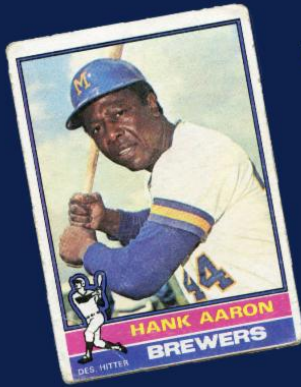




WCS Connection

January 2021



"HAMMERIN' HANK" AARON & OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

Hank Aaron Overcomes Adversity in Wisconsin

My intention for this month's newsletter was to write an article about person-centered service delivery. However, upon learning about the unexpected passing of Hammerin' Hank Aaron on January 22nd, I thought it more important to reflect upon Hank Aaron's legacy, which is so much greater than baseball.

Most Wisconsinites over the age of 25 probably have some awareness of Henry Aaron. Milwaukee icon and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, Aaron played for the Milwaukee Braves in the 1950s at a time when it was still very difficult for Black players to be accepted in baseball. Growing up in the deep south in the state of Alabama, Aaron was accustomed to intense segregation and did not enjoy the same privileges as white baseball players.

His immense talent ultimately landed him with the Milwaukee Braves in the mid-50s where he led the team to a World Series Championship in 1957. Aaron talked about this time of his life during his speech as the spring commencement speaker at Marquette University in 2012. He shared that when he played for the Braves' minor league team in Eau Claire, and the major league team in Milwaukee, he was warmly accepted. In fact, he said, "A little town called Eau Claire and the city of Milwaukee helped to shape my dreams and my life and helped to mold me into the man I am today."

The fact that Aaron gave credit to the people of Wisconsin for the positive impact on shaping his iconic life, speaks volumes. Supporting his development to grow from the adversity that he faced dealing with racism and prejudice is a positive testament to our past, and one that we should not forget. It also reminds us that our state and all its local communities have so much potential to support individuals who are dealing with adversity in their lives.

Anyone who had a chance to listen to or get to know Hank Aaron found him to be a gracious, kind, and generous person. He was a role model, humanitarian, and staunch and vocal advocate for racial and social justice. Let us all do what we can to make the legacy of the great Hank Aaron a part of our future.



Clarence Johnson



Center Implements Virtual Mediations During Pandemic to Continue Resolving Conflicts

In 2020, the Mediation and Restorative Justice Center (Center) faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic and Stay at Home Order, the Center was conducting more than 50 mediations each month and once the order was issued, operations were suspended because face-to-face mediations could not be performed. The Center's staff worked with the Courts, volunteers, and other partners to develop a highly effective remote process for operations, and within several weeks, the Center resumed operations through a virtual platform to conduct mediations. The Center spends time preparing participants for scheduled mediations, ensuring that everyone is comfortable with the process. At the present time, the Center is facilitating 40 mediations per month, which has been a significant accomplishment for everyone involved in making the virtual process work. On an annual basis, the Center facilitates between 500-600 mediations. WCS looks forward to resuming face-to-face mediations as soon as it is safe to do so. The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center has been a program of WCS since 1983 and has 16 skilled professional volunteers trained to facilitate mediations for all types of disputes including small claims, landlord/tenant, neighborhood disputes, and workplace conflict. For more information on the Center, [click here](#).



Community Building in 2021

Community Building Milwaukee (CBM) is entering 2021 with new online training opportunities for both community members and organizations. Because in-person workshops are not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, CBM has found new ways to share the benefits of Community Building with social service, criminal justice, and faith-based community programs. This includes Online Skills Trainings and Online Circles of Connection. In addition to offering the three-day Online Skills Training to interested community members, CBM is collaborating with W-2 providers by offering trainings to consumers and staff. The trainings will provide consumers with techniques and skills proven to increase employability, job retention, program retention, and social capital through enhanced communication and interpersonal skills. Staff members will learn how Community Building principles can be applied to enhance Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Informed Care, and Social-Emotional Learning and how they can reduce compassion fatigue and engage in self-care. CBM's "Online Circles of Connection" are a chance for members of our community to come together safely in a shared space for support and connection.



CBM is excited to begin its 2021 online programming in February. We invite you to attend

and experience what others have called “transformational,” “a gift,” and “different than anything I have ever experienced – in a very good way.” [Click here](#) to learn more.



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is looking for passionate and eager individuals to fill the following positions:

Care Coordinator – Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)

We are looking for a kind and compassionate team player for this full-time position. As a Care Coordinator, you will work with consumers in CCS, a psychosocial rehabilitative program, to help them understand, navigate, and progress in their recovery. Qualified candidates must have a bachelor’s degree in Social Work or a related field (master’s degree preferred). At least one year of experience working in the mental health and substance use field is preferred.

Case Manager – Targeted Case Management (TCM)

As a TCM Case Manager, your work will make a significant impact on those who are often overlooked and underserved. The position encompasses the care of people dealing with and recovering from mental illness. Under supervision, you will develop and implement treatment plans and provide the necessary follow-up, case management, and intervention. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a behavioral science (master’s degree encouraged) and the ability to work with individuals living with a mental illness.

Case Worker – Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program - Waukesha

This is an entry-level opportunity for individuals with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, Social Work, or other related fields. The position provides pretrial case management of repeat intoxicated driving offenders for the Circuit Courts of Waukesha County. Essential functions include conducting intakes, monitoring bail conditions, providing accurate and complete reports to the court, and maintaining on-going communication with treatment providers. We are looking for candidates with a knowledge of the criminal justice system, strong communication and organizational skills, and the ability to respond appropriately in crisis situations.

Forensic Specialist/Case Worker III – Opening Avenues to Re-entry Success (OARS) Program

We are hiring three to four individuals to provide ongoing assessment, release planning, service coordination, monitoring, treatment planning, and advocacy for individuals returning from incarceration to Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Jefferson, or Walworth Counties. The area of service will be determined collaboratively with the potential to complete paperwork from a home office depending on the service location. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a related human service field. Experience in case management and service coordination is desired.

Project Coordinator – Policy and Contract Compliance (Limited Term)

Did You Know?

The young men at the WCS Rashid House have been inspired by the beautiful murals created across Milwaukee during the global pandemic and movement for racial justice in 2020. They are hoping to raise funds to paint a mural inside the house to support one another through a challenging period in their lives.

To learn more about the project or donate, [click here](#).

We are seeking a highly-skilled individual to lead our preparation for three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This limited-term full-time position will provide expert-level coordination, leadership, and support for WCS' efforts and planning to prepare for the accreditation of three program areas and key administrative, planning, and compliance functions of WCS. Candidates must possess significant analytical skills; the ability to interpret and design quality improvement measures and processes, compliance and operational standards; and the ability to develop compliance processes and policies to evidence that WCS is practicing the requisite CARF standards. We are seeking individuals with strong oral and verbal communication skills, project and performance management, strategic planning, and problem-solving skills. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in Social Work, Organizational Management, Business, or any related field (master's degree is preferred) and three to five years of experience in evaluation, quality improvement, or compliance management.

Youth Advocate – Community Service & Restitution
Coordination (CSRC) Program at Project Excel

The CSRC Program at Project Excel is seeking a dedicated Youth Advocate. This full-time position assists in coordinating programming and community service opportunities and tracks activities that support enrollment, service delivery, operations, outcome data, and reporting. The individual in this position models pro-social skills and behaviors for youth while providing active supervision. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in social work, criminal justice, or social service field and be able to interact with and support the progress of youth who are involved in the justice system. At least three years of experience working with adolescents and knowledge of positive youth development concepts and stages are also required.



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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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