

## Did You Know?

This month we are spotlighting two agencies on the go, and on the grow. Both are in cities rich with history; home to important figures in the past and present. The localities' ability to preserve their historical roots have made them the focal point of some of Hollywood's biggest movies.



Downtown Staunton, Virginia

### Blue Ridge Court Services (BRCS)

Under the direction of Dave Pastors, BRCS continues the tradition of trailblazing efforts to improve the community. Did you know?

The agency expanded its services to Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge; they experienced a 55% increase in probation

placements in 2014. BRCS Pretrial services offset the potential of 5 million dollars in jail costs in Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro, and Highlands. BRCS offers alternative sentencing such as home electronic monitoring, and has a pilot therapeutic docket for defendants with mental illness.

### City of Richmond Division of Adult Programs (DAP)

As passionate as the esteemed Patrick Henry, the City of Richmond continues to be the voice of its citizens. Under the guidance of Jennifer MacArthur, DAP is leading the EBP charge. Did you know:

DAP employs 32 people, which includes pretrial, probation, investigative, and administrative staff.

DAP has been working closely with their Commonwealth Attorney's office. As a result the Courts and Magistrates have a better understanding of the pretrial risk assessment and supervi-

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## Committee Spotlight

What does the VCCJA Public Relations committee do? The mission of the VCCJA Public Relations Committee is to provide information to the public, local stakeholders, and the legislature regarding the purpose, performance, and benefit of Pretrial Services and

Local Community Corrections, and provide a venue for VCCJA Members to stimulate engagement, receive and provide information, and share ideas.

If you would like to join the VCCJA PR committee please contact Andy Warriner at 757-926-1740 or



[awarriner@hampton.gov](mailto:awarriner@hampton.gov).

Current members are: Andy Warriner, April Higgs Sammy Bach, Anderson Dargenaba (Dee Dee), Dawn West, Barbara Hall, Erin Shmirkin, Samantha L. Honig, Sakedra Knight, Wesley Smallwood, and Tiffany Cutts.

## VCCJA Award Recipients for 2014

**M**eritorious Service Award for Local Probation - **Dan VanLeer** of Prince William County Office of Criminal Justice Services and **Elda Flores** of Henrico Community Corrections Program.

**M**eritorious Service Award for Pre-trial Services- **Chad Earhart** of Loudoun County Community Corrections and **Josh Kiser** of Southwest Virginia Community Corrections.

**O**utstanding Service Award for VCCJA Leadership- **Jodi Lefebvre Jackson** of OAR/Jefferson Area Community Corrections.

**C**ollaboration and Innovation- **VCCJA Quality Assurance Committee.**

**A**ward of Excellence- **Ken Rose**, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator, DCJS .

The following 52 VCCJA members working in Community Corrections and Pretrial Services were recognized for their years of service:

### **F**ive Years

Victoria "Tori" Avitto ,Naomi Breakstone, Troy Evans, Teresa Harden, Justin Hatcher, Gloria Hicks, Luther Hite, Samantha Honig, Caretha Jennings, Angela Leonard, Elaina Lopez, Christopher Quick ,Tynisa Richardson , Deborah Saliba, Martin Schmid, Rachel Turner, Heather Van Cuyack, Paul Warr, and Thomas Weaver.

### **T**en Years

JoAnn Carpenter, Minette Claxton, Juwander Epps-Hill, Robyn Puryear, Tomaudrie Thomas .

### **F**ifteen Years

Dawn Clift, Tracey Jordan Fotias, John Goldsmith, April Guynn, Pamela Heitchew, April Higgs, Coetta Hodge, Melody Hodgson, Debra Johnson, James Joyce, David Lundy, Stephanie McCormick, Anita Mitchell, Megan Roane, Darin Russell, Carrie Siegfried, Deborah Shiflett, Bryant Taylor, Patricia Thomas, Christy Wells.

### **T**wenty Years

Mike Deloach, Angela Hamilton, Amanda Wimberly.

### **T**wenty-five Years

Bettina Coghill, Diane Harrington, Amy Jacobson, Sharon Jones, Robin Poore.



## “In the Know” Training Events and DCJS News

**T**he Probation Advisory Committee developed a statewide mission statement for Local probation. The mission statement is “*Virginia Local Probation provides supervision as an alternative to incarceration using evidence-based practices to promote accountability and facilitate positive change in probationers to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety in our communities*”. The committee is divided into four workgroups – PTCC, Principles & Practices, Workload and Communications.

**T**he Pretrial Advisory Committee has been busy as well. Upcoming projects for this committee are Praxis implementation, and implementing performance measures. A link to the document: Measuring for Results in Pretrial Services: Performance and Outcome Measures can be found on the DCJS website. [Click here to see the document](#)

**E**vidence Based Decision Making (EBDM)

Virginia was chosen by the National

Institute of Corrections (NIC) to be one of three states for Phase V of the EBDM initiative. [Click here to learn more about EBDM](#)

**T**raining updates.

Basic Skills Classroom Part 1 will be held March 3 - 5, 2015 in Henrico, Virginia.

There will be four 2-day Case Planning

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## Did You Know? (continued)

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sion. This better understanding of pre-trial has resulted in more informed bond decisions, and an increase in pretrial placements.

DAP has multiple alternative programs, one of which is the Mental Health Alternative Sentencing Program; a diversion from incarceration. This program works in conjunction with Richmond's Mental Health Docket, which has served over 500 defendants since 2011.

At the nomination of the program manager, DAP's management team was awarded the Mayor's RISE Award on February 12, 2015. This award recognizes their extraordinary service to the agency and the citizens of the City of Richmond. Congratulations Dee Dee Anderson, Robin Autry, Diane Bowman, Juwandar Hill, and William Thompson!

Both Richmond and Staunton were selected for the Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) initiative!



Richmond Division of Adult Programs staff

## “In the Know” (continued)

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sessions offered in April 2015.

April 1 – 2 in Marion

April 14 – 15 in Culpeper

April 21 – 22 in Richmond

April 28 – 29 in Newport News

Ethics, Boundaries, and PREA: Living in a New Age of Offender Supervision. The dates are March 10, 2015 and June 10, 2015. [Click here for more info](#)

**T**wenty year anniversary of CCCA and PSA .

It's hard to believe it's been twenty years since the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act (CCCA) and Pretrial Services Act (PSA) was passed in Virginia. Since that time, many have followed the course charted by the VCCJA and its members. New members and new talent will ensure VCCJA continues to lead the way in community corrections and pretrial services for many years to come. Be sure to get involved on a VCCJA com-

mittee!

Upcoming events to celebrate 20 years of Working Smarter for Safer Communities:

The VCCJA will sponsor an association wide picnic in September 2015 to celebrate 20 years of service.

The VCCJA Annual Training Conference will return to the Renaissance Hotel, in Portsmouth, which was the site for the 10 year conference. Conference dates November 4-6, 2015. [Click here to see the hotel](#)

## “Hot Topics” - Office Security

How safe is your office? This is a question we should all be asking. Whether it's a fall, computer security breach, or an active shooter, we all need to be prepared to answer the question “what do we do if and when?”. While most of the local probation and pretrial offices across the state are set up differently, there are some common ways to ensure your office is safe. In the spirit of EBP we urge you to implement pro-

cesses which have been proven to reduce risk and vulnerability. In other words, do your homework first, make sure what you're doing is both worth the effort and the cost. The first step in office safety is assess your office. There are many risk and vulnerably assessments out there. Check with your local police department or risk management office; sometimes they will complete an assessment for you. If you don't have

the resources listed above, we have listed some on the VCCJA website that may help you. [Click here](#)

