



WCS Connection

April 2020

Here for Those We Serve



From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

WCS is Here for Those We Serve

WCS would like to share how we have provided not only essential services, but often times critical services that have both supported the participants we serve through this challenging period and also continued to maintain and improve community safety. WCS staff members have worked many extra hours keeping our 24/7 residential programs running smoothly, and numerous others have devised a means of working remotely to carry out all of their essential responsibilities. I'm proud of how each of them is diligently serving those in need and helping to support our community through this challenging time. Enjoy the stories below of how WCS staff has continued to work to deliver essential, critical services with sensitivity and care during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Clarence Johnson



The WCS Youth Shelter Care Program has continued to provide essential 24-hour residential services to youth in Milwaukee County, who are awaiting a disposition hearing during the COVID-19 public health crisis. This is important because the young people in the youth justice system need support and a safe place to live when they cannot be with their families. The youth in our care are resilient and continue to achieve positive outcomes in the face of adversity. They follow a structured

schedule that includes mindfulness, movement/recreation, daily jobs, academic time, creative time, fun time, and, yes, limited screen time! They have been able to continue some of the program traditions, including our monthly Culture Night—in March, they chose to study China and in April they chose Japan. The staff in this program are front-line heroes who are helping these youth to understand the world during this complicated time.

During this time, the staff of the WCS **Community Support Program (CSP) and Targeted Case Management (TCM) Program** has not missed a beat providing daily essential services to participants including assistance with housing, medication, finances, appointments and other needs. Daily contact is made via telephone and individuals are seen face-to-face in the community or at WCS, as needed, in order to maintain the level of services they each require to meet ongoing treatment needs, along with providing comfort for those that are struggling during this time. As we have all seen, isolation can be a very difficult time. When you live with a mental illness and/or a substance use disorder, it can cause negative feelings and emotions to be heightened. The efforts that we make on a daily basis have created a positive impact for those we serve and also improves wellness and public safety in our community.



The **WCS Pharmacy** has continued to provide pharmacy services to all participants that need it. The pharmacy staff is working ahead of schedule so that our CSP and TCM participants can be set up with medications for a longer period of time than usual. That is an essential factor in our case managers being able to reduce in-person contacts.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WCS **Electronic Monitoring (EM) Unit** has continued to provide essential services through GPS location monitoring, Continuous Alcohol Monitoring with House Arrest, and Remote Breath technology. This is important and was integral in the decision to release individuals from custody who could be safely monitored in the community, and prevent the spread of Coronavirus in jails and correctional institutions. EM is also used as a tool to manage the population in facilities in response to COVID-19, and reducing the population in some facilities to allow for one person per cell. Ultimately this aids the effort to keep incarcerated individuals and staff working in the facilities safely, while also maintaining community safety and stability.

At the **Bakari Center** the program has continued to provide residential care services for youth who remain in need of treatment and care as an alternative to placement at Lincoln Hills. The impact this has on our community is that youth have been able to remain in community-based treatment, have increased interactions with their families and avoid placement in the Department of Corrections where there could be an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure.



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is looking for reliable and compassionate people to fill these positions:

Program Director – Project Excel

The role of the Program Director is to provide support to youth who are enrolled in the Project Excel Education Treatment Program, Community Services & Restitution Coordination Program, their parents/caregivers, and the direct services staff. The Director is responsible for facilitating all

aspects of program management including service delivery, programming, scheduling, quality improvement, reporting, and evaluation. Also, the Director will provide leadership and support to all staff, manage personnel issues, and maintain consistent and reliable communication with the program's youth, their families, Milwaukee County DYFS, schools, and community members. A bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, education, or other human services field is required, however a master's degree is preferred. A clinical mental health license, at least three to five years of experience working with adolescents who are involved in the justice system and their families, and at least two to three years supervisory/management experience is also required.

Youth Care Worker (part and full-time) – Youth Shelter Care Program

A Youth Care Worker provides supervision of the youth placed in the Shelter Care Program. They are responsible for implementing the daily schedule of the program's activities, and providing group educational and recreational activities. They will work individually with the youth serving as a mentor and role model. A minimum of a high school or GED/HSED is required, as well as a minimum of three years of experience working with young people. This position requires weekend shift rotations.

Case Manager – Waukesha Drug Treatment Court

A Case Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the Waukesha Drug Treatment Court. They are responsible for providing routine updates and working collaboratively with the program's team which includes the Drug Treatment Court Judge, as well as a representative from the District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices. The Case Manager will coordinate treatment provider referrals and maintain relations with community resource providers. Knowledge of the Wisconsin criminal justice system including CCAP, and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, or other related field is required for this position.

Case Manager – Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Program, Waukesha

This entry-level position provides pretrial case management to repeat intoxicated driving offenders. The Case Manager monitors bail conditions of program participants who are ordered into the program by the Waukesha County Circuit Courts; this includes scheduling and weekly supervision. They also provide accurate and complete written reports to the Court about the participant, their conduct and their record of random drug testing. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, or another related field, as well as knowledge of the criminal justice system.

Case Manager – Community Support Program

A Case Manager provides ongoing assessment and treatment planning, supportive therapy, symptom management, medication monitoring, and crisis intervention to program participants with serious and persistent mental illness and co-occurring substance use. About 70% of case management is performed in the community and in the homes of participants. They will work as a member of an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team that addresses all participant needs. A bachelor's degree in a social science is required as well as good clinical skills that are related to mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

Case Worker III (Forensic Specialist) – OARS Program

This position is part of an intensive program that provides wraparound case management services to high risk/high need individuals with mental illness who are being released from the Wisconsin state prison systems. The Case Worker will coordinate, plan, and ensure follow through with community treatment for the participants in the OARS Program. They will also engage and develop a supportive

one-to-one therapeutic relationship with each participant. Applicants need to have a bachelor's degree in a related human services field as well as experience in case management and service coordination, particularly with mentally ill, substance-abusing individuals, or other special populations.

Care Coordinator - Wraparound

This position provides intensive and individualized care coordination for youth in the Wraparound Program with identified mental health and life needs. A Care Coordinator will monitor the support services provided to the program participants, as well as provide emergency services for the youth and advocate for them. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in a relevant area of education or human services and a minimum of one year of experience providing mental health services. Bilingual candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Security/Resident Monitors – Residential Reentry Centers (full-time and third shift)

Monitors are responsible for monitoring and supervising adult male and female residents in a correctional residential setting and in the community. They are accountable for the residents at all times and ensure adherence to all safety, security, and sanitation program requirements. When needed, a monitor may transfer between the two WCS residential reentry centers. Applicants must have a minimum of a high school diploma and one year of work experience in corrections or related security work.

Visit our website to learn more and find a listing of additional opportunities!



Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.

3732 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 320
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Phone: 414-290-0400
Fax: 414-271-4605
www.wiscs.org

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