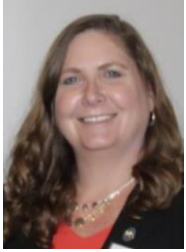


Virginia Juvenile Justice Association State Officer Election 2021

At the annual business meeting of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association, held on November 10, 2021, at the Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia, the members listed below were nominated to hold state office for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2022. In accordance with VJJA Bylaws, ballots will be distributed electronically. Please vote for one candidate per office (space is provided for write-in candidates). All ballots must be submitted on-line by midnight December 16, 2021, to be counted. Thank you for participating in the election process. Results will be certified by the Board and published for the membership.

Lewis Wright and Beth Stinnett, State Election Officers

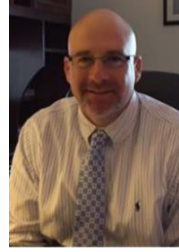
Nominations for State Officers



Candidate for President

SAMANTHA HIGGINS
VADJJ – 25th District Court Service Unit
Valley District Member

Samantha (Sam) is completing her third term as VJJA President and is seeking re-election. She served as a district officer from 1999 to 2015. In addition to her district post, Sam previously served as VJJA's Director of Membership and the VJJA Fall Institute's Conference Registrar. Sam is employed as a Probation Supervisor with the 25th District Court Service Unit, supervising staff the Lexington and Waynesboro Branch Offices. Prior to her promotion to Supervisor, Sam was a Probation/Parole and Intake Officer with the 25th District Court Service Unit. Sam was awarded VJJA's 2011 Meritorious Award in the Area of Community Service. She is a graduate of Southern Seminary Junior College, James Madison University and Radford University, earning an associate's degree in business administration, a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in criminal justice. She has been a DJJ employee for 24 years and a member of VJJA for 24 years. Sam has served VJJA in many capacities since 1999 not only supporting membership and the Institute, but has had a significant role in supporting the VJJA infrastructure. Sam values the origins of VJOA/VJJA and the significance of VJJA today. She assisted VJJA in obtaining non-profit status and is assisting in pursuing tax-exempt status for the association as well. Sam resides in Rockbridge County with her family.



Candidate for Vice President

KEVIN MEEKS
VADJJ – 23rd District Court Service Unit
Blue Ridge District Member

Kevin is completing his third term as VJJA President and is seeking re-election. Originally from Covington, Kevin has been working with "at promise" youth for over 27 years. After his active service in the United States Marine Corps, he worked for the Virginia Baptist Children's Home as a counselor in their Wilderness program, Camp On Craig. It was during this time he discovered his passion for working with youth. Kevin started his career with the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Correctional Officer at Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Center. A year later, he went to work at Discovery House, a DJJ halfway house for paroled and committed youth, as a Corrections Institution Rehabilitation Counselor. Kevin then transitioned to the 24th District Court Service Unit in Lynchburg, where he initially performed probation, parole and intake duties, but later served as a supervisor for nine years. In 2012, Kevin was named the Director of the 21st District Court Service Unit Martinsville. In September 2021, he was appointed Director of the newly consolidated 23rd CSU, serving Roanoke City, Roanoke County and the City of Salem. In addition to his membership in the VJJA, Kevin is also a member of the CSU Directors Association and the Virginia Gang Investigators Association. Kevin is an alumna of Roanoke College and currently lives in Moneta.



Candidate for Secretary

AMANDA MOSELEY SHEPPARD
Intercept Health
Blue Ridge District Member

Mandy is completing her sixth term as VJJA Secretary and is seeking re-election. Her service to VJJA also includes two years as the Blue Ridge District Secretary and eight years as the Chair of Vendor Relations. Mandy has been the Director of Residential Services at Intercept Health since December 2020 after leaving her position as an administrator at Southstone Behavioral Healthcare Center in South Boston. Her previous experience includes developing business for psychiatric residential programs, managing a boys' therapeutic group home in North Carolina, working as an outpatient mental health counselor, administering the CSA program in two counties, and acting as a juvenile probation and intake officer for the 24th CSU. Mandy serves as the private provider representative on the Amherst County CPMT. She previously served as the chair of the board of directors of Harvest Outreach Center. In 2015, the Lynchburg Area Counselor's Association named her *Community Advocate of the Year*. Mandy has lived in several east coast states and currently makes her home in Bedford County with her husband, Andy, their Brindle Boxer, Hazel, and their Pitbull, Mako. Mandy earned a bachelor's degree from Radford University and a master's degree in counseling from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina.



Candidate for Treasurer

KEVIN HELLER
VADJJ – 27th District Court Service Unit
Southwest District Member

Kevin is completing his second term as VJJA Treasurer and is seeking re-election. After graduating from Radford University in 1998 with degrees in Social Work and Psychology, Kevin began his career in the human services field as a foster care social worker with the Pulaski County Department of Social Services. After three years, he accepted the position of Director of the Office on Youth for the City of Radford. In 2003, Kevin began working as a Probation Officer in the 23-A District Court Service Unit in Roanoke. In 2005, he transferred to the 27th District Court Service Unit where he held positions as a Probation Officer and Intake Officer. Presently Kevin is a Probation Supervisor for the 27th Court Service Unit's Pulaski branch office. Throughout his tenure with the Department of Juvenile Justice, Kevin has maintained membership with the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association's Blue Ridge District Chapter. Kevin has served the association as the Southwest District Election Officer. Most recently, Kevin has served as State Treasurer. Kevin, his wife, his daughter and a chocolate lab named Hank, make their home in Pulaski.