

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Monday, April 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

**Rockingham County Administration Building
Fire Rescue Training Room
Entrance A
20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802**

Agenda

- I. CCJB Meeting Called to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes, dated January 27, 2025
- IV. Operational Updates – Included in Board Packet
 - a. Jail Report
 - b. Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board
 - c. District 39 Probation & Parole
 - d. Court Services
 - e. Reentry Coordinator Update
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - a. Establishing a therapeutic docket/mental health docket – Abigail Thibeault
 - b. Forensic discharge planner at RHRJ, how to establish a position – Abigail Thibeault
- VII. Public Comment

State your name and local address.
- VIII. Adjournment

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Minutes

In-Person Meeting – 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Monday, January 27, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Board Members –

Monica Robinson – City of Harrisonburg Council Member / CCJB Chairperson
Dewey Ritchie – Rockingham County Board Member / CCJB Vice-Chairperson
Judge Bruce Albertson – Rockingham County Circuit Court – Absent
Judge John Hart – General District – Absent
Judge Rachel Figura – JDR Court – Absent
Chaz Haywood – Clerk of Circuit Court
Christopher Bean for Marsha Garst – Commonwealth’s Attorney
Bryan Hutcheson – Sheriff, Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg – Absent
Rod Pollard – Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department
Casey Armstrong – County Administrator
Brian Vandenburg for Ande Banks – Harrisonburg City Manager
Rebekah Brubaker – Director, Rockingham Harrisonburg Community Services Board
Celeste Williams – Director, Department of Social Services – Absent
Larry Shifflett – Rockingham County School Superintendent – Absent
Shawn Printz for Michael Richards – Harrisonburg City School Superintendent
Joshua Lutz – Chief, Probation & Parole District 39 – Absent
Monica Martin – Chief Magistrate – Absent
Gene Hart – Defense Attorney
Richard Jackson, Rockingham-Harrisonburg-Page Reentry Council
Abigail Thibeault – Chief Public Defender
Jimmy Wimer – Jail Director Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional Jail
Ann Marie Ritchie, Director, Court Services- Staff

- I. Transition of Chairperson from the city to the county, with Mr. Ritchie taking over.
- II. Welcome and Introduction by Chairman Ritchie. Roll Call Conducted.
- III. Chairman Ritchie moved for Approval of the October 7, 2024, CCJB Minutes.
Rebekah Brubaker moved for Approval; Abigail Thibeault Seconded. Minutes were Approved by show of hands. None Opposed.
- IV. Informational/Operational Updates – see attached
 - A. Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional & Middle River Regional Jail Statistics Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised. Short discussion of the number of inmates waiting for sentencing and the potential for transfer to DOC.

B. Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board (CSB)

The report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.

C. District 39 Probation and Parole

The report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.

D. Court Services

The report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.

E. Reentry Coordinator

The report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.

V. Old Business -

- a. The By-Laws and resolutions will be updated to include Abigail Thibeaut as a member of the CCJB.

VI. New Business

Gene Hart - Looking ahead, the need for the public defender's office in our community will continue to grow, and in the next five years, this will become an increasingly important issue. We've previously discussed potential expansions or renovations to the jail, and given recent major disruptions and renovations, it's worth considering if we should start that conversation again. As a board, we may need to address how to support and improve the jail's operations moving forward, such as doing a jail study. Additionally, the Rockingham Circuit Courthouse might require renovations in the future. This could be another topic for discussion within the CCJB, to gather information, provide support, or influence plans for those renovations in the coming years. While these concerns aren't urgent for next year, they are worth considering over the next five years.

Abigail Thibeault - I don't have a formal position at the moment, but I understand the concerns discussed in 2015 about building a new jail, especially from those who were opposed to investing in the carceral system. My initial reaction aligns with that, but I can also acknowledge the challenges we face as the public defender's office. Criminal defense is struggling due to limitations at the jail, which affect our ability to serve the community effectively. One of the key issues is the lack of access to contact visits with clients, which are crucial for effective communication. Meeting with clients in a private room, without a glass barrier, is essential for building trust and discussing cases thoroughly. We also work in a team model, and with larger cases, we often have multiple attorneys or support

staff, but the jail's current facilities can't accommodate that. This is not a criticism of the jail, but a reality they face with limited space. This has made me reconsider the need for potential jail renovations or a new facility to better support criminal defense. Improvements in the jail could lead to better public safety outcomes in the community. For example, the jail doesn't even have intercoms for communication between defense attorneys and the front desk, which is a time-consuming issue. This morning, we couldn't interview everyone we needed to for initial appearances due to delays. I believe this is a conversation worth having, especially if CCJB can play a role in exploring solutions that could improve both the jail's function and criminal defense practices.

Chaz Haywood - Abby, I really appreciate your honest response. You're absolutely right, and I thank you for bringing that up. I know the sheriff was very focused on developing a solid plan for work release and other programs, but unfortunately, that idea was shut down. If we hadn't gone in the direction we did with Middle River, we could have kept everyone close to home and provided opportunities for them to work in their own communities. I appreciate your support for that vision as well. However, when it comes to decisions about jail facilities or anything outside the courthouse, sheriff's office, or jail, those are decisions that are ultimately made by the board and the city council, who fund these efforts. I encourage you to first bring your ideas to the sheriff, just as you're bringing them to me, and see if we as constitutional officers can present something for the board to consider. I'm sure they'd be open to it, as it would benefit everyone, including the individuals involved in the work release programs. We already have a system in place where we send people down for work shifts, and we have two workers who help with transportation. It's a small operation, but it shows there's potential for more. I think there are many great opportunities to explore, but it all begins with the sheriff deciding how to move forward.

Chairman suggested I would suggest talking to the sheriff in the short term to discuss potential tweaks to his policy and what he might be comfortable with. As for what Chaz mentioned, he's absolutely right. We will look into capital improvements, but those are likely five years out, which is a long timeline. However, we can keep that in the background and continue to keep it in mind as we move forward.

IV. Public Comment

4:30 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned

Community Criminal Justice Board Meeting Handout

RHRJ / MRRJ Numbers: April 1, 2025

RHRJ:

Total Population = 308 (Bond eligible = 22)

Males 265

Females 43

White 181 (59%)

Black 60 (19%)

Hispanic 67 (22%)

Additional RHRJ Numbers:

Federal Inmates 8

Sentenced Inmates 41

↳ (*W/Probation Violations 15)

Pretrial/Charges Pending 151

Probation Violations 108

Possession of Marijuana 0

Pretrial/Charges Pending:

Misdemeanor 44

Felony 215

Sentenced:

Misdemeanor 4

Felony 37

MRRJ: Total Population = 136

(Bond eligible =4)

Pretrial:

Misdemeanor 5

Felony 51

TOTAL 56

Sentenced:

Misdemeanor 4

Felony 76

TOTAL 80

Sentenced Probation 50

Un-sentenced Probation 24

****TOTAL Probation Violations**** 74



Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail Mental Health Services Provided by Harrisonburg-Rockingham CSB Quarterly Update

HRCBSB has been providing a full-time case management position to support incarcerated individuals who are experiencing mental health distress since January 2017. The Jail Services Clinician is located at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail (RHRJ) and conducts assessments, screenings for psychiatric services, completes safety contacts, coordinates release planning, and facilitates educational groups.

Jessica Rodriquez-Lopez started on Jan 13, 2025 as our Jail Services Clinician. It took several weeks to get Jessica oriented to her role and responsibilities prior to her being able to start seeing individuals in the jail. She started meeting with inmates at the beginning of March. During the time of January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025 our team provided 102 contacts to 72 individuals; of the 72 individuals, 10 were female and 62 were male. The two primary services rendered were related to assessment and follow up contact and safety/crisis contacts.

Services Rendered By Jail Services Case Manager	
Services Provided	Percent to total
Assessment/Follow-up	68%
Release Planning	0%
Safety/Crisis	27%
Screening for Psychiatric Services	5%

There are several ways individuals can be identified as needing mental health services from the Jail Services Clinician. The primary referral source during the last three months was self-referrals, which comprised of 48% of all referrals. Self-referrals continue to be the primary referral source for the Jail Services Clinician. The primary behavioral health

Primary Issue	Percent to total
Mood Disorder	4%
Adjustment Disorder	38%
Drug / Alcohol Abuse	28%
Thought Disorder	7%
Bipolar	9%
Anxiety	14%

related concern identified this quarter was adjustment related with 38% of the contacts. Second primary behavioral health concern identified this quarter was substance use related concerns representing 28% of total contacts.

The Jail Services Clinician did not resume the psychoeducational groups during this past quarter. It is the plan for the groups to resume in this next quarter. The Jail Services



Clinician will look to resume providing psychoeducation groups related to mental health and substance use.

HRC SB's Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner continues to provide psychiatric evaluations and medication management services for up to 5 hours a week. During the following timeframe January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, 101 medication related services were provided to 76 individuals. Of the 101 services provided, 38 were initial psychiatric evaluations and 63 were medication management follow-up appointments.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JOSHUA C. LUTZ, CHIEF
JOSEPH R. SMITH, DEPUTY CHIEF
OLIVIA M. HARPER, DEPUTY CHIEF

*Department of Corrections
Adult Probation and Parole
District 39*

55 WEST KAYLOR PARK DRIVE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA 22801
PHONE: (540) 214-3100
FAX: (540) 433-3315

March 31, 2025

Total Number of Cases: 1630 (323 Page) (1,307 Rockingham/Harrisonburg). This does not include those cases that have been placed on our lowest level of supervision (333 between Page and Rockingham/Harrisonburg and living in our communities).

District 39 continues to be one of the largest Districts in the Western Region that runs from Rockingham south to Abingdon and Norton and as far east as Danville. We are larger than several districts that cover Roanoke and the Roanoke Valley, the Radford/Blacksburg area as well as districts that cover multiple counties throughout the west.

District 39 is currently down one (1) Probation Officer; however, we are in the middle of the hiring process for this position. We continue to be a young office; however, they are continuing to grow and learn, and most have successfully completed the academy for Probation and Parole. We have two Deputy Chiefs and four Senior Probation Officers for the District due to the growth in supervisees being placed on supervision and staff needed to supervise those individuals. We are continuing to try to recruit qualified Officers to fill our vacant positions but have found this to be a struggle at times.

At the present time, we have approximately 12 Presentence Reports Pending out of the Page and Rockingham Circuit Courts. We also have approximately 26 transfer investigations/home plan investigations pending in the district that are being investigated for suitability. These are in addition to the new intakes that we receive on a daily/weekly basis. Our orientation for new supervisees referred from the Courts, Jails, and Prison continue to be consistently approximately 10 individuals a week, which does not include those currently on supervision and placed directly back on supervision after serving minimal time, if any.

District 39 continues to work in partnership with multiple agencies in our community. We submit letters of support for grants that are being pursued by our community partners to try and help reduce recidivism and continue to build up our community.

Special Programs Being Utilized by District 39:

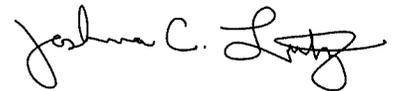
1. Community Corrections Alternative Program (VADOC)
2. Harrisonburg/Rockingham County CSB (Substance Abuse/Mental Health)
3. Gemeinschaft CRP (VADOC)
4. Gemeinschaft Day Reporting/Gemeinschaft Women's Home
5. Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Drug Court
6. Page County Drug Court
7. Page County Counseling (at District 39 Substance Abuse Treatment)
8. Sex Offender Treatment (at District 39 Subsidized by the VADOC)
9. Strength in Peers
10. Private Counselors
11. Master Center
12. Harrisonburg Methadone Clinic
13. Social Services and various other state agencies
14. VA Medical Center/Hospitals (Winchester and Roanoke)
15. VASAP
16. BrightView Treatment Center
17. Multiple Other Agencies

Please note that this is a small number of the community resources we use most commonly in supervision.

We are continuing to engage in building stronger partnerships with Virginia Works and DARS to provide more assistance and support to those placed in our care in trying to get them employed. In addition to this work, we are continuing to build partnerships with our law enforcement partners as we try to locate and apprehend fugitives in the community. Our Sheriff's Department, and local Police Departments have done a great job to ensure public safety by apprehending fugitives wanted by the Courts and Probation quickly. These are all partnerships that the Governor's Office has encouraged, and I believe all parties involved have found to be extremely helpful in enhancing supervision and community safety as well as the potential successes for those placed in our care.

In an effort to enhance our supervision in the community and to provide better access to those under our supervision, we have begun to enroll all supervisees into the ShadowTrack Application. By enrolling them into this program, they can more efficiently come into the office, report issues more quickly/easily, and reach out to their supervising officer more easily.

Submitted by: Joshua C. Lutz, Chief Probation and Parole Officer



Court Services Unit

Staff - Director

Administrative Assistant	CIT Coordinator - vacant
Pretrial Officer (Supervisor, two full time)	Drug Court Coordinator - vacant
Pretrial Evaluator	GPS Technician/Intake Officer - vacant
Probation Officer (three full-time -one vacant/one part-time)	

Probation

Total number of placements as of February 28, 2025, for FY25 – 128 placements
Closed Cases FY25 – 80 successful, 50 unsuccessful Number of Offenders – 216
Probation supervision provides sentencing alternatives to the judiciary and supervise offenders through intermediate sanctions consistent with the community's views. The Program will hold the offender accountable to the community for his/her criminal behavior through performance of community service work, substance abuse screening, assessment, testing and treatment, or any other special condition as ordered by the court.

Pretrial

Total number of placements as of February 28, 2025, for FY25 – 333 placements
Total number of screenings – 1368
Closed Cases – 138 successful, 42 unsuccessful Number of Defendants - 332
Pretrial services agencies provide information and investigative services to judicial officers to help them decide whether persons charged with certain offenses and awaiting trial need to be held in jail or can be released to their communities subject to supervision. Pretrial is an alternative to incarceration. Virginia pretrial agencies currently use an objective and research-based risk assessment (VPRIA) to assess risk of flight and danger to the community posed by pretrial defendants.

Electronic Monitoring FY25 as of February 28, 2025

GPS – 17 participants, TAD/Sober Link – 9 participants

Day Reporting/Residential Program – Total Participants as of February 28, 2025 – 15

Rockingham-Harrisonburg Adult Drug Court Participants as February 28, 2025 - 40

Rockingham-Harrisonburg CRT Mobile Crisis Team FY25 as of February 28, 2025, there have been 250 new consumer contacts in our community.

Work Program – Litter Control Program

As of February 28, 2025, for FY25, a total of 537 bags of trash collected. 602, 33E, 42S, County Administration Building, Courthouse, Landfill.

Crisis Intervention Team - Next Training March 2025

Total number of trained personnel from Rockingham County Sheriff's Office/Jail -190, Harrisonburg Police Department- 125, James Madison University Police Department – 65, Timberville Police Department - 8, Broadway Police Department - 10, Bridgewater Police Department – 14, Dayton – 7, Elkton Police Department – 5, Grottoes Police Department – 7, Virginia State Police - 16, EMU Public Safety – 1, Bridgewater College PD – 2, Norfolk Police Department- 3, Magistrates 3, Community Services Board – 14, Rockingham-Harrisonburg Court Services Unit – 7 (1), Emergency Communications Center – 86, Rockingham County Fire & Rescue 3, Harrisonburg Fire Department – 12, State Probation and Parole – 17 Federal Probation –1, Sentara RMH – 1, USDA Forest Service – 2, VDOC Augusta Correctional Center – 3,SS-2 , National Park Service-Shenandoah- 13, CCAP DOC – 2, Other -Alleghany County 2

HRSSD Re-Entry Update Quarterly Report 2025

Number of Ongoing Participants						Service Provided					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
City	26				**	Phone Card/Phone	4				
County	12				**	Gas Card/Uber card	17				
Total	38				**	Shoes/ Clothing/Haircut/Hygiene	4				
Number of New Participants						SNAP					
City	5					Housing/Pay Rent/Deposits	2				
County	1					Food card distributed	8				
Total	6					Birth Certificate	2				
Referral Source / Number of Referrals						Mental Health					
Community Service Board	1					Addiction Recovery	1				
Brochure/Flyer/ Self Referral	1					Education/MTC	1				
Child Protective Services	1					Housing Referral	1				
Strength in Peers	1					DCSE	2				
Other	2					DMV/Way to Go/ Drivers Lic	5				
Total	6					DARS Referral	1				
Released From						Laptop/Work Items					
Rockingham County Jail	3					Employment Help	1				
Middle River Regional Jail	2					Car/Vehicle or Repair	1				
Other/ or Federal Prison	1					Network 2 Work Referral	1				
Total	6					Returned to Incarceration	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
						<i>Total</i>	0				
Gender						Employment Obtained					
Male	2					Receiving SSI	3				**
Female	4					Receiving VA Income	1				**
Total	6					Total	20				**

Active and new members data as of last month in quarter