



WCS Connection May 2018



From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

WCS and Evidence-Based Practices

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) has a very strong commitment to the use of evidence-based practices. Over the past 15 years, the emergence of evidence-based practices has changed the landscape of criminal justice and behavioral health. The rising costs associated with both of these systems, and the desire to increase the probability of achieving desired outcomes and improving public safety continues to push us in this direction.

WCS invests time and resources inculcating these practices into many of our programs. We also work with stakeholders in the criminal justice, behavioral health and other systems to improve the application and use of evidence-based practices to ensure consistency within systems and among providers. WCS established an Evidence-based Practices Committee several years ago; it meets regularly to share implementation experiences across different programs, and to keep us focused on fidelity. Our commitment stems not only from the desire to achieve the best outcomes possible, reduce recidivism and achieve other key performance measures but to also appropriately address each person's needs and challenges.

As a broad community we need to embrace the use of evidence-based practices to ensure consistency and predictability of interventions. At the same time, we must also recognize that successful outcomes of programs will also be impacted by the relationship that practitioners have with each person they serve. Moreover, when we believe our program participants have the capacity to positively impact the direction of their lives and we combine the use of evidence-based practices with an individual strengths-based approach we are making the best use of our limited resources.



Clarence Johnson



Learn about the Milwaukee County DRC

The Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center (MCDRC) is a program of WCS. The MCDRC serves as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent pretrial Deferred Prosecution Agreement and sentenced misdemeanor and felony offenders. Program participation is designed to divert individuals from jail into a community alternative while maintaining public safety and reducing detention costs. The goal of the MCDRC is to effectively supervise and treat individuals by addressing their identified criminogenic risks and needs.

The MCDRC served 247 individuals in 2017, 130 of which participated in a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with an 86% successful completion rate.

The picture at the top of the newsletter features three Milwaukee County DRC participants working together in a class of the program.

"I have had the privilege of witnessing program participants' personal growth firsthand, from the small successes to the big breakthroughs. Provided with the necessary guidance and tools, they are able to transform into a better version of themselves, more equipped for the triumphs and challenges that lie ahead."

-Katie Ryan,
MCDRC Case Manager



WCS and Express Yourself Milwaukee: A Dynamic, Colorful Partnership

WCS partners with Express Yourself Milwaukee to help the youth in our Youth Services Division learn to express themselves in healthy, positive ways using a variety of creative means, and in the process, discover inner strength and a sense of connection with others. Express Yourself art educators engage youth at WCS in music, dance, theater, and visual arts.



Most recently, these art educators worked with youth in our Project Excel program to design and paint a large mural installation that symbolizes imagination and possibility. At the unveiling of the mural in mid-April, some of the young people who worked on the project talked about the process and their pride in their individual contributions to the project. A high-resolution image of the mural will also become part of a public art installation in the Milwaukee community.



A Special Visit

Over the years WCS has been very fortunate to receive donated services from various individuals



and organizations in Southeast Wisconsin communities. Last month Dr. Brian J. Weaver, a local optometrist and mobile eye doctor, visited the WCS Community Support and Targeted Case Management Programs to provide programs participants with no cost eye exams. He accepts Medicaid as a way to pay for eye exams and a pair of eyeglasses for each individual. Dr. Weaver's first visit was a great success and he plans to return to provide more individuals an opportunity to receive

an eye exam. We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership with Dr. Weaver.



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is currently looking for mission-driven people to fill these participant-centered positions:

Jefferson County Alcohol & Drug Treatment Court Case Manager (Full Time)

The Treatment Court Case Manager provides intensive support case management, supervision, and monitoring of offenders who are participating in the Jefferson County Alcohol & Drug Treatment Court programs.

Specialized Services Administrator

This is a new position at WCS! The administrator will oversee the agency's newly created Division of Specialized Services. Programming in the division includes an evidence-based residential treatment program for adolescent males in juvenile corrections and Milwaukee County Wraparound programming.

[Visit our website to learn more!](#)

Did You Know?

WCS has been a growing and respectable non-profit agency in the Milwaukee area for 106 years.

WCS began in 1912 as The Society for the Friendless.



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Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) advocates for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.

WCS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit agency that provides services in southeastern Wisconsin.
WCS has been serving the community successfully for over 100 years.



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