

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Monday, July 14, 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 April 7, 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
- 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, April 7, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Members –

Monica Robinson - City of Harrisonburg Council Member / CCJB Chairperson - Absent
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
Chaz Haywood – Clerk of Circuit Court - Absent
Marsha Garst – Commonwealth’s Attorney
Bryan Hutcheson – Sheriff, Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg
Rod Pollard – Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department
Casey Armstrong – County Administrator
Ande Banks – Harrisonburg City Manager - Absent
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
Monica Martin – Chief Magistrate
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. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Welcome and Introduction by Chairman Ritchie. Roll Call Conducted.
- III. Chairman Ritchie moved for Approval of the January 27, 2025, CCJB Minutes. Marsha Garst moved for Approval; Gene Hart 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. A question was raised regarding – District 39 continues to be one of the largest Districts in the Western Region. This references the number of people, not the area.

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

VI. New Business

a. Establishing a therapeutic docket/mental health docket – Abigail Thibeault

Robert Wilson, Public Defender, gave a brief overview of a Mental Health Docket also known as therapeutic dockets, these are specialized court dockets focused on addressing serious mental health issues among defendants. Inspired by similar programs in Stanton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. Designed to divert eligible individuals from jail into structured treatment and supervision programs, typically lasting about a year.

For the need and observations - Robert Wilson noticed repeated cycles of arrest for mentally ill individuals, especially for low-level offenses. There is a “catch-22”: too mentally unwell for release, but not able to receive effective treatment in jail. High recidivism rates (up to 40%) could be lowered through therapeutic docket programs: Successful graduates: ~19% recidivism, even those terminated early: ~30% recidivism.

The Therapeutic Docket is overseen by the Supreme Court of Virginia, usually implemented at the District Court level, and candidates are assessed for eligibility, sign participation agreements, follow a five-level program and participation may lead to dismissal of misdemeanor charges upon successful completion.

Funding initial can often come from the Virginia Department on Rehabilitation and Aging (e.g., \$140,000 for Stanton's program). Requires hiring at least one full-time Behavioral Health Docket Coordinator. Additional support may come from grants through the Virginia Supreme Court. Suggestion made to not combine roles with the Recovery Court Coordinator due to workload demands.

There was discussion of some concerns and considerations.

Judicial Buy-In: Essential for implementation. Rockingham currently lacks necessary judicial capacity. There's a pending transition in District Court judges, with potential for new judges to support the docket. Increasing state-level control over dockets may reduce local flexibility.

Moving forward there was general agreement on the value of exploring the idea, but action delayed due to judicial uncertainty. There has been significant work that has taken place a few years back for a Therapeutic Docket. The idea of a committee formation was deferred until the September meeting, after the new judge is in place and availability can be assessed.

b. Forensic discharge planner at RHRJ, how to establish a position – Abigail Thibeault

Discussion began with an overview from Abigail Thibeault, Chief Public Defender, for the Establishment of a Forensic Discharge Planner position at RHRJ. The idea was brought forward by Camera Powell, from Middle River Regional jail which has robust discharge planning to improve inmate outcomes and reduce jail overcrowding. Suggests exploring more funding or a new position, possibly via DSS (Department of Social Services).

Ms. Thibeault stated the position at MRRJ, I think it is really benefiting to people there, we identified there's another place where the person's liberty might still be limited, but it might be a little bit more therapeutic and address mental health as well. Having someone who coordinates with the jail can be a helpful tool, and it seems like we have a little bit of that with reentry right now at DSS that could potentially be more robust. Right now, the Jail has a mental health coordinator, on behalf of the CSB, and she works in the jail and that's similar to these forensic discharge planners, they have multiple on staff. That's like something to reach for and think about in the future because it's a lot of work for Jessica. But we would envision and hope that our relationship with Jessica will develop into something like that where it's a two-way street. We're certainly pestering her and her reaching out to us if she thinks the client could use additional support that we can advocate for. I see this at Middle River, we have two mitigation specialists currently assisting with coordination. And then I had an experience when I was in Maryland and the State court in Charles County. We want to try and provide actual services and connect them to things sooner rather than later.

There was a brief discussion about whether this a case management position or reentry position. For clarification, Jessica's role is crisis and mental health coordinator. It was also stated the positions at MRRJ are funded through the Department of Behavior Health through a grant, which makes for a very different accessibility to the daily operations of who's coming and going.

No immediate action is required.

Potential for a follow-up meeting to assess feasibility, funding, and scope for a forensic discharge planning role at RHRJ.

IV. Public Comment

4:30 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned

Community Criminal Justice Board Meeting Handout

RHRJ / MRRJ Numbers: July 1, 2025

RHRJ:

Total Population = 309 (Bond eligible = 20)

Males 266

Females 43

White 220 (72%)

Black 57 (18%)

Hispanic 32 (10%)

Additional RHRJ Numbers:

Federal Inmates 2

Sentenced Inmates 56

↳ (*W/Probation Violations 31)

Pretrial/Charges Pending 144

Probation Violations 107

Possession of Marijuana 0

Pretrial/Charges Pending:

Misdemeanor 24

Felony 227

Sentenced:

Misdemeanor 10

Felony 46



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.

Our Jail Services Clinician, Jessica Rodriguez Lopez has been meeting with inmates since March 2025. During the time of April 1, 2025 through June 26, 2025 our clinician has provided 272 contacts to 136 individuals; of the 136 individuals, 39 were female and 97 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	74%
Release Planning	1%
Safety/Crisis	14%
Screening for Psychiatric Services	11%

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 31% 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	12%
Adjustment Disorder	37%
Drug / Alcohol Abuse	13%
Thought Disorder	18%
Bipolar	6%
Anxiety	14%

related concern identified this quarter was adjustment related with 37% of the contacts. Second primary behavioral health concern identified this quarter was thought disorder related concerns representing 18% of total contacts.

The Jail Services Clinician has resume the psychoeducational groups with the first groups starting during the month of June. She was able to meet twice with the group with 8 participants in the first group and 7 in the second group.



HRCSB's Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner continues to provide psychiatric evaluations and medication management services for up to 5 hours a week. During the following timeframe April 1, 2025 through June 26, 2025, 100 medication related services were provided to 68 individuals. Of the 100 services provided, 24 were initial psychiatric evaluations and 76 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
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District 39*

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HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA 22801
PHONE (540) 214-3100
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July 9, 2025

Total Number of Cases: 1571 (310 Page) (1,261 Rockingham/Harrisonburg). This does not include those cases that have been placed on our lowest level of supervision (358 between Page and Rockingham/Harrisonburg and living in our communities).

Although our numbers have decreased slightly, 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 and one (1) Surveillance Officer; however, we are in the middle of the recruiting process for these positions. We continue to be a young office; however, they are continuing to grow and learn, and all current officers 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 any vacant positions but have found this to be a struggle at times.

At the present time, we have approximately 14 Presentence Reports Pending out of the Page and Rockingham Circuit Courts. We also have approximately 30 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
July 14, 2025

Staff - Director

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

Probation – some numbers have not been updated due to data issues with software upgrade with DCJS
Total number of placements as of June 30, 2025, for FY25 – 157 placements
Closed Cases FY25 – 92 successful, 57 unsuccessful Number of Offenders - 6/30/25– 193
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 – some numbers have not been updated due to data issues with software upgrade with DCJS
Total number of placements as of March 21, 2025, for FY25 – 367 placements
Total number of screenings – 1517
Closed Cases – 158 successful, 48 unsuccessful Number of Defendants 6/30/25 - 323
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 June 30, 2025
GPS – 14 participants, TAD/Sober Link – 8 participants

Day Reporting/Residential Program – Total Participants as of June 30, 2025 – 3

Rockingham-Harrisonburg Adult Drug Court Participants as June 30, 2025 - 45

Rockingham-Harrisonburg CRT Mobile Crisis Team FY25 as of June 30, 2025, there have been 417 new consumer contacts in our community.

Work Program – Litter Control Program

As of June 30, 2025, for FY25, a total of 1235 bags of trash collected. 33 East, Mt. Crawford, Pleasant Valley, 340, 280, Landfill.

Crisis Intervention Team - Next Training September 2025

Total number of trained personnel from Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office/Jail -198, Harrisonburg Police Department- 131, James Madison University Police Department – 67, Timberville Police Department - 8, Broadway Police Department - 10, Bridgewater Police Department – 16, 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 – 87, Rockingham County Fire & Rescue 3, Harrisonburg Fire Department – 12, State Probation and Parole – 18 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