



Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY

WCS Connection

November & December 2022



From the desk of the Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. CEO:

A Special Open House and Dedication

In October, WCS hosted an open house for the newly remodeled first floor of our Wisconsin Avenue Campus building in Milwaukee. The intent of the extensive remodeling was to make the space warm and welcoming with a focus on trauma-informed design for people who are visiting WCS and for our staff. WCS is committed to being a trauma-informed organization recognizing that many of the people we serve, and our staff, have experienced significant trauma in their lives. The open house provided an opportunity for agency staff, WCS board of directors, community members, agency funders, and elected officials to view the space and see first-hand how it supports one of the strategic priorities of WCS. This priority is to have a welcoming environment that allows staff and the people we serve to feel comfortable, safe, and respected.

Part of the open house included a dedication of the Lynn Menefee Conference Room. The room is named in honor of Lynn Menefee, the WCS board president who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. Lynn served on the WCS board of directors for several years and was president of the board at the time of her passing. She was a devoted advocate for social justice and fiercely committed to improving the quality of life for underserved people in Milwaukee. Lynn's work and commitment to social justice went beyond her service for WCS as she served on several nonprofit boards and worked full time at Sojourner Family Peace Center prior to retiring in 2020. The Lynn Menefee Conference Room is a fitting tribute to the legacy and work of the long-time community activist and leader. Staff members, the WCS board of directors, and community members will use the space to gather and discuss how Milwaukee can be more effective in meeting the needs of the people in our community. Most importantly for many years to come, it will remind us of Lynn's valuable work and inspire others to get involved and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Clarence Johnson



MCDRC Annual Presentation and Awards

The Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center (MCDRC) held its Annual Presentation and Awards Ceremony on October 28th. This special event highlighted the services provided by the program and recognized the accomplishments of the individuals served at the MCDRC.

The in attendance included Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center Superintendent Chantell Jewel and Captain Brandon Hutchins, Wisconsin Department of Corrections Program and Policy Analyst Advanced Alciro Deacon, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Judge Carolina Stark, Judge Milton Childs, Benedict Center Executive Director Jeanne Geraci, and the Parenting Network Director of Fatherhood and Male Engagement Earnest Goggins.



Top row (left to right): WCS Vice President of Court & Community Reintegration Services Sara Carpenter; Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley; Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Carolina Stark; Benedict Center Executive Director Jeanne Geracci; Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Milton Childs; Dr. Floyd Washington; Fatherhood & Male Engagement at the Parenting Network Director Earnest Goggins

Bottom row (left to right): Milwaukee Circuit Court Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley; WCS CEO & President Clarence Johnson; Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Policy Analyst Advanced, Alciro Deacon

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley opened the event by expressing his commitment to support valued services like those offered by the MCDRC. He also provided a passionate understanding of the challenges experienced by individuals served at the MCDRC. The County Executive encouraged the individuals to get the most out of the reentry services available to them and concluded with a hopeful and inspirational message for their future.

The event also featured a speech by one of the individuals taking part in services at the MCDRC. He spoke about his experience in the program and the benefits of his participation. He encouraged his fellow participants in the program to utilize the support of the MCDRC staff.

The event also highlighted the reentry services offered at the MCDRC including supportive case management, substance use counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, anger management, employment services with a focus on job readiness, adult basic education, restorative justice programming, life skills, fatherhood groups, and on-site security.

WCS also recognized the partners who provide services and programming at the MCDRC. This includes Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), the Benedict Center, and the

Parenting Network. Individuals participate in programming for an average of three to six months, and upon discharge, they establish a discharge plan with their case manager to identify ongoing needs, establish goals, and connect them with resources beyond the MCDRC. These resources will support them as they continue their efforts to return to the community and experience success.

Finally, the event recognized the accomplishments of the individuals who take part in the program. MCDRC staff presented certificates to those who reached their goals and graduated from the program, as well as for positive behavior and attendance. The event provided a great opportunity for everyone involved with the MCDRC to support and celebrate each other.

MCDRC is funded by Milwaukee County under the oversight of the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center (CRC), previously known as the House of Correction (HOC). The MCDRC serves residents of the CRC, individuals on supervision with the Division of Community Corrections, and individuals on Deferred Prosecution Agreements with Milwaukee County Circuit Court. In 2021, the program served 180 individuals.



Milwaukee County House of Correction Superintendent Chantell Jewel



MCDRC individuals with recognition certificates



Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley and MCDRC Program Director Nathan Jussila



I Gotta Keep Thinking

For two months the youth at the Bakari Center have been working closely with Mack Productions, a local theater group that focuses on current issues affecting the community. As a result of this partnership, the youth have been able to utilize their creativity and develop a play about real life issues that impact their lives. Through his ongoing support, creativity and dedication, Dwayne Mack, the founder of Mack Productions and a Peer Specialist at WCS, has inspired the youth to make positive changes. Weeks of rehearsals and preparation culminated in the final production of *I Gotta Keep Thinking* on the evening of October 31st. The audience included families, friends, Bakari Center staff, and WCS staff, as well as the Milwaukee County Chief Deputy District Attorney and TMJ 4 News. The youth truly enjoyed being a part of this project from creation to performance. They learned that art can be transformative and that they too can make positive changes in their lives. To see the TMJ 4 News story about the event, [click here](#).



WCS 110th Anniversary Fun Facts

When the WCS Waukesha office opened in 1972, it had a staff of only two people and operated one program, a court intervention program. Today there are thirteen programs with over 26 dedicated staff members working to provide an array of court and reintegration services.

Career Opportunities at WCS

Start 2023 with a great career helping others by working at WCS.

Care Coordinator – Wraparound Program

If you are a kind and empathetic team player who wishes to help youth and young adults with identified mental health and life needs, then this is the job for you! The Care Coordinator will work with participants in the Wraparound Program to assist them through the REACH and O'Yeah programs. They will monitor the quality of services that individuals are receiving, be an advocate for them across a variety of settings and seek community resources to assist them while in the program. Qualified candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in a relevant area of education or human services, have a minimum of one year of experience providing mental health services and complete 85 hours of mandatory training on the Wraparound philosophy and policies.

Case Manager - Community Support Program

WCS is searching for an organized, independent, compassionate person 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 needs. Qualified applicants must have a bachelor's or master's degree in behavioral science; sensitivity toward cultural, ethnic, and disability concerns; and knowledge of DSM V and psychotropic medications and their side effects.

Case Manager - Jefferson County Drug & Alcohol Treatment Court

This is a unique chance to work in the agency's only program located in Jefferson County. A Case Manager in the Jefferson County Drug & Alcohol Treatment Court provides intensive support, supervision, and monitoring to individuals with third or greater OWI offenses who are participating in the program. The Case Manager will be responsible for a range of case management, from intake to discharge, providing structure, accountability, and support for the successful recovery of program participants. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, or other related field as well as knowledge of local treatment programs and community resources, and knowledge of the Circuit Court Access Program (CCAP) and jail data systems. Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor credential preferred – but a Substance Abuse Counselor or related experience is acceptable.

Did You Know?

**WE WISH
YOU A
HAPPY &
SAFE
HOLIDAY
SEASON!**



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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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