratch when released.

Halifax Public Defender Office:

The Halifax office provides services to Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Lunenburg Counties. Providing services in three large rural counties has its challenges, including services, programs, transportation, and housing. These obstacles have not stopped our Mitigation Specialist (MS) from locating resources to address reentry needs and lower recidivism. Instead, creative efforts were made by her to ensure our clients are given the same opportunities as others within the state.

With that said, the Halifax office strives to locate programs and services throughout Virginia. Our Mitigation Specialist has contacts throughout Virginia at various programs that have tremendously helped our clients. She works as the liaison between the local jails and programs to schedule phone assessments for clients seeking substance use services. Our MS is in constant contact with programs, assisting them with making the transition as smooth as possible for all parties involved. This includes setting up and scheduling transportation to and from the jails and/or courts. These efforts have helped the clients to remain on board while their case is pending. Most importantly it has shown the judges individuals can be successful in our community if provided guidance and appropriate services.

The MS remains up to date on VA Medicaid services such as assisting clients in applying for services. She works especially close to the CVIU (Cover Virginia Incarcerated Unit) to ensure incarcerated clients are provided with inpatient services such as medical, mental, and/or substance use disorder. She has a strong working relationship with the medical and mental health workers within the local jails to ensure clients are provided medical care and mental health assessments. The Mitigation Specialist also assist clients with changing incarcerated Medicaid coverage to community-based coverage prior to their release date. This is vital for clients re-entering the community. It ensures services can be put in place sooner rather than later upon their release.

The PD has become a member of the Community Criminal Justice Board for our region. The Office is striving to create, maintain and refer our clients to programs in our region.

Hampton Public Defender Office:

The Public Defender continues to participate in the General District Court's Behavioral Health Diversion Court. This is a joint effort between the District Court, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the CSB, and the Public Defender. The program diverts low-level offenders with mental health issues away from convictions and incarceration, and towards necessary treatment. The hope is that providing services to this needy population will prevent recidivism and get resources for those who need it. We have seen great success in the past three years, with several of our clients graduating from the program.

The Hampton Drug Court is no longer operating. A combination of 1) refusal of the Commonwealth's Attorney to move away from mandatory plea agreements as a part of program entry (a violation of best practices) and 2) a shift in the law, limiting the possible consequences for probation violations, meant the Drug Court Census dropped to the point that the program was no longer viable.

The Public Defender sits on the Community Criminal Justice Board. The purpose of the CCJB is to enable the cities of Hampton and Newport News in combination to develop pre-trial court services, and community-based corrections programs consistent with the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act (CCCA) and Pretrial Services Act (PSA).

The mitigation specialist maintains a connection to the local Re-Entry Council for the city of Hampton, where multiple organizations and individuals meet in person and via virtual meetings to discuss and share community resources for housing, employment assistance, and substance abuse interventions. She continues to gather information and contacts that add to the list of resources available to our clients. This past year our office gained a Recovery Navigator position through AmeriCorps funded by the Opioid Abatement Grant. She has been focused on getting our clients substance abuse treatment as well as providing resources that assist with reentry.

We continue to work with programs such as the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Virginia Beach and Pinnacle Treatment Centers in Newport News. Two additional programs we have connected with more often this past year are Fresh Start out of Richmond and Journey House out of Henrico. Both programs accept Medicaid and provide various levels of treatment as well as options for step-down that can further assist with reintegrating into the community and everyday life. The mitigation specialist and Recovery Navigator help coordinate entry for clients by working closely with the various local jails and the admission specialists at each program.

The REAL-LIFE program is another program we utilize here in Hampton. Located in Richmond, Real Life is a six-month program that offers reentry services such as housing, substance abuse education, and employment assistance to both male and female clients. The staff also helps clients get connected with social services such as food stamps and cell phone assistance.

Pyramid Healthcare continues to be a reliable and integral program that we work with. It is a detox and residential drug treatment program in Newport News with another location offered in Radford. This program provides an array of life skills and substance abuse interventions, but most importantly they can facilitate bed to bed transfers with pick up directly from the jail which is vital for clients who need that help prior to getting back into the community in order to avoid recidivism. The program also has its own internal step-down program as well as relationships with other agencies that can aid with reentry.

We continue to work closely with the Hampton Newport News Community Services Board who focuses on addressing mental health concerns, case and medication management, and reentry barriers such as housing and continued care for clients struggling with substance use disorder and/or mental illness both during and beyond incarceration. For clients who are local and eligible for such services, they do what they can to facilitate better transitions into the community for so many of our clients.

While mental health help for incarcerated clients is still unfortunately limited to the Community Services Board, there are some outpatient programs that clients can engage with in order to receive help managing their mental health and easing back into the community once released. A few of these programs include The Pavilion IOP program, Brightview, and Benevolent Family Services. For immediate crisis intervention and stabilization, Riverside Behavioral Health and Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center are options as well. We are continuing to gather mental health resources outside of the Community Services Board that will help clients connect with psychiatric services.

The VA Medical Center's Outreach Specialist is still an important contact who can aid in getting veterans screened and/or connected with services upon their release or as an alternative to incarceration. The Center for Child and Family Services also offers a number of outpatient programs for substance abuse, mental health, and life skills. They have provided our clients with virtual treatment sessions and have provided a much-needed service through the pandemic and beyond.

Barriers: Free or low cost long term residential treatment programs (six months or more) continue to be scarce. Longer term programs can be extremely useful in getting better legal outcomes and facilitating reentry for many of our clients. Lack of funding for these programs is an ongoing problem. Another barrier that poses its own unique set of problems is that our jail is still closed due to unsafe conditions. Our clients continue to be housed all over Tidewater, making bed-to-bed transfers to programs almost impossible. Clients who are housed outside of Hampton and Newport News also have limited interaction and aid from our Community Services Board since the organization is tied to those two cities. In addition, there has been an uptick this past year of clients who are without Medicaid which severely limits the options for both mental health and substance abuse programs that often are a gateway to more reentry resources.

Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Public Defender Office:

The Public Defender's Office for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County began accepting appointments in January 2025. The Office is committed to wholistic representation, which includes assisting clients with reentry whenever possible. The Office, especially the Mitigation Specialists, continues to invest in building relationships with stakeholders and groups who assist clients with reentry.

The Mitigation Team spent several months meeting with stakeholders and researching reentry programming for clients. The Mitigation Team developed a working Resource Guide for clients, community members and stakeholders. The Office shares the Resource Guide widely. Before the Mitigation Team began working in Harrisonburg, most courthouse stakeholders were unfamiliar with the resources available to our clients. Though these resources are still limited, the Mitigation Team and Attorneys continue to work with clients to expand the use of this programming and divert clients away from the criminal court system.

The Office and Mitigation Team arranged for key groups and individuals to visit the office, including Community Services Board members, the Community Service Board employee who works at the local jail, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the District 39 Probation Office, to discuss reentry. The Mitigation Team is constantly working to investigate services available to our clients despite some disorganization and resistance in the community. The Office continues to focus on building these relationships.

The Mitigation Team participates in quarterly reentry fairs at the Navigation Center, Harrisonburg's first year-round shelter. The Navigation Center opened in December 2024. The Mitigation Team attends Reentry Council meetings when possible.

The Office continues to explore avenues for restorative justice. The Chief Public Defender and Mitigation Team recently met with an employee at the Fairfield Center. The Fairfield Center offers mediation and restorative justice services in the community but is primarily used in civil cases in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The Office hopes to expand the use of restorative justice in criminal court.

The Chief Public Defender joined the County's Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) at the beginning of the year. The CCJB reviews quarterly reports from the Sheriff's Office, Community Services Board, Court Services Unit, and DSS. The Chief Public Defender is working to reenergize the CCJB so that it can engage in more meaningful discussion about pretrial detention and reentry in Rockingham County. At a meeting in April, the Chief Public Defender and Senior Trial Attorney Robert Wilson proposed the establishment of a mental health docket. Mr. Wilson and the Mitigation Team began to do the groundwork for a mental health docket in the spring. The Chief Public Defender and Deputy Public Defender will meet with the District Court judges later this month to discuss a future mental health docket. The Chief Public Defender continues to report on their efforts at CCJB meetings. The Chief Public Defender also proposed the establishment of Forensic Discharge Planners at RHRJ but has not yet generated any support for the idea. The Office works closely with Forensic Discharge Planners at Middle River Regional Jail to create release plans for clients.

The Mitigation Team, Attorneys, and Paralegals have been working hard to create tailored release plans for clients at bond hearings and at sentencing. The Mitigation Team works with clients to complete needs assessments, submit referrals, and coordinate care with substance use disorder and mental health treatment placements. The Mitigation Team testified several times about different substance use disorder and mental health programs at sentencing hearing to educate the Court about different programs – including benefits, expectations, and services offered. This helped the Office establish credibility and helped convince the Court to give clients a chance. The Office is working with District 39 to streamline bed to bed transfers to inpatient treatment after District 39 expressed concern about bed-to-bed transfers preventing clients from reporting immediately to the Probation office. The Mitigation Team also works with clients to establish home plans and to provide direct services, like assistance with Medicaid applications, securing cell phones, and more.

The Office is proud of its efforts to provide counsel at first appearance. This has been a meaningful step in reentry planning for clients. The Office interviews as many defendants as possible before the first appearance hearing and counsel is present to accept appointments and, in the majority of cases, argue for the client's release. The Office was met with significant resistance when it implemented CAFA, but this has become a "normal" part of our Court in a short time.

The Office works closely with mutual aid groups like the Blue Ridge Bail Fund, Rainy Day Fund, and grassroots community groups to support clients with reentry. The Office has built a strong relationship with Kingsway Outreach, the only organization in Harrisonburg that focuses solely on reentry.

Finally, Attorney Stephen Sofinski is a member of the Rockingham County Recovery Court Treatment Team, where he continuously offers a defense perspective and advocates for Recovery Court participants.

Loudoun County Public Defender Office:

This past year Loudoun's Public Defender Office received 2 positions from the County to assist with the needs of our clients. One position is dedicated to adult clients, and one positions is dedicated to juvenile clients. The focus of these positions is to find treatment programs for our clients and to aid in gathering materials needed for mitigation or evaluations.

Our Mitigation Specialist, Kelly Williams, continues to sit on the Loudoun Reentry Advisory Council, Loudoun Disability and Justice Coalition, and the Loudoun County General District Court Veteran's Docket. Through her involvement with each of those entities, she has assisted clients with substance abuse, mental health, and reentry needs. She has strong relationships with the jail reentry case manager as well as the jail medical and mental health staff. She has built relationships with the various religious organizations who serve our jail population as well as the Chris Atwood Foundation, both of which provide reentry resources to our clients. The jail reentry case manager only provides services to individuals meeting limited specific criteria, so the responsibility to assist clients who do not meet those criteria falls on our office. Requests for substance abuse and mental health treatment upon transitioning from the jail to the community are at an all-time high for our clients. Loudoun County does not offer any inpatient or residential substance abuse treatment, which means that Ms. Williams often has to conduct lengthy intake interviews with clients for referrals to outside providers. With the end of the continuous coverage requirement for Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic, many more clients are requiring assistance with renewing their benefits. Additionally, she continues to assist clients with new applications for Medicaid. Housing remains an issue in Loudoun County, particularly for our male clients, which further complicates reentry. Lack of public transportation for clients living in more rural parts of the county is also problematic. Loudoun County does not provide funding to our clients for the limited public transportation that is available, so we often have to coordinate transportation with community volunteers. Our office continues to make resource information available in the lobby of the office for our clients.

The office continues to have community programs come into the office to educate them as to the services they can offer our clients. The office is active in all bench bar groups. They continue membership and participation with JDAI, DART and the CCJB. They are part of the Circuit Court Judge run Law Camp program for high school students. It has been a part of the legal education program in the local high schools.

We continue to be members of the treatment and advisory team for all specialty dockets in Loudoun County. These dockets include a Drug Treatment Court in Circuit Court, a Mental Health docket in GDC, and now a Veterans docket in GDC. Each of these specialty courts and teams meet weekly. We also are on the committee to look into beginning a mental health docket in JDR Court.

The office has partnered with the ARC, local organization that assists Intellectually Disabled Individuals and with Pinnacle, a M.A.T. program that assists clients with rehab and reentry. Twice a year, attorneys go in to meet and talk with kids at the Douglas School - a school for teens who cannot function in a regular public school setting due to either behavioral, mental health or emotional issues.

Lorie O'Donnell continues to serve with the Affordable and Special Needs Housing Coalition. This Coalition's goal is to bring additional resources to Loudoun County for the homeless individuals calling Loudoun home and to provide resources for those who need assistance in keeping or maintaining their homes.

Lorie and Ellie Shahin are a part of the Beat the Odds foundation that provides scholarships for Loudoun County high school seniors. This foundation raises money and awards it to high school seniors who have overcome severe obstacles in their young lives, many are clients or the children of clients.

Adam Pouilliard is on the CCJB for Loudoun County and has spear headed a reentry program for our clients at the local jail. He has met with all community partners that could impact our client's successful reentry into the community. He currently has commitments from Mental Health, Adult Probation and CCP to provide services for this project.

We are actively working with parents and clients to keep our clients in school and avoid suspensions. Loudoun County Public Schools currently have a policy in effect that automatically suspends a student if they are charged with a criminal offense. The offense does not have to take place on school property or be school related.

We continue to see tremendous increases in the service needs of our clients. We seem to be needing to do more and more for our clients in order that they are competent to come to court, able to understand what is taking place in court and able to comply with court orders after court. We have partnered with all local agencies to assist our clients: OAR, Catholic Charities, CRT, Community Outreach Program, Men's Shelter, Leesburg Social Services, CoC, Loudoun County Mental Health and Social Services, The ARC, Serenity House, Oxford Houses. We work daily with our local CSB and with surrounding CSBs for the benefit of our clients.

Our office continues to struggle with the increasing needs of our clients. 1 in every 3 of our clients' needs assistance with obtaining proper mental health services and substance abuse treatment. We have also experienced an increase in assistance needed for juvenile clients. The Loudoun County Public Schools have changed their policies and expel or suspend students for any criminal charge, whether on school property or not. The parents and juveniles turn to us to assist. In these situations, the LCPS also tries to have parents waive I.E.P. classifications. Once again, the parents and juveniles turn to us to assist. Our JDR Court is developing a mental health docket that we will be involved with as a team member. We are currently involved with the planning and preparation for the implementation of the mental health docket.

Finally, our involvement in D.A.R.T., S.A.R.T. and programs to combat trafficking has increased. Loudoun County is very busy implementing policies and procedures in these areas. We are on the steering committee for each of these programs to ensure that policies are not put in place that could harm our clients.

Lynchburg Public Defender Office:

The Lynchburg Public Defender's Office continues its efforts to expand client opportunities for successful reentry. We do this by assessing our client's biopsychosocial needs so we can develop an individualized plan for their reentry into the community. Our over-arching goal is always de-institutionalization and successful reintegration for all our clients.

Through our long-standing participation in the Blue Ridge Re-Entry Council, as well as continued networking efforts, the Lynchburg Office partners with several community organizations to cover the following principal needs for reentry:

Housing: Our office works with the Central Virginia Continuum of Care. This organization is the main organizing body for addressing housing and homelessness in and around our area. Also, we consistently work with our local CSB, Horizon Behavioral Health, to refer clients experiencing homelessness for placement on various housing voucher lists. Additionally, our mitigation specialists will aide our clients in finding affordable and secure housing. Our only emergency shelter provider recently downsized leaving a significant number of clients without access to any shelter. This past year, we continue to see an increase in clients experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Mental Health: Our main source for mental health services is through Horizon Behavioral Health. We begin addressing our clients' mental health needs while they are incarcerated. Routinely we advocate for them to receive their medication and refer them to community organizations upon their release. We continue to use telehealth services when available for clients who might not otherwise be able to access care. This last year our office was instrumental in piloting the Behavioral Health Docket (BHD) in the Lynchburg General District Court. This docket is designed to immediately divert individuals suffering from serious mental illness from incarceration to the proper treatment/services to treat their mental health conditions through continuous case management and supervision. Our office has a very active

role in this docket as our Chief PD serves as the docket defense attorney and one of our mitigation specialists was the acting docket coordinator up until May when we hired a full-time docket coordinator. In its first year, BHD has been extremely successful with almost zero recidivism among ten participants and three graduates.

Substance Use: As with all offices throughout the IDC, our mitigation specialists continuously work with various inpatient, outpatient, and recovery organizations. In order to ensure our clients' successful reentry through recovery, we individually assess their level of service needs. Last year, our office was fortunate enough to receive a Recovery Navigator position through AmeriCorps funded by the Opioid Abatement Grant. Our Recovery Navigator is always hard at work linking our clients to the proper substance abuse treatment for them. In addition, the office has continued to aid in the expansion and reform of the Adult Recovery Court.

Employment: We partner with local employment agencies through our office's participation in the Blue Ridge Re-Entry Council. As many of our clients are attempting to navigate the workforce with prior felony convictions, organizations such as Virginia Career Works, VEC, and Lynchburg Community Action Group, are critical in connecting clients to employment opportunities.

Health care: Our mitigation specialist team is certified to facilitate Medicaid applications. In addition, our local jails have begun enrolling individuals who are incarcerated into Medicaid. However, individuals who are incarcerated only qualify for partial hospitalization coverage through Medicaid. Our office is actively working with the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority to release and expand Medicaid coverage upon reentry.

Financial Services: Upon exit from incarceration, our clients face many financial challenges. These challenges can be deposits for rental properties, utility payments, and fines and court costs to name a few. We have a local service provider that recognizes these challenges and will assist our clients with a financial pledge to aid clients in addressing those needs. Through Interfaith Outreach, we have been able to help clients obtain funding for recovery homes, move into secure housing, and keep their utilities in place. This organization also runs a program in our local jails entitled Progressive Release which will begin by addressing the various challenges individuals face when being released from incarceration.

Martinsville Public Defender Office:

The Re-Entry Council continues to meet alternately at the New College Institute in Martinsville and the Patrick & Henry Community College in Stuart every first Tuesday of the month. Our Mitigation Specialist is on the Re-Entry Council, and she continues to pursue information regarding programming that will benefit our clients.

We have a Peer Navigator through Recovery Corps this year. She establishes a relationship with everyone on her caseload and works with each individual to assess their recovery capital and set goals based on their amount of recovery capital, overcome barriers to goal success and ultimately build their

recovery capital to maintain progress in their recovery from opioid use disorder. She has taken the initiative to go out into our local community and compiled a resource list of available programming. She has also met with several providers to get a more in-depth perception of what they have to offer to our clients.

We continue to utilize Piedmont Community Services working within the local jails. We are able to get referrals and assessments done more quickly. The turn-around time for acceptance into programming has improved.

We have partnered with Hope Initiative and their representative Cynthia Haley. Together, we have been able to place several clients who would not normally qualify for programming. We assist with the referral process by doing some of the assessment ourselves, which cuts down on the screening processing time.

The Mobility Management program, offered through the Southern Area Agency on Aging, offers a voucher program, the Miles 4 Vets program, and the Mile 2 Volunteer Driver Program for local and out of town transportation needs for not only the elderly but also, for anyone in need of transportation services.

Counseling and GED services at the local jails have resumed with a combination of in person and virtual learning. A substance abuse counselor from the local CSB provides services at the Martinsville jail and Henry County Adult Detention. The city jail has iPads available to inmates, who can access online certificate programs in preparation for release. The city jail also offers GED instruction, mental health counseling and anger management classes. The Martinsville City jail has now employed a Liaison who helps inmates with applying to programs that require telephone interviews.

Our Mitigation Specialist has established a mechanism whereby incarcerated people can get their Federal benefits reinstated, either while they are incarcerated or upon release. She is now communicating with the Social Security Administration after all three jail administrators welcomed such an effort and agreed to assist with implementation.

We now work very closely with a Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate who helps with reestablishing Medicaid benefits for our incarcerated clients. When coverage lapses while incarcerated, we are able to get the client signed back up in a relatively short period of time.

Locally, we have the HOPE Center program with several locations (Axton, Brosville, Galax, Ararat, and Roanoke.). It is an 8 to 12-month Christian based program for those seeking help with alcohol and substance abuse addictions. The women's facility is now open in Dublin and Suffolk.

EIP (electronic incarceration program) is available through all three local jails but with widely differing eligibility criteria. Due to the implementation of the work release program at the Henry County Adult Detention Center, per the Sheriff, the EIP program will only be utilized by individuals who may have a serious medical condition. The city allows the most inmates out on EIP, and Henry County the least.

There has been an influx of suboxone treatment facilities in our local area. Groups Recover Together, Martinsville Treatment Center and Brightview, are a few that our clients have been utilizing. These programs have helped with the ever-growing opioid addiction population that has ravaged our communities. They offer respectful, accessible, and affordable treatment to our clients. A new addiction treatment center recently opened. SaVida is an outpatient medical practice that provides services for medication assisted recovery, hepatitis C treatment, psychiatric medication management, counseling, personalized support, and telehealth appointments. Its mission is to improve the lives of people with opioid or alcohol addiction through respect, compassionate and effective treatment. It is conveniently located across from our local Probation and Parole office. Pyramid Healthcare now has a Criminal Justice Admission Liaison who is trained to work exclusively with the criminal justice system to facilitate the referral process for individuals referred for treatment. They help with scheduling assessments, transportation and admission. They also provide updates and case coordination during treatment.

The Henry County Adult Detention Center now provides Suboxone for inmates prescribed it. We continue to make referrals for the Jail Diversion program, operated through our local community services board.

The Piedmont Adult Recovery Court is operational as of February 2022. The Public Defender is a member of the Recovery Court Advisory Committee and Treatment Team. The Court currently serves Henry County, Martinsville City and Patrick County. Patrick County will also be implementing a new Behavioral Health Docket. Through voluntary participation, this docket will address clients with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders that contribute to criminal legal system involvement. These dockets use evidence-based practices to diagnose and provide appropriate treatment that promotes offender rehabilitation in the community and a reduction in recidivism.

Pretrial Services and Local Probation are operating in Henry County, Martinsville and Patrick County. Maintaining sufficient staffing there has been a challenge. Pretrial Services are now being utilized in the district courts by preparing pretrial assessments that are used as recommendations as to whether detained clients are released with supervision or detained.

There is only one local program for juveniles, the ANCHOR Group Home, a residential facility for boys that is ordered for juveniles in lieu of detention (pre- and post-dispositional) or commitment to DJJ. ANCHOR is now approved as a Shelter Care facility. There is still no equivalent resource for juvenile females.

Barriers continue to be resources and funding for services for clients. Additional barriers are Commonwealth's Attorneys who are not as committed to rehabilitation and reentry opportunities as other jurisdictions' prosecutors are.

Newport News Public Defender Office:

The Newport News Public Defender office remains actively involved in the reentry process for our clients. Reentry planning and service coordination begins when the case is opened in our office. Our Mitigation Specialist (MS) is very active in developing alternative sentencing plans to create more favorable dispositions for our client. This process includes assessing the clients' needs for the development of personalized reentry plans that best serve the clients and meet the court's expectations. These plans may include residential and intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment to include MAT, counseling, medication management, medical services, housing, mental health services, transportation, financial assistance, guardianship, and long-term adult living facilities. Our MS works very closely with the clients and their families, and many continue to seek her support even after the case has been closed.

As one of the original planning committee members for the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program within the Newport News City jail, the Mitigation Specialist continues to work closely with the jail staff to educate and engage clients as it pertains to MAT. This program allows clients to begin the process of recovery from opioid addiction while incarcerated. This program allows community providers to establish a more seamless transition for the participants back into the community having an already established MAT plan and direct linkage to community resources that will continue to provide those services. The Mitigation Specialist currently works closely with the Reentry MAT staff to coordinate the initiation of services one month prior to release. The Mitigation Specialist and a designated Deputy Public Defender are members of the Behavioral Health Docket for the Newport News General District Court. Designed to reduce recidivism and improve the quality of life for our population with serious mental health diagnosis, the Mitigation Specialist continues to serve as an Advisory Board member for this docket. Newport News has designated Deputy APD's that initiate the reentry process by applying for acceptance to this docket and then remain actively involved in the ongoing services and treatment plans designed for the client so they can return to the community with support. The Mitigation Specialist requests and reviews mental health records to assist with advocating for the client's acceptance to the docket.

The Mitigation Specialist works collaboratively with the Newport News Sheriff's Department Reentry Program as well as the Community Service Board Forensic Discharge Planners, to assist clients with planning for reentry. In order to address client needs and meet the requirements of the court, pretrial services, and probation, the Mitigation Specialist facilitates inpatient treatment and residential program interviews between the client and the program through the Newport News City Jail (NNCJ) as well as jails in surrounding jurisdictions. This is done to provide sentencing alternatives and post release services for our clients. The Mitigation Specialist works closely with Hampton Newport News CSB staff and NNCJ staff, both for the purpose of diversion from incarceration as well as development of treatment and community support options that will best serve the client prior to release and upon release. The Mitigation Specialist works closely with Hampton/Newport News CSB staff, private providers, as well as local and state treatment facilitates, to address mental health and substance abuse treatment needs early in order to minimize interruption of services, including medication management, counseling, benefits, housing, and case management during a client's time of incarceration and upon re-

entry. To prevent further decompensation of our clients diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI) the Mitigation Specialist works in conjunction with the Hampton/Newport News CSB Forensic Jail Diversion and Discharge Planning unit to divert seriously mentally ill (SMI) clients to state hospitals or arrange outpatient services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, medication and case management, and housing as alternatives to incarceration. Locating family and community connections for clients diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI) to strengthen support networks for reentry purposes are also a primary goal of the Mitigation Specialist.

The Mitigation Specialist works closely with community partners such as Freekind, the local anti-trafficking program to screen clients for services both in and out of the state of Virginia. Collaborating with programs such as Freekind, the Mitigation Specialist educates the Court regarding crimes trafficking victims are often charged with and how they are part of a larger pattern of victimization. The Mitigation Specialist assists with addressing the safety issues of the client and arranges placement with Anti-trafficking programs for the court to consider as a deferred disposition. With our community having a large number of Military Veterans, planning involving the reentry for Veterans often requires the Hampton VA Medical Centers services designed specifically for our Veteran population. The Mitigation Specialist maintains strong professional ties to the Veteran Justice Outreach program to incorporate all possible services aimed directly at supporting Veterans and their needs. This includes arranging screening prior to release. The Mitigation Specialist also maintains contact with drug treatment facilities once a client is placed to assist in the development of aftercare plans that are beneficial to our clients and favorable to the court.

The Newport News Public Defender Office has seen an increase in the number of clients with dementia charged with crimes and subsequently incarcerated. The Mitigation Specialist works closely with the jail staff, community agencies, adult living facilities, family service guardianship organizations, and clients' friends and family members to develop plans to facilitate a safe release of these clients from jail. The Mitigation Specialist maintains contact with programs statewide to ensure that current procedures and protocols for screening are provided to clients and the court. Updating the Mitigation Resource directory as new programs develop is also a duty of the Mitigation Specialist. The Mitigation Specialist continues to utilize Webinars and online training to stay current on therapeutic resources and best practice with regard to reentry.

Our Mitigation Specialist continues to participate as one of the planning Advisory Council Members on the Peninsula Advisory Council. This council was created for the purpose of enhancing professional networking and collaboration with other agencies in the Virginia Peninsula. This council provides the opportunity to learn about new programs, initiatives, and events in our area. This council provides a mechanism for acquiring services for clients reentering the community through a network of various service providers. The Newport News Office now has a Peer Navigator that works in conjunction with the Mitigation Specialist. By initiating contact with incarcerated clients, those on the Recovery Court docket, and those on bond, the Peer Navigator establishes a supportive connection to aid in the process of recovery from opioid addiction.

The Public Defender or his designee attend every drug court staffing session to monitor the progress of the clients this office refers to that program. The Newport News APD's, Investigators, and Management prioritize the identification of possible barriers to reentry for clients during interviews and bring them to the attention of the MS to assist with development of the most client centered reentry plans. The Newport News Public Defender continues to support and encourage all agency efforts in the reduction of recidivism through collaborative reentry planning.

Norfolk Public Defender Office:

Reentry remains an extremely positive program in Norfolk. The Courts and jails are progressive in providing alternatives to straight incarceration, as well as positive transitions back to the community. The Norfolk City Jail has a robust program for substance abuse (two separate programs); parenting, GED, now anger management and many college/writing courses. There remains a work release and Home Electronic Monitoring program for eligible clients.

The Sheriff's department expanded in the past year to include two (2) discharge planners. This is very helpful in ensuring we do everything possible to make the transition of our clients back to the community more fruitful. Homelessness remains an issue, and this is not solved by discharge planners, but many clients are connected with services that ultimately get them housing, as well as mental health and substance abuse services. Referrals and applications are made to inpatient drug treatment facilities while in custody. Many clients have benefitted from these programs. Vivitrol and alternative grants sought by the Sheriff's department have been helpful in addressing addiction. Further, the addition of a new Mental health supervisor has been instrumental in assisting our mental health clients. There has been much quicker identification of clients with various issues: mental illness, traumatic brain injury and autism. Many of these clients initially present as "refusals" for treatment or engagement which is consistent with diagnosis. Were it not for the skill of the staff, we and therefore the Courts would have negative and erroneous misconceptions about our clients. The new mental health team at the jail partner with discharge planners to assist in all facets of our clients' needs. There is still a lot of work to do in this area, but dedicated people are there to do it.

Diversionary dockets remain prominent in Norfolk. Although periodically population in them has waned, they still are vital to the success and progress of many of our clients. The TDAC (Therapeutic Dockets Admission committee) exists to evaluate appropriateness for the various dockets. In the past year there have been positive adjustments to eligibility requirements, allowing more participants. Drug (now entitled Recovery Docket) Court, Veterans Docket, Re-Entry docket and Mental Health docket remain in Circuit Court.

General district court has a thriving competency docket. We are still working on submissions to the Supreme Court for permission to have a Behavioral Health Docket. The committee still meets regularly to prepare the submission and revamp previous ones. To qualify for this docket required 40 hours of training by all participants on the team, which has been completed.

The Norfolk public defender's office remains committed to all these dockets. The Mitigation Specialist remains our representative on the Mental Health docket. An APD II is the designated representative on Recovery /Veterans docket. The PD is the representative for Re-Entry and General District Competency docket (and future Behavioral Health Docket) . We all work closely with all agencies to assist in the success of these programs and clients who participate. The EBDM team still has monthly meetings, and many Norfolk programs are working to minimize gun violence and address needs of our clients for success in the community. Collaboration remains one of the greatest strengths of the Norfolk system.

Petersburg Public Defender Office:

The Petersburg office is connected with community partners to support clients who need reentry services in the local area. Our court support team (which includes investigator, paralegal and mitigation specialist) routinely finds new and maintains contact with current service providers to ensure that clients have what they need, when possible, to succeed. While resources are limited in the immediate area, the Petersburg office identifies partners with agencies outside of the local community to meet the needs of our clients.

Our mitigation specialist is particularly adept at identifying new programs that could benefit our clients. She does a great job of establishing, nurturing and maintaining relationships which benefit our clients outside the office.

Historically, there has been little support or political will here in Petersburg for a drug court or for a mental health court, despite both having potential benefits. (Especially mental health court.) This seems to be changing, and in fact the idea of a drug court has been raised recently. In my view we don't have enough drug cases to justify a drug court. A mental health court would be more helpful and would positively impact a greater number of clients. As to other resources which already exist, the CCAP program has been utilized by our office as warranted to ensure that appropriate services, especially in the area of reentry from the Department of Corrections, are identified. Unfortunately, many of our clients do not qualify for CCAP as they currently have or had in the past a conviction for a violent offense which disqualifies them for the program.

The Petersburg office continues to work closely with the Riverside Regional Jail reentry program to identify our clients who need immediate services such as housing and other essentials. We utilize the work release program to ensure our clients are able to obtain and maintain employment. We routinely request (and our requests are most often granted) that the Courts authorize work release for our clients, irrespective of the types of convictions the client might have. In practice, though, since many of our convicted clients are jailed for violent offenses, they are often not able to participate in the work release program. Sometimes they can participate in programs at Riverside Regional Jail.

The Petersburg office also works diligently with the probation departments (both District 7 probation and Petersburg Community Corrections) to provide services for adults and juveniles, seeking

out and developing suitable alternatives to confinement, and identifying needs and services for adult and juvenile offenders as they return home. Although Petersburg Community Corrections routinely supplies pre-trial reports at arraignment, the Commonwealth routinely objects to the court setting a bond without notice and an opportunity for the Commonwealth to get a police report or other information about the case.

Our office has an excellent rapport with Court Services, which serves the juvenile court exclusively. We continue to network and to build rapport with other local professionals in the community and to explore alternative options for our clients to ensure they are provided the best resources available with the hope that the effort might have the effect of reducing recidivism.

As to release planning, the South-Central Re-Entry Community Collaboration Board meets quarterly and goes through the plans and identifies different resources and services that are beneficial to clients in general. In addition, the office often registers clients for Medicaid. We investigated the DAR's program but decided that, due to the incredibly stringent requirements and other factors, we would not use this program. We believed we'd potentially be setting up our clients for failure. However, since programs sometimes change their requirements, we will look into DAR's again. We are certainly open to VA Works but we haven't had a client to go through this organization. Nonetheless, other organizations have a better "track history" with us and our clients compared to VA Works.

Portsmouth Public Defender Office:

In the past year, the Director of Re-Entry Programming at the Portsmouth City Jail has built relationships with local stakeholders and has had several groups of inmates successfully graduate from their reentry programming already. All of our reports from clients who have done the new reentry program have been very positive. Our office did support the efforts to have the city add a bus stop in front of the jail, and we are thrilled to report that it was successful!

The Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Electronic Monitoring program has grown substantially in capacity and is widely used and relied upon by the courts. The compliance rate remains high and courthouse stakeholders have a lot of confidence in a program. The program may prove to be a victim of its own success, as the program is struggling to recoup enough money from user fees to pay for itself (they do not violate participants for nonpayment). In the coming year we anticipate supporting Pretrial in their efforts to obtain additional funding to keep the program solvent. I still hope to successfully advocate for expansion of the program to post-conviction home electronic monitoring, but like any novel solution it is meeting with some resistance.

We continue to be active in the Portsmouth Recovery Court Program. Our office stays involved throughout the screening process, as well as throughout the client's period of probation. We attend weekly drug court dockets to aid clients and advocate for their best interests. We strive to remain active in the client's recovery process to advocate for services. We hope that the coming addition of our Peer Recovery Navigator will help our Recovery Court to serve our clients on their journey to recovery. Our

Mitigation Specialist also actively searches for alternative programs prior to sentencing for clients suffering from substance abuse or dual diagnosis candidates. She works closely with privately run programs to determine eligibility requirements and to screen potential candidates and will be training our Peer Recovery Navigator to do so as well.

While Portsmouth has still not received funding for a mental health docket, the Portsmouth office took on a leading role in establishing an informal mental health docket and has been very active in supporting and promoting the continuation of the program throughout turnover on the General District Court bench, including the leadership of the mental health docket, and the many administrative changes that have come along with that. The Portsmouth office works closely with the GDC Court personnel, appointed doctors and DBHS to streamline mental health cases, and to more effectively meet the needs of clients with mental health issues. Our mitigation specialist maintains a direct line of communication with Eastern State, Central State and DBHS to more effectively recognize and address the mental health needs of clients coming through the criminal justice system. Internally, we have created a mental health team to become more adept at identifying clients with mental health challenges and to work more closely with family members and other agencies to find ways to overcome the many issues that arise in cases involving clients with mental health disabilities or challenges. Our mitigation specialist does bi-monthly visits with all clients who are identified as having mental health issues and who are held in custody. Additionally, she reviews and speaks with the treating facility (for each client) 24-48 hours before the client's court date, in order to be able to inform the Court of the status and progress of each client. We make every effort to reach out and coordinate efforts to involve family members and treatment facilities prior to release of clients. We also continue to advocate the most effective utilization of the Portsmouth Behavioral Health Jail Diversion program, which refers individuals in need of greater mental health support and case management in order to be released pending trial without posing a danger to themselves or the community.

Prince William Public Defender Office:

The Prince William Public Defender is a stakeholder in many Boards, organizations, and community groups that provide supportive services for criminal-legal involved persons within our jurisdiction. While Prince William County significantly lacks adequate supportive services for persons experiencing mental health and substance use disorders and those in need of ID/DD services or housing assistance, there is a well-developed stakeholder network that has been making inroads at filling these gaps and more resources have been allocated in these areas in the last year. For example, the Crisis Receiving Center for Mental Health that has been funded for PWC and had its ribbon cutting in October 2025.

Regional Jail Board and Re-Entry services:

The Public Defender has a seat as a member of the PW Regional ADC Jail Board, the governing body that votes on Mental Health, Substance Use and other treatment decisions within the jail six times per year. In the last several years, the Jail has dramatically increased the use of Medication Assisted Treatment within the jail, has hired a full time Registered Nurse to assist with this treatment and is

currently hiring two Peer Navigators to assist with treatment needs in the jail and to provide a “warm handoff” bridge to persons leaving the jail with substance abuse disorder. The PWADC Re-Entry dorm further assists individuals making the transition from incarceration to return to their community, and the jail routinely distributes Narcan, both to the returning citizens and to other stakeholder groups who will be engaging with those persons as they re-enter their communities. The Public Defender is also a member of the ADC’s Re-Entry Council, participating in Resource Fairs and staffing agency meetings.

Intercept 3 Partners:

The PWOPD staffs a weekly “Intercept 3” meeting, which convenes members of the OCJS, the Community Services Board, George Mason University’s “Mason & Partners” community health centers and ADC health staff to identify individuals leaving the ADC who would benefit from immediate access to services, including having a Peer Recovery specialist meet them as they leave the ADC to assist with MAT, Medicaid cab and other access to services.

Evidence Based Decision Making Team:

The PWOPD is a stakeholder on the Prince William Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) Team, organized by the ADC and including every legal and legal-adjacent organization within the 31st Judicial District. The mission of EBDM is to reduce the population of the ADC through evidence-based reforms throughout the criminal legal system.

Through EBDM, the Public Defender pioneered the use of Counsel at First Appearance in PWC with the result of a measurable increase in pre-trial release of persons charged within our jurisdiction. A member of our office serves as co-team leader on the EBDM sub-committee on Mental Health/SUD and as team lead on the Advocacy/Legislative working group.

Specialty Dockets:

The PWOPD was a founding stakeholder for the Drug Treatment Court (now Recovery Court) for Prince William in FY2023, pushing for an equitable and defendant-centered approach to the Court, and the OPD continues as a standing member on the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee, as well as staffing all DTC dockets. The court has expanded from a capacity of 10 in its first year to 30 in FY2025, its third year, and has a target of increasing capacity in FY2026. The PWOPD is also a standing member of the Prince William Veteran’s Treatment (Vet Docket) docket and staffs all Vet team meetings and hearing dockets. This docket currently serves ten people but has a goal in FY2026 to increase its capacity to admit more participants. The PWOPD has recently committed to being a founding member of a Circuit Court Mental Health diversion docket, with three days of training currently scheduled for January 2026. The target for launch of the docket is the beginning of FY2027.

Other Community Memberships and Involvement:

The PWOPD is a standing member of the Prince William Community Criminal Justice Board and of the newly created Prince William Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. We are also a member of the Advisory Board for Prince William County’s Community Safety Initiative, established in FY2023 by the

PW Board of County Supervisors, which seeks to increase public safety and public health through a commitment to addressing community safety issues system-wide. The goal is to improve outcomes within the criminal legal system and to reduce the need for law enforcement involvement in the community, recognizing and engaging on issues of mental health, substance use disorder, ID/DD and other factors that lead to criminal legal involvement but for which a non-law enforcement solution would most benefit the community and its members. Consistent with this, the PWOPD is a stakeholder member of the Stepping Up Initiative, addressing mental health issues in the community to divert those in crisis from contact with law enforcement and into community-based responses.

Finally, the PWOPD is a member of the Juvenile Justice Initiative for Prince William County through our continued community partnership with the Office of Youth Services and collaborates in the development of the Right Step to Opportunities initiative for court involved youth. This partnership began in 2021 and has continued throughout the current Fiscal Year.

Pulaski Public Defender Office:

The Pulaski Office of the Public Defender supports and participates in community organizations and boards that provide services and resources to people with criminal justice involvement. Our chief public defender sits on the board for the New River Valley Community Criminal Justice Board and the mitigation specialist attends quarterly meetings as needed. Reentry resources vary in the four jurisdictions we serve. The reentry resources that are available are limited to the specific community, and the person may be required to have ties to that community. There are no homeless shelters that operate year-round. “Our House” operated in the past in Christiansburg, VA as a winter shelter with limited one-night stays. Post Covid, Our House, operates more like a warming shelter with no overnight stays.

We do have a small house in Radford, VA that the Reentry Council named “Manna House”. It is able to house up to six adults and the rent is paid through money donated by a local church. There are no criminal history restrictions at Manna House which opens up access to sexual offenders. Residents are allowed to stay for ninety days and are expected to share household chores and meals, secure a job, and find affordable housing.

Re-Entry Council’s partnership with local resources has increased awareness for attainable resources in the community for this underserved population. The NRV Re-Entry Council has partnered with community resources, such as, the Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), New River Valley Community Services, Veterans Affairs (State and Federal Agencies), NRV Community Action, Virginia Tech, Radford University, Oxford Houses, Probation and Parole, and Virginia Cares to assist with inmate’s discharge needs. Our mitigation specialist continues to attend and participate in NRV Re-Entry Council meetings and serves on the community support and the steering committee. The District Probation Office Re-Entry Coordinator receives individual discharge plans from all the local and regional jails. Virginia Cares visits two regional jails and one local jail to do pre-release planning for inmates. Virginia Cares also provides orientation for

probation and parole in the jail. In addition, Virginia Cares will also assist inmates with filing for Medicaid, resume writing, requesting birth certificates, state ID, and required work supplies.

The Pulaski Office of the Public Defender has had the opportunity to build our relationship with Virginia Department of Health (VADH). During the past year, our office hosted training for our attorneys and support staff for harm reduction. VADH recently started a mobile harm reduction unit staffed with certified peer support and supplies. This relationship can assist us with helping our clients involved in the harm reduction program. An attorney and mitigation specialist were able to attend a more in-depth training for harm reduction hosted by VADH.

New River Valley Regional Jail and New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) remain partners in providing mental health services to incarcerated clients in need of mental health services. The clinicians assist clients with discharge planning so they may have continued care for mental health and substance use needs after incarceration. Inmates in need of mental health services are numerous. Inmates have extended wait times before they can be seen by a physician for diagnosis and/or medication. Clients experiencing suicidal ideations and/or demonstrating an increase in mental health symptoms may need to be seen by jail clinicians. The mitigation specialist makes clinicians aware by phone call or a call to outpatient director. Clients becoming involved in services in jail simplifies the process of receiving care in the community. Clients can be linked to additional services while incarcerated to prevent lapses in care or medication.

In addition to local resources, our jurisdictions support four specialty dockets. There are three Recovery Treatment Courts, and one Veterans Recovery Court. The mitigation specialist and assigned attorney attend each court and treatment team meeting. The Pulaski County Drug Court has graduated over 31 participants. The newest specialty docket for our jurisdiction is a Veterans Court. Our attorney and mitigation specialist have attended trainings for the Veterans Recovery Court.

The mitigation specialist has been able to establish professional relationships with area treatment providers. These relationships allow us to expedite the referral process for substance treatment. Our mitigation specialist also attends the Southwest Virginia Professional Liaison Association Network Meeting once a month to stay abreast of changes in treatment options/services. New facilities are giving our clients more options for treatment and alleviating extended waitlist times. Our newest provider is Pyramid Treatment Facility. Pyramid offers various levels of treatment at multiple locations in Virginia. Pyramid offers transportation to their facilities from the jail, which is a wonderful service for our clients.

The office continues to work closely with juvenile probation officers in discussing services, referrals, and options within the community. The New River Valley Juvenile Detention Home and Highlands Juvenile Detention Home offer post-dispositional programs. Very few of our juvenile clients receive commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice that are not suspended. Very few juveniles are transferred to be tried as adults in the jurisdictions covered by our office.

The main barrier we experience is lack of resources for housing and public transportation. Oxford Houses have added additional housing. However, clients have nowhere to go if they lack employment

and/or cannot afford the Oxford House. Probation and Parole provides some hotel vouchers to clients, but these vouchers only last for two to four weeks. Clients re-entering the community still face challenges due to not having financial resources or employment. Discharge planning is being done and covering areas of need if resources are available. In the event the client has no support system to return to, discharge planners are linking the client to community resources so they can maintain their mental health and substance abuse treatment needs

The Pulaski Office of the Public Defender actively participates in community organizations and area events that benefit our clients and the communities. Our team is looking forward to participating in the 2025 Pulaski Treat Trail this Halloween and interacting with the parents and children. This event is a great opportunity for our staff members to work as a team and serve our community.

Richmond Public Defender Office:

The Public Defender's office participates in Richmond's Community Criminal Justice Board. The purpose of the Richmond Community Criminal Justice Board (RCCJB) is to allow the City Council of the City of Richmond greater flexibility and involvement in responding to the problem of crime in the City; to provide more effective protection to the citizens of the city of Richmond; to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of community criminal justice; to permit the City of Richmond through this

Board, to establish policies that structure programs which will assist judicial officers in discharging their duties and meet the needs of selected adult offenders; and to approve funding sources that support programs engaging in pre-and post-trial services.

The Public Defender's office is a member of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative Advisory Committee which meets to facilitate process and systems improvements among stakeholder agencies through collaboration that will result in improved outcomes for the youth and families of Richmond. This started as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative but has expanded to include a broader vision of creating a comprehensive system that helps delinquent and at-risk youth become law-abiding citizens while maximizing community safety and strengthening families. The Public Defender serves on the steering committee for the larger collaborative. We continue to participate in weekly JADI meetings to review the status of juveniles held in detention, to secure their release as soon as possible through detention review hearings and placement in appropriate settings.

We represent all juveniles placed into the Juvenile Behavioral Health Docket, formerly the juvenile drug court. We participate in pre-court staffing meetings to discuss our client's progress and attempt to minimize the imposition of sanctions. Public Defenders also represent adults placed into the Richmond Recovery Court. For clients with felony charges, Drug Court may serve as an alternative to incarceration following a conviction, a violation of probation or as a predicate for dismissal. We attend staffing meetings before each docket, to discuss each client's progress and reach a consensus on any sanctions.

We work closely with the local Division of Adult Probation, (DAP) which runs the Daily Reporting Center as an alternative to incarceration for clients who are in General District Court or Circuit Court. DAP also provides pretrial supervision to clients who are not incarcerated prior to trial, including Home Electronic Monitoring. We confer with the program administrators whenever an issue arises between the courts and the program.

We refer clients in need of mental health and substance abuse services to Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond's CSB. RBHA has recently introduced a rapid entry system for clients who are not incarcerated to quickly receive services. Treatment in one of their programs, both inpatient and outpatient, is frequently presented at sentencing as an alternative to incarceration. In General District Court, the Mental Health Docket serves individuals who need mental health services. Clients are assessed, assigned a case manager and specific services are provided, based upon their individual needs. We are present at the pre-court staffing meeting where the client's progress is discussed and then appear in court with our clients. Richmond's sheriff has said that the jail is being used as a mental hospital and this docket has enabled us to keep clients out of jail and provide them with services and supervision.

In Circuit Court, the Public Defender's office participates in the Behavioral Health Docket, participating in weekly staffing meetings to discuss each participants' progress and appearing with our clients in court for the weekly dockets.

The Richmond Sheriff's Office operates a Mental Health Pilot Program inside the jail. The program gives individuals (only males for now) with mental health disorders the opportunity to work with Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Reentry Coordinators and upon their release, a Community Case Manager, to reduce their recidivism rates. Individuals participate in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Trauma based groups, as well as one on one therapy. Participants live in their own pod in the jail, out of

the general population. The grant pays for medications, housing, food vouchers, transportation and works with individuals to complete their applications for disability benefits. We refer our clients with a mental health diagnosis to the program and if appropriate, they can be court ordered into the program.

We refer our recently released clients to Opportunity, Alliance, and Reentry in Richmond (OAR). OAR serves individuals who have been released from incarceration within the past six months. They offer a plethora of services including reentry case management, job preparation, resume writing, computer skills, bus tickets, advocacy, obtaining driver's license and state identification card (birth certificate and social security card), resume writing, addiction recovery meetings, multiple classes (anger

management, parenting, responsibility, life skills), and more. The executive director of OAR convenes the Richmond Regional Reentry Council, of which we are a member. The Reentry Council meets quarterly to cover reentry issues such as education/Employment, Housing, Health/Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice, etc. The City of Richmond has its own Reentry Council, which includes the public defender, that meets monthly to examine best practices in reentry, employment/education, and housing.

Over the past year, we have expanded our client referrals to partial hospitalization programs, especially for our incarcerated clients. These programs accept Medicaid payments and have greatly increased Richmond's treatment capacity. We have recently hired two client advocates who focus on linking our clients with necessary services in the community.

Our mitigation specialist and an attorney participate in the Trauma Informed Community Network, to support and advocate for trauma informed practices in the community and in the court system. Trauma informed is defined as: "An organization, system, or community that incorporates an understanding of the pervasiveness of trauma and its impact into every aspect of its practice or programs. It emphasizes physical and emotional safety for both providers and survivors and creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild/maintain a sense of control and empowerment."

Annually, about a dozen attorneys in our office participate in Project Homeless Connect at the Richmond Convention Center. Project Homeless Connect matches clients with volunteers in a one-of-a-kind partnership to assist chronically homeless adults connect to as many on-site services as possible in one day. Public defenders are one of more than 40 service providers who come to a single location for a day, providing dedicated healthcare, dental and vision screenings, mental health interviews, case management, social security applications, identification services, employment resources (including for veterans), shelter and housing assessments, and much more.

We are members of Richmond's Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Steering Committee, which brings a diversity of stakeholders around the table to collaborate on solutions to reduce gun violence in the city, resulting in the development of our "GVPI Framework." The Framework is grounded in the principles of Cure Violence Model and targets those individuals directly impacted by gun violence. Gun violence has a greater impact on young people in Richmond, with the rate of firearm deaths for youth three times the national rate in 2017. Black youth and families in Richmond have consistently experienced higher rates of gun violence, especially in and around Richmond's isolated public housing communities. The program focuses on supporting young people at great risk of engaging in negative behaviors and supporting them so that they are able to have productive, thriving lives outside of the justice system. The Steering Committee is leveraging grants from BJA, to deepen the scope of programs that are working; implement a new, evidence-based program; and ensure that all components and the agencies that manage them are integrated and supporting one another.

Barriers: Our largest barrier is a lack housing for our clients, especially those suffering from mental illness. The entire city of Richmond is suffering from a severe shortage of affordable housing and our mentally ill clients are exceptionally impacted.

Roanoke Public Defender Office:

The Roanoke Public Defender Office utilizes and works with Pre-Trial Services in an effort to keep as many of their clients out on bond as is appropriate under the circumstances. When issues affecting Pre-Trial Services arise, we are usually included as one of the stakeholders that are invited to provide input

and or to be apprised of new developments. We make use of Recovery Court and have done so since 1995 when it was established as the first Recovery Court in the Commonwealth. We make use of it not only in drug cases but in other cases arising from drug use.

The Public Defender serves on the Recovery Court Advisory Board and attends meetings when possible. District 15 Probation and Parole has a Re-Entry Counsel which includes Total Action for Progress, Virginia Cares, Veterans Affairs, Blue Ridge Behavior Healthcare and Court Community Corrections. Jackie Holdren, Mitigation Specialist, attends quarterly meetings. The District 15 Probation Office has a mental health specialist to whom we refer new probationers when consent has been obtained, and with whom the office consults for active probationers.

This office participates in the Roanoke Valley Mental Health/Criminal Justice Task Force, which has been a very active group involving Judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, police officers, deputies, probation officers, clerks, magistrates, and representatives from the community services board and the local state hospital. We develop goals and discuss issues involving individuals with mental health problems who come into contact with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

The Roanoke City General District Court has established a Therapeutic Docket to assist defendants with mental health problems through closely monitored supervision and sentencing alternatives. A number of our clients make use of the Rescue Mission, the main facility in Roanoke providing actual living quarters for the homeless. In the appropriate cases, both before and after conviction, we make our clients aware of the services offered at the mission. The mission also provides an 18-month residential drug and alcohol treatment program, the only such long term, residential treatment program in Roanoke. We utilize their program frequently.

We have developed contact with the Veterans' Justice Outreach program at the VA Medical Center in Salem. The program serves veterans through the provision of services to veterans involved in the criminal justice system. The program can address housing needs, medical needs, referrals for employment, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, etc. The Program Coordinator for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program is a valuable resource for the veterans we represent.

Virginia Cares assist inmates recently released from incarceration. They assist with job readiness classes, transportation issues; resume assistance, mock interviews, obtaining birth certificates and identification and rights restoration. We have occasionally made use of their service. We have referred clients to them, and they occasionally testify on behalf of our clients.

TAP (Total Action for Progress) provides numerous services that are relevant to but not necessarily directed at former inmates. They assist those in need with educational needs, including but not limited to GED classes, employment, car purchases, clothing, child care, domestic violence and crisis intervention, housing, fatherhood services, housing and homeless services, restoration of rights, and resume assistance. We refer clients to TAP when the need arises.

The area now has Discharge Planners, through our CSB, working in our local jails. Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, our CSB, began utilizing a Discharge Planner in 2016. As an employee of BRBH,

the Discharge Planner meets with inmates identified by the jail's medical department as having a mental health diagnosis or substance abuse diagnosis. The DP also responds to referrals by the Court or at our request to develop a discharge plan for those with a mental illness and/or a substance abuse issue. The plan usually addresses housing, clothing, financial and medical needs along with treatment recommendations. The inmate's feedback is included in the plan. Transportation will be provided, if needed, from the jail to the first place specified in the plan. The process to develop a plan is started one to two months prior to discharge and the individual is seen two to five times before finalizing a discharge plan.

Hope Initiative, through the Bradley Free Clinic in Roanoke, is a program our office utilizes to assist individuals who are seeking substance abuse treatment and/or Reentry services. They assist anyone experiencing substance use disorders in any form (opiates, meth, alcohol, etc.). Hope Initiative is staffed with Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. The CPRS will contact our client for a phone interview. After they gather all the information they need (drug of choice, private insurance, Medicaid/Medicare, Residential or Day Program), they start the process of matching our client's needs with the appropriate program. Once the program is agreed upon, the CPRS completes the admission paperwork and tends to all the details for admission. If required, they also offer transportation for bed-to-bed transfer. The Peer Recovery Specialists at The Hope Initiative work tirelessly to help our clients get the treatment they need. For Reentry resources, Bradley Free Clinic offers free medical and dental services, help in locating housing and assists in obtaining Medicaid for our clients.

Smithfield Public Defender Office:

Our Mitigation Specialist continues to work closely with Juvenile Probation and Adult Probation and Parole to help provide services for our clients. With her previous experience as a Probation Officer, she has developed relationships with local jail staff and is able to assist our clients with questions in regard to mental health services, Probation and Parole, and providing clients detailed instructions as to their obligations and the ramifications of revocation hearings. Since the hiring of a Reentry Coordinator at one of our local jails, the screening process for programs have been significantly streamlined. More clients are gaining access to Medicaid and programs. The collaboration between our office and jail has increased and our clients are very appreciative.

The Public Defender's Office continues to participate with the 5th Judicial District Community Corrections Program. Our mitigation specialist serves on the Community Criminal Justice Board, attending quarterly meetings, and currently serves as Secretary. Currently, our 5th Judicial Drug Court and Mental Health court are not accepting clients due to ongoing efforts in securing staff. We have had two graduations this year.

Serving a rural area, our office is continually challenged with assisting our clients with housing. There is a small group of agencies in our area who have housing for clients who need crisis stabilization. We are thankful for programs who provide transportation to and from their facilities for clients who do

struggle with transportation. Strides are continually being made to create new opportunities for our clients to become successful, law-abiding citizens.

Staunton Public Defender Office:

The Staunton-Lexington Public Defenders Office has made a priority of improving its pretrial and bail advocacy, based on the overwhelming data correlating even a slight delay in release of low-risk arrestees with higher recidivism, and increase in long-term risk level. We make full use of newly revised Virginia risk assessment tools to argue for the early release of our clients on bail, with pre-trial supervision if necessary. The public defender has assisted in trainings for local judges and prosecutors on the data underlying the recommendations of the PSA. Counsel from the Public Defender's Office and local prosecutors are present at virtually all first appearances, and judges make use of pre-trial risk assessments to review bail at those first appearances.

The Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro (SAW) community served as one of three Virginia localities to participate in an EBDM project to develop procedures for implementing an updated pre-trial risk assessment tool to be used state-wide. In coordination with a State Team, and with technical assistance from the Center for Effective Public Policy, a collaborative team of stakeholders from across the local criminal justice community meet once a month at the Public Defender's Office to develop procedures in line with VCJC's "Key Components of a Pretrial Justice System." These collaborative meetings have led to several local pilot initiatives to give pre-trial officers more flexibility to reward pre-trial defendants who do well, instead of just punishing those that violate conditions. This committee continues to meet to review the progress of the local pretrial procedures.

The Public Defender serves on the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board. As a part of these duties, he chairs a subcommittee examining the local incarceration rate compared to similarly situated communities in Virginia. The goal of the committee is to understand why residents are being incarcerated and to explore alternatives to incarceration. The Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board continues to take part in the effort to build a regional Crisis Intervention and Stabilization Unit. This project has been approved, and construction is scheduled to begin next year.

The Public Defender also serves on the Advisory Board of Pathways, the Pre-Charge Diversion Program that runs out of the Augusta County Commonwealth Attorney's Office. The program has a "deflection" track offering treatment services to the public directly, in addition to its "diversion" services provided to clients referred by law enforcement. Most importantly, the program has secured a \$1 million grant from the federal Department of Justice to fund the initiative for the next three years. This is in addition to the \$600,000 grant that was received from the U.S. Department of Justice, which has enabled the hiring of permanent staff, obtaining office space, and most importantly, providing for treatment, job training, and housing assistance for vulnerable clients, without charging them criminally.

In addition, local stakeholders, including judges, prosecutors, the public defender's office and Blue Ridge Court Services representatives have been working with representatives from Legal Aid Justice

Center on a Fines and Costs Program to explore ways to give indigent defendants relief from outstanding fines and fees.

The Deputy Public Defender in Lexington has played a key role in creating the Maury River Recovery Court, which now serves the Buena Vista-Rockbridge-Lexington jurisdictions in the same way the Staunton Recovery Court has for more than 20 years. This court is operational this year and has its first participants working their way through the program.

Attorneys and staff from the Public Defender's Office participate on the Advisory Board and the weekly treatment team meetings for the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Recovery Court that is based in the Staunton Circuit Court. We also participate on the Advisory Board and weekly treatment team meeting of the Behavioral Health Docket that operates in the General District Court.

One of the mitigation specialists is on the faculty of our local Crisis Intervention Team training program. She participates in the 40-hour certification training program to help the new officers understand the challenges many of the people who end up in the criminal justice system face.

Our Mitigation Specialists work closely with the Middle River Regional's Jail Forensic Discharge Planning team, which is supervised by the CSB. This coordination has greatly improved the re-integration of clients with mental health needs into the community. Forensic Discharge Planners continue to try to ensure that released inmates have a 30-day supply of medications, and a prearranged intake appointment with the local Community Services Board. The Mental Health Rapid Assessment Tool, which has led to the speedy identification and removal of mentally ill inmates from the jail and into appropriate treatment, continues to be widely used. Lack of affordable housing, and specifically the lack of landlords willing to accept the available funding for stable housing continues to be the single biggest obstacle to breaking the cycle of recidivism.

Public Defender staff also participate in the Valley Housing Coalition, led by the local CSB. This group meets regularly to discuss the challenges of housing in our area and to identify solutions that are achievable with the limited resources that are available.

A reentry program continues to be run through the efforts of a committee overseen by the local Probation and Parole office (District 12). This office was actively involved in that process, with the mitigation specialists attending each meeting, and taking part in the various community activities sponsored by the group. In addition to this office, representatives from the CSB, the misdemeanor probation office, the jail and local DOC facilities, ex-offenders, and local churches and community groups took part. Housing and employment were identified as key initial factors in the success of recent releases. Consequently, representatives from local shelters and housing programs, and state and private employment services were involved in the process.

Suffolk Public Defender Office:

Both the Public Defender and the Mitigation Specialist are members of the Western Tidewater Reentry Council, a group of stakeholders with representatives from the Community Services Board, the Probation Department, and a few private practice mental health providers. The goal of the Council is to assist those returning citizens, particularly those with mental health needs, in obtaining necessary and available services to increase their chance for reentry success.

The Mitigation Specialist continues to attend monthly mental health support meetings at Western Tidewater Regional Jail (WTRJ). Members present are Suffolk Probation and Parole (D-6), Western Tidewater Community Services Board (WTCSB) and other stakeholders in the community. The focus is on clients either awaiting trial or awaiting transfer to a state hospital for either forensic evaluation or restoration services. For local inmates pending release, the Mitigation Specialist and WTRJ Reentry Coordinator routinely work together in setting up the home plans for the clients in need.

The Mitigation Specialist frequently links clients with appropriate resources such as substance abuse programs and mental health resources in the community.

The Mitigation Specialist regularly communicates with the Suffolk Reentry Committee of the Suffolk Probation and Parole Office(D-6) assisting our clients on reentry services. The Mitigation Specialist is working closely with the WTRJ to assist them with inmates re-entering back into the community. The Mitigation Specialist is a member of the 5th Judicial Circuit Recovery Court Committee. The 5th Judicial Circuit Recovery Court has had its final graduation in September 2025. The program has been temporarily shut down and will begin again in 2026 as funding becomes available.

Behavioral Health Docket (BHD) has been instituted in Suffolk General District Court. The Mitigation Specialist works diligently to assist in identifying potential clients who may benefit from BHD participation and long-term treatment. The Mitigation Specialist is a proactive member of WTCSB's Community Coalition. The Meetings are bimonthly, and the team members are made up of dozens of community resources. All members share information regarding transportation, housing, substance abuse and mental health resources.

In September 2025, Suffolk Public Defender's Office welcomed aboard a Peer Navigator 2025, funded by the Virginia Opioid Settlement. The Mitigation Specialist has assumed the role of Site Supervisor working daily with the Peer Navigator. The Peer Navigator has had several opportunities to shadow several staff members as he quickly learns the various roles of the Public Defender's Office.

Virginia Beach Public Defender Office:

Staff from this office serve on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative ("JDAI committee") – more specifically, the chief public defender serves on the executive committee, and an assistant public defender is part of the work group. The committee includes representatives from various agencies (including the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, City Attorney's Office, Court Services Unit,

Department of Social Services, and Police Department) and meets quarterly. Specific goals of the initiative include working to reduce unnecessary delays at each step of the juvenile court process, providing alternatives to detention for youth whose risk can be moderated by program participation, and ensuring proper conditions for youth in custody. Reentry issues are also an important part of this group. Another assistant public defender from the juvenile court team serves as part of the working group that implements any of the recommendations of the executive committee.

The office has been involved with the Virginia Beach Recovery Court (formerly Drug Court) since its inception several years ago – providing an alternative to lengthy incarceration periods for severely addicted individuals. Members of the office serve on (1) the advisory board that oversees the program and approves any changes to its rules and procedures and the procurement of funding and grants for the program, (2) the recovery court team that meets weekly with the participants to monitor their progress recommend sanctions and changes to their treatment plan when appropriate and generally provide encouragement as the participants progress through the phases and (3) serve as an informal defense attorney for the participants when their sanctioned behavior is addressed by the court and ensure that the participants due process rights are preserved. Our drug court has been active for about six years, currently has eighteen participants, and is slowly expanding to a new goal of thirty. Most of the participants entered the program directly from a period of incarceration. The recovery team also assists them with finding stable sober housing and employment.

Similarly, our office is involved with developing and implementing, again in Circuit Court, a mental health program/court to aid clients in remaining on their medications and avoiding recidivism. This past summer the “team” including members of our office, having completed a very extensive multi-day training program, a mandatory requirement before submitting a proposal for approval by the state, submitted our plan and are now in the process of making the suggested changes to our proposal. And expect approval before the end of the year. This court will also involve securing appropriate housing and community stability for the participants. Members of the Virginia Beach office will again serve on both the overseeing board and the treatment team that meets weekly with the participants when the specialty court is approved and begins.

We are also involved with the GDC Mental Health Docket that ensures that clients with mental health issues are seen, evaluated, and transported, if needed, as quickly as possible to the hospital. Our office participated in the Forensic Discharge Planning Group this year with a goal of facilitating both continuing treatment and community placement of the mentally ill defendant who is about to be released from a jail setting. Towards that end, our office was directly involved in setting up a discharge treatment program for the mentally ill offender as part of a Circuit Court disposition. The program links the defendant to needed services. When released from the jail, clients are picked up by a representative of the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services. They are then taken to both probation and psychiatric treatment appointments. The intent is to make sure that he or she remains on their mental health medication. Other needs are also appropriately addressed.

Additionally, the office is very involved in discharge planning, in general -- both as noted above and through our Mitigation Specialists. The intent is to make sure that we have the client properly situated

so that they have the best possible chance for success upon release. Our Mitigation Specialists assist many of our clients in renewing, or more commonly, signing up for Medicaid. Often our client's release from custody is contingent upon their Medicaid as a "bed-to-bed" treatment bond is required by the court or is imperative to their stability and treatment. Along with signing clients up for Medicaid, we frequently work with Cover Virginia's Incarcerate Unit to switch Medicaid from incarceration coverage to community coverage, which allows them the opportunity to attend treatment. Similarly, they have assisted many clients in getting a phone through their Medicaid and coordinating transportation. We work hard to build relationships with community resources that can help support our clients. We work closely with the Jail Forensic Team and Jail Outpatient and Reentry Team to collaboratively build plans for clients. We have monthly coordination meetings to collaborate, share resources, and discuss issues as they arise. We assist clients who are veterans by helping them to register and connect to the VA to access services from mental health to substance abuse to housing. Housing continues to be the biggest barrier for our clients and we have spent time connecting with resources such as the local housing resource center, as well as Oxford houses, to discuss ways to streamline incarcerated clients into stable housing. Our office pooled funds to purchase all day bus tickets. We provide these tickets to clients who have no other means of transportation to get to treatment centers, resources, or court. Our mitigation specialists have also created an advocacy resource folder that is full of programs as alternatives to incarceration with computer links for use by attorneys. Additionally, they created an internal mitigation referral form. Since it was created over 1000 requests have been made on the form, 95% of those requests are for clients in custody. Many of the juvenile resources are evidence-based practices and some are from evidence-based mapping. The reentry goals are reviewed by our Mitigation Specialists in the search for alternatives to incarceration and for continued treatment and services after reentry. Mitigation Specialists also obtain medical records or written supplemental memos to offer the court more context to the client and the situation presented before them. Additionally, our Mitigation Specialists attend some of the Virginia Beach adult correctional services staff meetings and this, along with ongoing reviews and discussions with Adult Probation and Parole and Juvenile Court Service Unit staff, helps refine our use of their services to support any reentry treatment goals and service plans.

While we utilize many programs in the local and surrounding area, Pyramid Healthcare in Newport News is prominent because of their low barriers to entry. They recently started an ACTT (Assertive Community Treatment Teams) which is a mobile program that brings high intensity behavioral health service to the community. Second, to housing, primary mental health treatment is lacking in our area. This new program should go a long way in filling that gap in service, particularly for our clients who are homeless or without transportation. The mitigation team has already met with ACTT to discuss processes that allow clients to be released directly on the team.

An attorney in our office, who functions as our mental health expert, has been involved in multiple programs/organizations that focus on reentry. Our office remains heavily involved in mental health reentry in both the general district and circuit court arenas. The focus is on making certain that there is access to services from the jail to the CSB/DHS portal. Access to prescriptions, transportation, and placement is the focus of the attorneys and Mitigation Specialist in our office. We have also worked to try and make certain that everyone who needs treatment or evaluation does so in a timely fashion

through both the general district and circuit court mental health programs. We are trying very hard to make sure that no one slips through the cracks.

The office has participated in “Reentry Town Hall Meetings” sponsored by the Virginia Beach Reentry Council – a collaboration between Adult Probation and the Virginia Beach Human Services Department. I have reaffirmed to the Reentry Council our continued interest in actively assisting them with any of their ongoing programs concerning reentry. Similarly, I serve on the Virginia Beach Criminal Justice Board – a group that includes the Commonwealth Attorney, judges from each of our courts, the heads of the local law enforcement agencies and representatives from other relevant local agencies such as human services. Reentry issues are certainly among the issues we address.

Winchester Public Defender Office:

The Winchester Public Defender’s Office covers six jurisdictions covering roughly the northern half of the Shenandoah Valley and the Page Valley. The Office serves the City of Winchester and Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren. The area runs the gamut from urban to rural, from DC bedroom communities to mountain ranges. Thus, the availability of local reentry resources varies widely by locality.

The Office works with clients who are incarcerated pre-trial and in need of immediate intervention as an alternative to incarceration to get them involved in services such as Medicaid and gain them entry into programs in the local area and surrounding localities to assist them with treatment needs to smooth reentry into a productive life.

To assist those clients whose needs go deeper, the Public Defender and/or an attorney from the Office or affiliated with the Office is a member of several regional boards, workgroups and committees looking at various issues affecting mental health, homelessness, substance abuse, and reentry in the areas served by the Office of the Public Defender. The workgroups and committees include the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Use Coalition, the Community Criminal Justice Board, and the Advisory Committees for the Northwestern Regional Adult Treatment Court, Page County Adult Treatment Court, Shenandoah County Adult Treatment Court, Warren County Treatment Court, and the Winchester-Frederick County Behavioral Health Docket, Northern Shenandoah Valley Family Promise and the Winchester Social Services Board. These groups help foster collaborative efforts with other agencies such as DSS, Probation and Parole, Pre-Trial Services, the regional and local jails, court personnel, local hospitals, and private mental health and substance abuse treatment providers. These groups meet monthly and/or quarterly and explore how to access various services in the community. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Re-Entry Council continues to meet. It has created a website to assist offenders reentering the community and also has developed a “Pocket Resource Guide” with information on local service providers to aid those re-entering the community from jail or prison.

There are now Adult Treatment Court programs in all jurisdictions served by the Office. The Public Defender and/or a member from the office serves as a member of the treatment team and on the

Advisory Committees for each of those courts. The Northwest Regional Adult Treatment Court began in 2016 and serves the City of Winchester and Counties of Clarke and Frederick. That program has served a total of 152 participants with 20 graduates in 2024 and 2025. The Page County Adult Drug Treatment Court began in 2021 and has served 52 total participants with 15 graduates in 2024 and 2025. The Shenandoah County Adult Treatment Court currently serves 13 participants with 6 total graduates so far. The Warren County treatment court graduated its first successful candidates in 2024 and continues in 2025. Some barriers to maintain the treatment court are the cost of treatment and sustainable and adequate resources for the future. But housing is the single biggest challenge in our Treatment Courts across the Valley, while the Northern area (Clarke, Winchester, Frederick) utilize a number of different local housing programs. The Public Defender has worked with local organizations in Warren County to help open new housing programs in that jurisdiction. Currently, there are no such programs or houses that accept treatment Court participants in Page or Shenandoah counties, but the Public Defender and an allied former APD from the office have worked to expand housing in those areas.

The Public Defender was also part of an effort to start a Behavioral Health Docket in the Winchester, Clarke and Frederick County General District Courts. This program has brought much needed services and help to non-violent defendants suffering with mental illness. This program has new coordination through a local group and has been revitalized in 2025. Barriers to the program are in securing licensed mental health providers to serve the participants in the program and stable coordination for the program.

The Mitigation Specialist has established a strong working relationship with the mental health staff at the Northwest Regional Adult Detention Center and RSW Regional Jail to ensure best service provision to clients with Mental Illness while incarcerated. The Mitigation Specialist navigates VA Medicaid, and CVIU (Cover Virginia Incarcerated Unit) and is adept at aiding incarcerated clients with Medicaid applications so that they're eligible for inpatient MH/SUD treatment throughout the state. She also assists clients with changing incarcerated type Medicaid to community-based which is required for some programs so that these individuals have active health insurance when re-entering the community. The Mitigation Specialist has established a collaborative relationship with the Brightview, Sinclair Health and Valley Health, the locally available health networks. She also has established relationships with multiple mental health and SUD providers in the area, including Brightview, NWCSB, ARS, Winchester Medical Community Health Center, which provide MAT, IOP, PHP, Counseling Services, and Mental Health Service in the local community. The Mitigation Specialist also works closely with numerous probation officers to collaborate on plans to address clients' needs upon release from incarceration.

The Office works with multiple treatment programs in Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley to seek out appropriate care for each client. Utilizing different providers helps the office provide a timely turnaround once a referral has been made. Programs address both MH and SUD issues, employ a client-centered approach, and assist with step-down plans for clients. As examples, we utilize the Recovery Connection, a local inpatient SU program. We also work with Pyramid Healthcare which offer services in a wide range of intensities in sites both inside and outside of the Commonwealth. They also provide transportation. Lack of affordable housing/shelters continues to be a significant barrier for people in the community.

The office has had a very successful partnership with Recovery Corps (an AmeriCorps Program) The partnership is with Recovery Corps (an AmeriCorps program) who provided this office its six jurisdictions with a Recovery Navigator who worked with the Mitigation Specialist on placing people into treatment programs and helping them to connect to vital community resources. The current recovery navigator has been a real boon to the office, working in all of our jurisdictions with clients with Opioid Dependency to get the treatment and care they need. The office has retained the person who had been our Navigator on an hourly basis and hopes to extend our partnership with the Recovery Corps program in January of 2026.

Virginia Parole Board

The Virginia Parole Board serves a population of approximately 3,618 inmates currently eligible for discretionary parole and geriatric conditional release review and a population of approximately 1,293 probationers/parolees who are on supervision in the community.

As of September 30, 2025, there were 2,334 incarcerated discretionary parole eligible inmates (1,719 of those inmates are currently eligible for discretionary parole, with 615 of them becoming discretionary parole eligible sometime after September 30, 2025). This population includes the 311 parole eligible inmates that were determined eligible per the Fishback legislation (HB33) and the “juvenile at the time of the offense and served over 20 years” legislation (HB35). The Parole Board serves a population of 1,899 geriatric conditional release eligible inmates, many of whom are also discretionary parole eligible. Per Department of Corrections, of the 26,000+ currently incarcerated inmate population, approximately 7,232 of those inmates either are or will become geriatric conditional release eligible during the course of their incarceration.

As of July 1, 2024, and per the Virginia Code Section 53.1-136(10), the Virginia Parole Board is required to Convene a public meeting, either in person or via video conference, when conducting the final deliberation and vote regarding whether the Board will grant parole to a prisoner. Absent extenuating circumstances, the Parole Board grants parole conditioned upon the successful completion of the VADOC reentry program. The VADOC places the parolee in the program as soon as space is available, and the parolee will typically complete the program between three to six months.

As the Virginia Parole Board and the DOC review geriatric inmates for conditional release and parole consideration, the primary barrier to release is the lack of any public assisted living/nursing home facilities willing and able to assume care of this population.

The Department of Corrections continues to allow the Virginia Parole Board access to its resources and facilities. The VADOC also provides training to board members on various aspects of the Department's operations including but not limited to inmate programs, community releases, sex-offender treatment, inmate's medical and mental healthcare, interstate compact procedures, criminal records, and sentenced-time computation. The Parole Board provides training to VADOC employees as well as to enhance understanding of their own procedures. The Parole Board's Victim Services Coordinator works collaboratively with the Department of Corrections Victim Services Unit.

As of July 1, 2025, the Virginia Parole Board no longer supervises individuals placed on a period of court-ordered post-release supervision pursuant to Code § 19.2-295.2. These cases are now handled by the sentencing court.

On September 30, 2025, the Parole Board had approximately 1,293 parolees on supervision, either on mandatory or discretionary parole, in the community. The Parole Board works in cooperation with the Department of Correction's local probation and parole offices to ensure public safety and to respond quickly to warrant requests. These individuals sometimes struggle after having been released onto

mandatory parole from a period of incarceration. Often these individuals have committed “technical” infractions, for example, testifying positive for drugs. The Parole Board expedites its review of these violations to ensure those individuals that can be diverted into an alternative to incarceration (e.g., the Community Corrections Alternative Program) do so. These reviews are done so quickly and in a manner that best ensures their successful overall reentry.

The Parole Board’s Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is responsible for conducting pardon investigations for the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Governor’s office. The SIU conducts simple pardon, conditional pardon, and absolute pardon investigations. The SIU is composed of nine retired law enforcement officers. For calendar year 2025 (through September 30th), the unit has completed 101 simple, 80 conditional, and 6 absolute pardon investigations.

Data and Information

The Parole Board relies upon the Department of Corrections to provide data and statistical information associated with their current incarcerated population and the population that is responsible to the Parole Board in the community.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 53.1-136, the Virginia Parole Board is required to report monthly decisions. The Parole Board website posts 5 full prior calendar years of decisions in addition to decisions made during the current calendar year. As of July 1, 2024, the Parole Board is required to publish two annual reports; one consisting of parole discharge statistics and the other consisting of reasons the Board uses to deny or grant parole.

The Department of Corrections CORIS data system continues to have some inadequacies that pose a barrier to ensuring complete data are available and processes are streamlined. Since CORIS changes require modification by the vendor of CORIS under its contract with VADOC, the Parole Board is working with the CORIS Project Management team to resolve the inadequacies and advocate for enhancements to the system.

Virginia State Police

Data and Information

The Department of State Police continues to improve the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. The Department maintains the focus on complete and accurate reporting of criminal history information to the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) with the continuation of the Unapplied Criminal History Reports. These reports notify agencies such as law enforcement, Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices, and the courts of criminal history information that has not been applied to the criminal history record due to discrepancies or missing data. These agencies are requested to review the information in the reports and take corrective action to update the arrest and/or disposition information. For the July 2024 to June 2025 reporting period, 18 % of the records requested were able to be included on the criminal history record. Beginning in June 2024, a "Best Practices" document is now included with these reports, providing further detail on how to interpret the data and what documentation should be provided to VSP.

Criminal history information received by the CCRE is made available for criminal justice and non-criminal justice purposes. This includes access to firearm purchase background checks, pre-sentencing and parole reviews, employment background checks, and the administration of criminal justice practices. In addition, the Department of State Police shares criminal history record information nationally with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), through the Interstate Identification Index (III) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Furthermore, the Department of State Police continues to provide criminal investigative file information to the FBI's National Data Exchange (N-DEx) system, which allows criminal justice agencies nationwide access to criminal investigative data. In addition, recidivism reports are prepared and shared with local and state criminal justice agencies as part of the rehabilitation program(s) evaluation process. There have been no significant changes to the collaborative sharing of case-level information in this reporting period.

In December 2021, the Department deployed the Orphan Disposition File (ODF). The ODF is a hot file, a database that can be queried through the VCIN system and contains court disposition information received by the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) that has not been applied to the criminal history record. The disposition information in this file contains those dispositions that do not have corresponding arrest booking information on the criminal history record. In addition, to ensure that firearm purchase disqualification information is made accessible nationwide, any disposition information in the ODF that is a disqualifier for the purchase of a firearm is electronically sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for inclusion in the NICS Indices.

VSP is working with the contracted vendor, Voyatek (formerly to design and release a new state-of-the-art Criminal History System, Computerized Criminal History (CCH) in 2026. This system will replace the ageing CCH and will add expungement and sealing capabilities.

System Information

The CCH system collects inmate demographic information from fingerprint-based correctional bookings submitted to the CCRE. This information is used to establish inmate criminal history records. Other sources of information that submit to an inmate's record include court dispositions, correctional and probation status, and local inmate data. Throughout the year, various law enforcement agencies, and the Virginia Department of Corrections, use this information to perform recidivism studies to evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. In addition, court disposition information that is submitted to the CCRE electronically on a weekly basis, tracks the outcome of the judicial process and is reported on the criminal history record. An inmate's pardon and restoration of civil rights (when accompanied by fingerprints), and firearms restorations, when submitted to the CCRE, are reflected on the criminal history record. All this information provides additional data on the inmate after the judicial process is complete. During this reporting period, several updates were made to the CCH system, streamlining and improving electronic workflow processes. Updates included continued adjustments to batch files with partner agencies and Uniform Statute Table updates. The CCH team, along with our information technology partners, continue to monitor system activity for optimal performance improvements.

The Department continues to monitor and identify gaps in the current CCH system and focus on better reporting of court information to the CCRE to enhance the quality of data received. The Department of State Police, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, has hosted meetings with the Virginia Supreme Court's Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) to continue collaboration and discussions on court processes and data submitted to the Computerized Criminal History System. The Department has also successfully applied for federal grant funding, with the Office of the Executive Secretary as a sub-awardee, for projects that will continue to work towards the objective of capturing accurate and complete criminal history information. VSP has also worked with Voyatek to coordinate working sessions with other existing interface partners to prepare for the new CCH system.

The Department of State Police continues to work with Voyatek to build the new Criminal and Rap Back Information System (CRIS) based on the requirements outlined in Senate Bills 1339 and 1406 from the 2021 Legislative Session. As of September 2025, the project team has continued the review and testing of several modules of the new system. CRIS will provide many levels of functionality to include automated expungement processes and interfaces for the courts and booking agencies to submit error corrections for criminal history information. The Department anticipates deploying the automated criminal history expungement and sealing functionality by July 1, 2026. The single point of contact for this project is Ken Allen, CJIS Project Manager, at the Department of State Police.

The Department of State Police continues to receive fingerprint-based arrest booking information and criminal court information that is reported on the criminal history record. Furthermore, correctional commitment booking, correctional status, and probation information is received electronically and reported on the criminal history record. This information provides a comprehensive historical account of inmate movement within the correctional system. These data elements have remained the same within this reporting period.

Conclusion

This report of reentry services showed examples of varied and ongoing collaborations in the Commonwealth during FY2025 and calendar year 2025 to date. Not all agencies experienced notable changes during the reporting period; however, relationships that focused on effective inmate-reintegration continue to be strengthened. This increased collaboration resulted in innovative and creative use of resources available to those individuals transitioning to the community.

In continuing to consistently approach reentry needs through employing braided resources, the Commonwealth provided services to adults and youth from the time of arrest to their release into the community. Facilitating a seamless reentry process means funding and policy barriers must be addressed – and supports offered at the critical time points when reentering individuals need assistance the most. The persistent needs for housing, mental and physical healthcare, ongoing treatment, and employment are barriers that threaten reentry and endanger communities. The most successful programs and collaborative efforts should continue to be identified, evaluated, and replicated throughout the Commonwealth.

To assist Virginia in its program evaluation and fidelity measurements of statewide initiatives and to target available funds toward effective programs, an increase in complete and accurate data collection is imperative. Multiple agencies reported on the strides they have made with agency data systems, but others reported that data to fully address evaluation and fidelity questions on reentry needs are still not readily available in or across agency systems. Use of performance measurement tools is integral to incorporating resources effectively into our facilities and communities for a significant impact on reentry and reduced recidivism.



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