



WCS Connection

January 2019

From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

Opening of Bakari Center

The Bakari Center, program of Wisconsin Community Services, officially opened its doors for the first admission on December 27th. The Bakari Center is the first effort by the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services to establish an array of community corrections programs for youth. The Center serves adolescent males ages 13 to 17, who might otherwise be sentenced to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools, scheduled for 2021.

Part of the vision of the Center is to establish a culture for youth and their families with the expectation that they can be successful and productive. The Center utilizes an Integrated Treatment Model which is rooted in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. Much of the success of the program rests on the collaborative efforts of WCS staff, Milwaukee County staff, parents and caregivers, and, of course, the involved youth. The Milwaukee area community will also play a significant role in the success of the program as it embraces the philosophy of providing programming and services to youth involved in corrections, close to their homes. Bakari is Swahili for noble promise and hopefulness. This is something we should keep in mind when imagining the future for the young men who will be served by the Bakari Center in the months and years to come.



New Members of the WCS Board of Directors

WCS is happy to start 2019 with two new members on the agency's Board of Directors, Jacob Corr and Keith Stanley. Both men bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board through their years of work in the Milwaukee area.

Jacob, a graduate of Marquette University Law School, is currently an assistant attorney general for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Prior to that, he served as an assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County. During his time with the Milwaukee County DA's office, he worked with several Milwaukee Police districts, various City of Milwaukee departments, and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. He also served as an adjunct professor for seven years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Keith is the Executive Director of the Avenues West Association and the Near West Side Partners. He is responsible for growing the organization's capacity and online presence and manages business improvement district activities on the near west side of Milwaukee. Previously, Keith was an assistant to Milwaukee Common Council and Past President Member Willie L. Hines, Jr., and he has also worked at the West End Development Corporation as well as the Astronautics Corporation of America.



Community Building 2019

WCS Community Building Milwaukee (CBM) is happy to be in its sixth year of operation. One of the keys to this achievement is continuing to increase the number of people in the community who are aware of CBM. Through this knowledge they have the opportunity to experience Community Building by attending a three-day workshop. The workshop helps attendees become aware of the power of Community Building for their lives as well as for the lives of others. Another key success is that CBM continues to expand as more people are trained as Certified Community Building Workshop Facilitators.

With this in mind, CBM is pleased to announce three public Community Building Workshops in 2019. The dates are March 20 to 22, May 15 to 17, and September 11 to 13. Each workshop will be held at the Milwaukee Friends Meeting House located at 3224 North Gordon Place.

CBM will also be holding a five day Introduction to Community Building Facilitation Training on March 11 to 15 at Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. for people seeking to become certified facilitators of Community Building Workshops. The CBM program wouldn't be possible without funding from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

If you are interested in registering for a Community Building Workshop or learning about facilitator training, please contact Jim Bartos (jbartos@wiscs.org, 414-290-0472) or Kimberly Miller (kimiller@wiscs.org 414-290-0479).

“Now, more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: more connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another as if we were one single tribe.”
-T'Challa, Black Panther

Community Building Workshops are an experience providing a way to accept one another across all sorts of divisions (age, race, religion, culture, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.) as if we were one single tribe or community living the glory of what it means to be human.



Outpatient Plus Initiative

In 2017, there were 916 individuals in the state of Wisconsin who died from opioid overdoses, more than the number of people who were killed in car crashes. These 916 deaths represent more than four times the number of 194 opioid overdose deaths that occurred only five years earlier in 2012. The opioid crisis continues to be a significant problem in southeast Wisconsin and more needs to be done to address this issue. In addition to our Treatment Courts in Waukesha and Jefferson Counties, WCS will soon be launching an initiative that will bring new resources to combat this issue in Milwaukee County. The Outpatient Plus initiative is one of the latest efforts by the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health to respond to this crisis. The Outpatient Plus program is an innovative new approach to treatment and will add another level of care for those who need a clean and sober living environment (with clinical services) but do not require traditional residential or inpatient treatment. WCS is working closely with Milwaukee County to open this new program in the spring of 2019. Among the numerous benefits of initiating this program is that it will help Milwaukee County reduce the number of individuals who require more expensive residential treatment to address their addiction. The program will have the capacity to serve up to 18 individuals on a daily basis. Please stay tuned over the next few months for more updates on this exciting new program

Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is currently looking for mission-driven people to fill these unique positions.

Transitional Coordinator

Working under the Wraparound Practice Model of Care, the coordinator will provide intensive and individualized care coordination for youth and emerging adults. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in a relevant area of education or human services and a minimum of one year of continued experience providing mental health services.

Resident Care Worker - Third Shift

Each care worker provides direct care, nurturing, and supervision of the residents at WCS' Residential Care Center. They are responsible for implementing the daily schedule of activities, provide group educational activities, recreational activities, and serve as a mentor and role model for youth. All applicants must be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

Did You Know?

WCS is happy to announce that the agency had an 80% employee participation rate in its annual campaign for the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County!



Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.

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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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