



## WCS Connection

July 2019



*From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:*

### State Budget Provides Additional Resources for Behavioral Health Services

WCS has been providing behavioral health services in the Milwaukee area community for almost 50 years. A large part of what we do in the field of behavioral health is the provision of mental health services to individuals who are experiencing significant mental health needs or are in crisis. Many of the individuals that we serve have limited or no income, are too impaired to work, and must rely on public resources to support their wellness and recovery. Funding to provide mental health and crisis services has remained flat over the years. This means that in order to provide or continue the same level of services each year, we have to see increases in funding. The 2019-21 state budget provides some means to support and expand the level of services available to persons with mental health needs. This includes increasing noninstitutional Medicaid reimbursement rates for physicians and medical clinics that provide mental health, behavioral health and psychiatric services. The budget also increases the state investment in Medicaid Crisis Intervention Services which includes the establishment of five regional crisis stabilization facilities. While the additional resources will help, there are some who believe that more should have been done. In the future, we look forward to working with others on the effort to examine the best strategies to improve how we resource systems to continue making improvements in community-based behavioral health care. In the end, it will cost us less if we continue to improve access to crisis care and community-based mental health services than it will to provide more expensive interventions because of untreated health conditions.



*Clarence Johnson*

## YES Program Receives Grant from Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County

WCS was thrilled to be awarded a \$6,000 grant for our Youth Enhanced Support (YES) Program from the Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County! The United Way funded YES Program, which began in 2017, provides case management and mentoring to City of Waukesha students who are beginning to exhibit issues with attendance and/or behavior at school. The program provides each family with a positive support system and a connection to additional resources, including providing occasional emergency transportation to and from school, when appropriate. Currently, the YES Program partners with all three Waukesha middle schools as well as Hadfield Elementary.



The grant from the Women & Girls Fund has allowed the YES Program to provide additional group activities over the summer months so young girls can gain the confidence and skills they need to overcome the barriers that keep them from attending and succeeding in school. The structured summer group activities teach participants how to develop time management skills, utilize self-regulation techniques, maintain healthy relationships, practice mindfulness, and improve self-esteem. Thank you to the Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County for making these summer activities possible and to United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County for making this impactful programming a reality!

## Introducing New WCS Board Members

Last month WCS was pleased to welcome two new members to its board of directors, Molly Gena and Staci Young.

Molly Gena, JD, has worked as an attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin (LAW) for 12 years. Recently, she was promoted to the position of managing attorney at the Milwaukee office. As an attorney at LAW, she has spent most of her time working to eliminate legal barriers to employment for low-income individuals. In particular, she spent many years as a supervising attorney for the WCS Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability (CDLRE). In this role, she assisted hundreds of Milwaukee residents in obtaining their drivers licenses. This included appearing in municipal and circuit courts around the State of Wisconsin on behalf of program participants and working directly with individuals to help them navigate the justice system and resolve various legal and insurance-related issues. After years of working closely with Molly and witnessing her dedication to the people of our community and the mission of WCS, we are excited to welcome Molly to the WCS Board of Directors.

Staci Young, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and serves as MCW's Director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Research division. She has more than 20 years of experience in community engaged research, evaluation, and education. Her research focus areas include advocacy for vulnerable patients and populations, the organization of work among health professionals in traditional and community-based clinical settings, and the relationship between the urban environment, acute and chronic

life stressors, and health status. Dr. Young has received numerous awards including the Humanitarian Award from the Milwaukee Academy of Medicine, the Milwaukee Neighborhood Development Innovation Award, the MCW President's Diversity and Inclusion Award, and the MCW Black History Month Recognition Award. We are honored to have Dr. Young join our Board of Directors!



## **Join Us for the 5th Annual BMAC Community Resource & Job Fair**

The Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) will host their 5th annual Community Resource & Job Fair. The fair is designed to build community by providing information about and for African American men. You will find several fun and engaging features at the event including education and training opportunities, healthcare resources, parenting resources, driver's license recovery, and employment opportunities. Please join us as WCS strives to provide opportunities for African-American men 17 and older to improve their life prospects.

WCS established the Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) in 2015 to provide African American men employed by WCS an opportunity to convene on a regular basis and discuss, develop, and work on projects that strengthen and add value for themselves, their communities, and WCS.

# Community Resource & Job Fair

Wednesday, August 28 • 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Lunch at 11:30 am

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.  
3732 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee



Employment/Careers    Healthcare Resources    Driver's License Recovery  
Education & Training    Parenting Resources    Food & Entertainment

The WCS Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) Community Resource & Job Fair is designed to build community and add value by providing information about and for African-American men.

*If you are attending the event to find employment, please bring your current resume and dress for potential interviews.*

**Please join us as we strive to improve the life prospects for all African-American men 17 and older!**

For more information, please contact Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) at 414-290-0400.



BMAC is an Initiative of  
Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.



## Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is currently looking for enthusiastic and energetic people to fill these positions:

### Caseworker-Intensive Tracking – Waukesha County

This position provides intensive in-home monitoring and support for juveniles who are at risk of placement out of their homes or are returning to their homes from corrections

## Did You Know?

The WCS Behavioral Health Division served 2,763 participants in 2018, providing

or other institutional placements. The caseworker will maintain face-to-face contact with the juveniles in their homes, at school, and in the community, as well as provide support, counseling, and monitoring to assist clients with the specific areas of focus. A bachelor's degree in the human services field and knowledge of the juvenile justice system is required.

**needed mental health treatment, ongoing case management, and ancillary services to meet their mental health needs.**

#### Clinical Coordinator - Community Support Program

The clinical coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations and clinical oversight of the WCS Community Support Program. This includes delivering case management services, participating in trainings, being a leader in Evidence-Based Practices and Trauma Informed Care and providing supervision to program staff. Applicants must have a minimum of a master's degree in a behavioral science and experience in the human services field with at least nine months (1500 hours) working with adults diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness.

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



#### **Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.**

3732 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 320

Milwaukee, WI 53208

Phone: 414-290-0400

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[www.wiscs.org](http://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.



**LIVE UNITED**



Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County

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