



Virginia Juvenile Justice Association Blue Ridge District Elections 2021

Blue Ridge District Members: In accordance with the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) Bylaws, the following members have been nominated to hold office in the Blue Ridge district for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2022. Please vote for one candidate per office (space will be provided for write-in candidates). Voting will be on-line and available December 1 – December 15, 2021. Thank you for participating in the election process.

Michael Healy, Blue Ridge District 2021 Election Officer

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Candidate for Chair

RACHEL KANCHERLA
Senior Probation Officer
DJJ – 21st District Court Service Unit
Martinsville, VA

Rachel Kancherla is an active member of VJJA's Blue Ridge District Chapter, currently serving as District Secretary. Rachel was raised in Martinsville/Henry County. Post high school, she initially attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and then transferred to Radford University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2003. Rachel began her career with the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2015 and is currently a Senior Probation Officer with the 21st District Court Service Unit - Martinsville. As part of her current role, Rachel serves as a Peer Coach and Quality Assurance Coder for Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). She is also a FAPT representative. Prior to joining DJJ, Rachel had more than 10 years experience working with youth and families in her community as an 8th Grade Algebra Teacher and as a CPS Investigator. She is community minded and always looking for ways to enhance and improve the lives of youth and families that she meets. When not working, Rachel enjoys traveling and spending time with her daughters, Hailey, a senior at UVA (Go Hoos!!) and Elyssa, a freshman at William & Mary (Go Tribe!!!).



Candidate for Vice Chair

SAMANTHA ZOLA
Office Services Supervisor
DJJ – 21st District Court Service Unit
Martinsville, VA

Samantha Zola is a member of VJJA's Blue Ridge District Chapter, pursuing election as a district officer for the first time. Samantha attended Longwood University where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She initially began her career as a Deputy Clerk with Danville Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. Samantha joined the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2016 when she was hired by the 21st District Court Service Unit – Martinsville, as an Office Services Supervisor. Samantha has always enjoyed interacting with youth, whether it be at the office or on the softball field as a coach. Samantha is a volunteer for Henry County Public Schools and has also served as a literacy tutor. Outside of work, Samantha enjoys spending time with her family and friends, but most of all her children, Ethan, Kylie and Emory. She loves the outdoors and is an avid 5K runner who participates in 6-8 5Ks a year. She also teaches water aerobics and provides swimming lessons at the local YMCA. Samantha is a highly organized individual with strong interpersonal skills. She welcomes new learning opportunities that will come from assuming a leadership role with VJJA.



Candidate for Secretary

MORGAN MCCARTY
Probation Officer
DJJ – 22nd District Court Service Unit
Rocky Mount, VA

Morgan McCarty is a member of VJJA's Blue Ridge District Chapter, running for district officer for the first time. Morgan graduated from Ferrum College where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Morgan started her career working as a Program Development Coordinator with a non-profit organization through the Virginia State Police Association, YOVASO - Youth of VA Speak Out About Traffic Safety (www.yovaso.org). Following her work with YOVASO, Morgan became a Prevention Specialist with Piedmont Community Services working within Martinsville City and Franklin County. In 2014, Morgan began her employment with the Department of Juvenile Justice's 22nd District Court Service Unit, as a Probation Officer in the district's Rocky Mount office. In her role at the 22nd Court Service Unit, Morgan works with youth who are before the court for CHINS – Child in Need of Supervision, as well as providing intervention to youth on probation and parole supervision. Morgan also serves as the unit's Gang Specialist. Born and raised in Franklin County, in her free time, Morgan enjoys spending time with her husband and daughters.



Candidate for Treasurer

TINIKA WOODS
Case Manager
Piedmont Community Services
Martinsville VA

Tinika Woods was raised in Martinsville/Henry County. She initially joined the military after high school and attended community college where she graduated with an associate's degree. Tinika then is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work degree through Walden University with a graduation date of May of 2022. She is also certified as a Qualified Mental Health Professional for Children (QMHP-C). Tinika has spent the last decade working with a diverse population, comprised of individuals from marginalized and underserved communities. This has included persons with developmental disabilities, mental health disorders, and substance use disorders, as well as those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness. These experiences led to Tinika's current position as a School Based Case Manager with Piedmont Community Services, where she provides advocacy for individuals and their families. Tinika is an active member in her community, serving in her church and volunteering for a number of coalitions and organizations. Her passion is serving and advocating for the underserved. Tinika is a proud wife, mother of three children, and a fur mom of an amazing pup named Charlie.