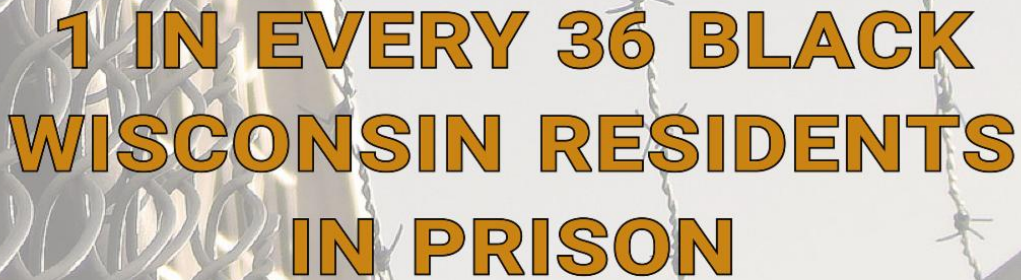




WCS Connection

October 2021

A background image for the main headline featuring a close-up, slightly out-of-focus view of a chain-link fence with strands of barbed wire running vertically across it.

1 IN EVERY 36 BLACK WISCONSIN RESIDENTS IN PRISON

From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

Wisconsin Continues to Lead the Nation in Black Imprisonment

In October of 2021, the Sentencing Project released their most recent report on state and national prison population disparities. The report, which is titled, “The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons,” details the staggering disparities that continue to exist in state prisons across the country. Particularly disturbing is the ranking that Wisconsin leads the nation in Black imprisonment rates with one in every 36 Black Wisconsinites in prison. Moreover, Wisconsin is one of seven states in the nation to maintain a Black to white disparity of larger than 9 to 1. There is so much to unpack in this report. At the national level, Black people are incarcerated at a rate of 1,240 per 100,000 while white people are incarcerated at a rate of 261 per 100,000. The report goes on to describe that American prison populations have long been found to have a racial and ethnic profile that departs significantly from the demographics of the general population. The U.S. Census Bureau data from 1870 to 1980 show that Black incarceration rates have ranged three to nine times those of whites. In Wisconsin, Blacks comprise just 6% of the state’s population, and yet they comprise 42% of the state’s prison population.

The specific drivers of racial disparities in prison systems are known to be a mix of social policies that go beyond crime policies and include those related to housing, education, employment and the like. These social and economic infrastructure factors, when combined with significant bias toward people of color in the criminal legal system, continue to result in disparities that persist from year to year and from decade to decade. Wisconsin’s recent ranking as number one for disparities of Black incarceration is a continuation of our same ranking for the past 15 years. Simply put, we have made little to no progress to improve this dire situation and, in fact, it seems to be getting worse. This disparity is not some innocuous, benign statistic. The collateral damage of incarceration is devastating for the person who is imprisoned, their children, their family, and the community. When the concentration levels of incarceration reach 1 in 36, it is a harbinger that we have a significant problem and one that is evident in many underserved and under-resourced communities of color. We need to do more. There are answers and solutions that are truly within our reach. The first step is to have agreement that this is a problem that must be fixed.

Clarence Johnson



Governor Evers Visits WCS

WCS was pleased to host Governor Tony Evers on Tuesday, October 26 when he visited the WCS Hub & Spoke Health Home program at 2610 North Avenue in Milwaukee. WCS is one of three sites chosen by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to pilot a new model to assist qualified BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members who have substance use disorders (SUDs) and at least one other health condition. The other two sites chosen are Family Health Center (FHC) of Marshfield, Inc. and the Oneida Nation Behavioral Health Center. The sites represent an urban site, a rural site, and a tribal site chosen specifically to help Wisconsin discover how this care coordination model can work in varied settings to inform a future statewide approach.

“The new benefit these sites are providing is called the Integrated Recovery Support Services benefit. It will not only support services to treat members’ substance use disorders (SUDs) but also care for the other physical and behavioral health issues that challenge their efforts in recovery. The benefit coordinates access to mental health treatment, primary care, and a range of other supports that may be needed.” ([Click Here](#) to visit the DHS website). The Integrated Recovery Support Services uses person-centered treatment planning to help members get healthy, and remain healthy. WCS is excited to partner with DHS in this new effort to explore an innovative model that will hopefully provide more effective care to individuals across the state of Wisconsin in the years to come.



Pictured above left to right: Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake, Governor Tony Evers, and Department of Safety and Professional Services Secretary Dawn B. Crim. Also accompanying the Governor, but not pictured: State Senator LaTonya Johnson, DHS Director of Opioid Initiatives Paul Krupski, and Vaughn Brandt, DHS Division of Medicaid Services.



WCS Executive Director Clarence Johnson with Governor Evers.



WCS Staff Embark on DEI Journey

After the sad, tragic and unnecessary death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, WCS, like many organizations and businesses, made a commitment that we could not return to business as usual. We knew that we had to do all that we could to effect meaningful change, and as an organization whose core values are

rooted in justice, respect and integrity, we needed to look within ourselves first.

Our first step has been to embark on an extensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) learning journey for all staff. The goal of this ongoing initiative is to make diversity, equity, and inclusion a natural way in which we operate. We support and encourage our staff to learn about DEI principles individually, and as an agency to learn and grow together. Collectively turning our words into action, we hope to understand what these principles mean and how to demonstrate them through our work and interactions with others.

Guided by consultant and author Beth Ridley, we began this past summer by engaging all WCS staff in a process of learning, reflection, and growth. This process is broken into four main themes:

- Be committed: allowing us to look inward on why DEI is individually important to us.
- Be conscious: understanding our own biases and being more self-aware.
- Be curious: Approaching life with genuine curiosity and compassion for others, replacing biases with empathy and understanding.
- Be comfortable being uncomfortable: Putting what we have learned into practice to create a "Culture of Belonging." This includes being mindful of our attitudes toward differences and commonalities, being curious by seeking a broader perspective, and fostering relationships with others across differences.

Ultimately, WCS aspires to integrate DEI principles into our organizational culture to bring out the best in us ALL as we elevate our mission to advocate for justice and community safety and provide innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.



WCS Electronic Monitoring Services

WCS is a premier authorized provider for SCRAM and provides Electronic Monitoring Services in multiple counties across Wisconsin.



SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring

Most trusted 24/7 transdermal alcohol testing system.



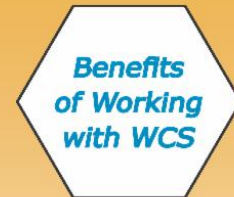
SCRAM Remote Breath

Wireless, portable device with facial recognition and GPS.



SCRAM GPS

1-piece system combining location monitoring and 2-way communication.



- Department dedicated to providing Electronic Monitoring Services
- WCS maintains unlimited inventory
- Staff and leadership expertise

For more information, contact:
Sara Carpenter at 414-290-0405

Electronic Monitoring equipment is provided by: SCRAM SYSTEMS



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS embraces a diverse and inclusive workplace culture. We are seeking interested individuals to apply for the following positions:

Care Manager - Community Support Program

We are looking for an organized, independent,

Did You Know?

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County (UWGMWC) is currently running its 2021 Campaign!

compassionate individual who has experience working with individuals who have mental health needs to take on the role as a Case Manager in the Community Support Program. The Case Manager will provide treatment planning, symptom management, medication monitoring, and crisis intervention to participants in the program who have serious and persistent mental health needs and co-occurring substance use. Qualified applicants must have a bachelor's or master's degree in a behavioral science; sensitivity toward cultural, ethnic, and disability issues; and knowledge of the DSM V and psychotropic medications and their side effects.

Youth Care Worker - Youth Shelter Care

If you are passionate about working with youth and want to serve as a mentor, then this is a position for you. The Youth Care Worker provides supervision of the individuals placed in the Youth Shelter Care Program. This includes implementing the daily schedule of activities, providing group educational activities, recreational activities, following up individually with youth, and serving as a mentor and role model for youth. Applicants need to have at least three years of experience with youth.

Youth Treatment Specialist - Bakari Youth Residential Care Center

This is an exciting opportunity to work in a therapeutic environment serving male youth, ages 13 to 17. The Specialist will embrace working with youth, teaching them life skills, and empowering them through the program. They will also provide supervision of the youth and are responsible for implementing the daily schedule of activities, which includes providing educational and recreational activities as well as educational support. Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a bachelor's degree is preferred. They must also be at least 21 years old, have a flexible schedule, and have a minimum of one year of experience serving children/youth with mental health needs.

Every year UWGMWC raises thousands of dollars to support over 100 non-profits in the area and WCS is one of those non-profits.

Please join WCS staff in donating to the United Way Community Impact Fund this year!



Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.

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Milwaukee, WI 53208

Phone: 414-290-0400

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www.wiscs.org

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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