



WCS Connection

February 2022

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

WCS Remembers Lynn Menefee with Gratitude

On February 11th, a Celebration of Life Service was held for Ms. Lynn Menefee, who passed away unexpectedly in late January 2022. At the time of her passing, Lynn was President of the WCS Board of Directors. Lynn had served on the WCS Board of Directors since 2014. None of the WCS staff or board was prepared for the sudden passing of Lynn and we are still grieving the fact that she is no longer with us. Lynn was a wonderful board member and more importantly, she was a wonderful person. Her contributions as a board member are innumerable and, in many ways, reflect the life that she lived and the people that she touched along the way. Lynn was an engaged board member, never afraid to speak her mind, and always one of the first to volunteer for an assignment or take on another project. In my position as President and CEO, I had the opportunity to work closely with Lynn during the last couple of years. Any positive impression that I had of Lynn as a board member was magnified as I worked directly with her during her time as Board President. Lynn was charming, bright, warm, engaging, a staunch advocate, generous, no-nonsense, supportive, passionate, a born leader, and always full of good ideas. One of the things that I found most amazing about Lynn is that she enjoyed working with several nonprofits in the community and never seemed to be short on time for any of them. When I or WCS needed her time or input, she was always there. Never saying no, and always asking the question, "Is there something else that I can do?"

It was abundantly clear during Lynn's Celebration of Life Service that she touched many, many lives, and had a positive impact in our community. I think that we can find solace in how she lived and how she would want others to remember her. While there will be a tremendous void for WCS far into the future, there will be an even larger void in our community because Lynn is no longer with us. I firmly believe that Lynn would want us to remember her as someone who was passionate about people and justice, and not with any prolonged sadness; appreciating her now, and far into the future, for the time we had with her and the many gifts that she left with us.

Clarence Johnson



Person-Centered Care - It's What We Do at WCS

By Ashley Beller, Hub & Spoke Certified Peer Support Specialist

Striving to provide person-centered care is what drives us at WCS. If we look at the person, instead of the person's problem, we can treat them with the dignity that they deserve. Person-centered care is having the skill to insert or imagine yourself (without personal biases) in another person's skin, to feel what it's like to be them. It is having the ability to non-judgmentally understand the meaning of being human. By doing this, you can truly value a person's unique life as an individual, not as a number on a caseload. Through this approach, we give the individuals we serve control of their own care and outcomes. Our job is to simply facilitate, listen, and support the person through the process.

What is the true definition of person-centered care? This is the question that many in the human services and medical fields have been asking over the last few years. It is a rehabilitative approach with the core principle that the individual is treated with the utmost dignity, compassion, and respect. By the time those we serve get to us they have been through a lot and are in need of hope and healing. They want genuine help, compassion, and empathetic understanding. Person-centered care works by combining the professional knowledge of the WCS staff member, medical staff, and other helping entities with the personal knowledge of the individual's own body, feelings, values, and capabilities. When we have both the professional knowledge and the personal knowledge, we are able to design a care plan that is specifically tailored to their unique needs. The plan then unfolds in a way that the person feels wholly comfortable with as things move at their pace. This drastically improves the chances for success. Practicing person-centered care can motivate us to create impactful and meaningful relationships with those we serve. That type of strong rapport is priceless to both the person served and the professional providing the service.



A Highlight in the WCS Calendar - Black History Month

One of the highlights of the WCS calendar is celebrating Black History Month, a time when America honors the accomplishments and contributions of Black Americans in the history and development of America. In 2016, the WCS Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) began hosting events at WCS to celebrate Black History Month. For the first five years, BMAC celebrated the African American culture and heritage with a Soul Food Potluck luncheon for WCS staff. WCS employees gathered together for delicious meals of fried chicken, black-eyed peas, fried catfish, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, and corn bread. In 2019, the potluck featured guest speaker Baba



Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes presented a memorable speech at the 2020 BMAC Soul Food Potluck.

Anthony Courtney, also known as Shekhem Saa Khi A Naqi, the President/Founder of For My Brothers, Inc. and the Founder of Old School We Ain't Through Yet-Black Men's Network. The 2020 Potluck was extra special as we were joined by guest presenters Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes and Wisconsin State Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde.

In 2021, keeping within CDC guidelines, BMAC offered a virtual event highlighting Hidden Figures, Black Americans who have made significant contributions to American history but are less known for their achievements. The presentation included guest appearances by Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley and local Poet Laurette Dasha Kelly via video. In 2022, back by popular demand was a new installment of Hidden Figures and a special drama presentation by WCS employee Dwayne Mack who presented a one man play about Joshua Glover, a fugitive slave from St. Louis, Missouri who sought asylum in Racine in 1852. Both were online this year but we are looking forward to once again gathering together to celebrate in person and enjoy delicious food at another Soul Food Potluck next February!

The WCS Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) was founded in 2015. The Council provides African American men employed by WCS an opportunity to convene and discuss, develop, and work on projects that strengthen and add value for themselves, their communities, and WCS at a much greater level than is currently being experienced.



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is looking for outgoing and compassionate individuals to fill the following positions:

Care Coordinator – Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)

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

Case Manager - Community Support Program

WCS is searching for an organized, independent, compassionate individual who has experience working with individuals who have mental health needs to take on the role of 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 concerns; and knowledge of DSM V and psychotropic medications and their side effects.

Facilities Laborer – Facilities Department

A Facilities Laborer is responsible for the general/grounds maintenance and repairs of the various program locations of the agency. This includes assuring that the facilities department meets all agency, contractual, and regulatory requirements; identifying

Did You Know?

The Joshua Glover Residential Reentry Center, a program operated by WCS, is named after Joshua Glover.

Glover was a runaway slave who sought asylum in Racine. The city was a way station on the route of the Underground Railroad. After working at a mill in Racine for a short time, Glover was captured and brought to Milwaukee during the mid-1800s. He was incarcerated in the courthouse located in Cathedral Square. Glover eventually escaped with the assistance of newspaper editor Sherman Booth and a riotous mob of citizens.

This case became a landmark for abolitionists and the cause of anti-slavery and states' rights. It also reflects the role Wisconsin played in this period of history.

building and/or equipment repair needs; ensuring that maintenance tasks are completed; and responding to maintenance emergencies, including after hours as needed. Applicants must have a knowledge of general painting, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and building repairs. Working conditions are both indoors and outdoors. Local travel is required.

HR Partner/HR Generalist - Human Resources (HR) Department

Are you looking for an important job that will help keep an agency growing? If so, then you'll be a great part of the WCS HR Department. We are currently hiring a small team of HR Partners/Generalists who will work in collaboration with each other while supporting and leading HR functions for their assigned WCS programs. In this position you will guide staff recruitment, onboarding, engagement, and performance initiatives. You will also have a hand in developing ongoing strategies to increase employee retention and role satisfaction. Minimal requirements include a bachelor's degree in human resources or related field, three or more years of experience as an HR professional, prior use of HRIS (like Ceridian Dayforce, Relias, Cyber Recruiter) is required, and PHR or SPHR SHRM-CP/SHRM-SCP certification and prior experience in social services recruitment is preferred.

Youth Care Worker - Youth Shelter Care

Are you passionate about working with youth and want to serve as a mentor? Then this position is for you! The Youth Care Worker provides supervision of the young people 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. Weekends are 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 110 years.

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