

WCS Connection

March 2019



From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

The School Year is Coming to an End

Believe it or not we are close to winding down another school year across the state. As you are reading this newsletter there are approximately two months left in the 2018-19 school year for our elementary, middle, and high schools in Wisconsin. For high schools across the state, the year will end with over 90% of those who entered their freshman year four years ago, graduating and moving into the early stages of adulthood with hope and promise. The City of Milwaukee and specifically Milwaukee Public School is one of the few exceptions with approximately 61% of those who should be graduating actually doing so. For those who do not, their futures will unfold in a vastly different way with less hope, less promise, and significantly more likelihood to encounter problems. They are more likely to have frequent contact with the criminal justice system, experience mental health and substance use issues, and experience chronic unemployment during their prime formative adult years. For the past several years, there has been widespread discussion about a school to prison pipeline. Simply put - success, or lack thereof, greatly influences the likelihood of spending time in prison. As we march toward the end of this school year and celebrate the success of our high school seniors, let's also renew our commitment to young students and their families. Let's work to ensure that all students (and their families) in our schools will receive the wraparound and supportive services they will require for academic success and success in life across all of our Wisconsin communities.



Clarence Johnson

WCS Employee Honored with Peer Leadership Award

Earlier this month Susie Austin, WCS Peer Services Coordinator, was honored with the Excellence in Peer Leadership Award by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Waukesha. Susie is a passionate individual whose extensive training has contributed significantly to the development of the Peer Support services at WCS. She coordinates the peer support mentors for the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court Program. Not only do the program's participants benefit from her support, but she is also a tremendous resource to the mentors (who are graduates of the Drug Court Program) themselves. Susie makes herself available 24/7 to the Drug Court participants and works to ensure the mentors are practicing self-care and managing their own sobriety. Susie often works late into the evening to ensure a participant in crisis has a warm handoff to treatment.



Susie, in the center, poses with her award and Kristy Gusse, WCS Program Director of Waukesha Alcohol & Drug Treatment Courts, and Mary Wittwer, WCS Director of Waukesha & Jefferson County Court Services.

Susie works hard to create a sense of community within the Drug Court volunteer mentors group. She dedicates her own time and talents to host volunteer appreciation dinners for the mentors and organizes sober social events to help create a sense of community between the mentors and their mentees. In addition, Susie drafts a monthly newsletter sharing information as well as recent successes of the mentors, further creating a sense of connection. Susie is always accessible to the trained volunteer Drug Court mentors and is readily available for guidance and support, whether it is advice needed for their mentee or whether it is support the mentor is seeking for themselves. Participants know that Susie is genuine in her concern and they feel comfortable reaching out to her. Susie is a valued part of the Drug Court team. Congratulations Susie!



Here's to Seven Years of Changed Lives

The Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court (DTC), a program of WCS, was established in 2012 and is celebrating its seven year anniversary! The mission of the DTC is to advance public safety, reduce crime, reduce costs to our community, and improve individual and community health by providing intensive, integrated, evidence-based court supervision, and comprehensive treatment services for drug dependent offenders.

Since the program's inception, the program has served 272 participants, with 130 of those participants successfully graduating from the program. The program is currently serving 54 participants. The Waukesha County DTC offers its participants the opportunity to break the cycle of addiction as well as to improve their chance of a sober, crime free, and healthy life. Through the program, participants are able to contribute to a safe community while under strict judicial and community supervision.

In 2017, the amount of deaths from Opioid overdose exceeded car crash deaths in Wisconsin. This is the first time in history. The Waukesha County DTC continues to provide opportunities and hope to those struggling to overcome their addiction.





WCS Featured at Family Affairs Expo

WCS was one of several community-based organizations and institutions invited to the V100.7 Family Affairs Expo on Saturday, March 16 at the State Fair Park grounds. The event was designed to provide resource information to adults and families in the greater Milwaukee area. With over 900 individuals in attendance, this proved to be a wonderful opportunity to share information about the many programs and services offered by WCS and increase the awareness and impact of the agency. This was also an excellent opportunity to

make event attendees aware of the job and career opportunities available with WCS. Kudos to V100.7 for sponsoring the event to positively impact our community.



Save the Date!

On the Road Again

Thursday, May 30th • 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Saz's State House Restaurant
5539 W. State Street, Milwaukee

A new and unique event aiming to bring awareness of the Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability (CDLRE).

\$42 per ticket
includes 1 drink ticket

The CDLRE is a program of
Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.



Creating opportunities
to overcome adversity



Career Opportunities at WCS

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

Care Coordinator

A Care Coordinator will work in the Comprehensive Community Services program, a psychosocial rehabilitative program, at WCS and help program participants understand, navigate, and progress their recovery in the program. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree (a master's degree is preferred) in social work or a related field and have one year of experience working in the mental health and substance use field.

Did You Know?

In 1972 WCS opened the agency's Waukesha office with a staff of two and a court intervention program.

Intake Coordinator

This position is for the Community Based Mental Health programs at WCS. The Coordinator conducts program intake interviews, completes intake paperwork, and potentially has a small caseload. All applicants must possess a master's degree in a behavioral science with documented 1500 hours of experience working with people with serious and persistent mental illness.

Clinical Coordinator

This Clinical Coordinator position is for the WCS Comprehensive Community Services program, a psychosocial rehabilitative program. The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations and clinical oversight of the CCS program and staff. Minimum qualifications for the position include a master's degree in a behavioral science or related field and a LPC or LCSW.

[Visit our website to learn more and find a listing of additional opportunities!](#)



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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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