



## WCS Connection

May 2020



*From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:*

### Changing of the Guard

With the challenging conditions our society is currently in, the WCS Board of Directors held its bimonthly and annual meeting virtually on May 21. At this meeting, the members elected Lynn Menefee to serve as the WCS Board President for the next two years. Lynn has been a passionate and involved board member for the last six years. Before she retired about a year ago, Lynn held several significant leadership positions at Sojourner Family Peace Center, including Associate Director of Hotline Services and Supervisor of the Beyond Abuse program. For many years, Lynn also served as an adjunct instructor at Concordia University where she taught courses in criminal justice liability to adult learners. She holds degrees in social work and law and is a self-described personable and compassionate professional. Lynn understands the critical work of WCS, and in many ways her career and work are an embodiment of the mission of our agency. I know that Lynn will do an outstanding job in her new leadership role.

The outgoing president, James Gramling, completed his a two-year term as president. Thankfully, Jim will continue to serve on the WCS board for another three years. Jim did a phenomenal job as board president. Most of us know Jim as a retired Milwaukee Municipal Court judge and an ardent advocate for social justice. Jim has served and continues to serve on numerous boards, and has amazing energy and intellect as he tackles some of the most vexing issues of our time. We truly appreciate and are grateful for the time that Judge Jim Gramling served as WCS board president and warmly welcome Ms. Lynn Menefee to her new leadership role!



*Clarence Johnson*

## Two WCS Legends Retire After A Combined 72 Years of Service!

May 2020 marks the retirement of two WCS legends! Together they have given more than 72 years of service to thousands of individuals experiencing mental health needs and those reentering the community after a period of incarceration with barriers to employment in the Milwaukee community. Colleen Dublinski is set to retire after 42 years of service at WCS and Ed Kidd is retiring after 30 years. Both have had a major impact during their time with the agency.

Colleen is the Senior Program Director of WCS Community-Based Mental Health Programs (formerly known as the WCS Outpatient Mental Health Clinic) and has been with WCS since 1978. Initially she worked for WCS at the Milwaukee County House of Correction, and in 1983 moved over to “The Clinic” the shortened name for what is now known as WCS Community Based Mental Health Programs. She was at WCS for the start of the agency’s Targeted Case Management Program and also was a key part of WCS starting the Community Support Program. Not only at WCS, but also in the community, Colleen has been the face of these programs since their inception. She is always positive in her outlook, person-centered in her approach, and goes above and beyond without question. As the picture above attests, Colleen made every day fun!



Colleen Dublinski



WCS Stigma Stompers at the 2017 NAMI Walk



Ed Kidd with a program participant

For the past 15 years Colleen has gathered WCS participants, employees and their families to create the huge Stigma Stompers group that participates in the annual NAMI fundraising walk.

“It is very difficult to put into words what Colleen has meant to Wisconsin Community Services during the past 42 years. Her indomitable spirit, expansive knowledge of the mental health systems in Milwaukee County, and her caring, compassion and dedication cannot be replaced by one person. Colleen is an icon and her legacy will live for many years to come. We are all wishing her the best in the next phase of her life journey.” Clarence Johnson, WCS Executive Director.

Ed began his career at WCS in 1990 as a security technician for the WCS Adult Residential Reentry Programs. Ed later moved into the WCS Employment and Training Services program area where he provided assistance to participants in their pursuit of employment and career opportunities. Ed’s impact as a WCS employee is extensive; he inspires both the participants and his WCS colleagues who have witnessed his tireless patience, encouraging kindness, true professionalism, and dependability. Ed has been a significant part of the WCS Black Male Advisory Council providing valuable wisdom and guidance to both participants and staff.

“Ed has spent the better part of his adult career working for WCS. His lifetime contributions to WCS are enormous and have left an indelible and positive impression on staff and those we serve during the last several years. We owe him a debt that is not easily paid and wish him the very best as he moves into a well-deserved retirement,” Clarence

We are truly grateful to both for the legacies they leave.



## WCS Programming & COVID-19

WCS programs are still hard at work providing essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Joshua Glover Residential Reentry Center has continued to provide essential services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Joshua Glover has made changes in programming to meet our resident's needs all while maintaining a safe, stable environment. Currently, all residents are receiving individual and group counseling virtually. This will allow participants to complete all therapeutic hours required to successfully discharge from the program.

The Parsons House Residential Reentry Center has slightly modified its service delivery system to better serve all residents. Subsistence payments required of in-house residents have been waived due to many residents experiencing employment layoffs. The program has made continuous efforts to place residents who were able to maintain their employment on home confinement status.

Staff for both youth and adult employment programs (Community Improvement and Job Training, and Employment and Training Center) have been working remotely to conduct intakes using documents that are electronic fillable forms. Job announcements are e-mailed to all participants and community partners and work is conducted one-on-one via phone or other video conference platforms to coach participants on how to conduct phone and video interviews.



## Mental Health Services & WCS

The month of May has been recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month since 1949. It is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental health needs and to help reduce the stigma many people experience. To help people living with these challenges, WCS began offering behavioral health services in 1976. The

WCS Behavioral Health Services Division supports individuals in need of treatment and services due to their mental health needs, substance use, or a combination of both. Many other underlying life struggles are also present including housing, employment, medication management, socialization, financial services, and more. Over the years, WCS has had numerous behavioral health programs, helping thousands of people. Currently the Division has nine programs, each one providing vital support to its participants: Access Point, Recovery Support Coordination (RSC), Community Support Program (CSP), Conditional Release Program, Court Liaison Services, Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS), Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRP), Prisoner Reintegration Program (PRP), and Targeted Case Management (TCM). *The photos pictured in this story and at*



## Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is searching for competent, committed individuals to fill these positions:

### Youth Care Coordinator – Education Treatment Program (Project Excel)

This position works with youth in the Education Treatment Program to address their needs at home, in school, and in the community. Besides assisting the youth, a Coordinator will work with the youth's family, the Milwaukee County Division of Youth and Family Services, schools, and other service providers. They will serve as a role model with a positive attitude and provide affirming feedback and encouraging reinforcement to the program's youth. Applicants must have previous experience working with youth who are in recovery and/or involved in the justice system. At least two years of case management experience is required.

### Resident Care Worker – Residential Treatment Center (Bakari Center)

This position provides supervision of the youth placed in the residential program and is responsible for implementing the daily schedule of program activities. The worker will provide the needed services to reflect the objectives of the program's treatment model and include significant attention to program participant engagement, positive reinforcement, and use of evidence-based best practices for high-risk, vulnerable youth. Applicants must be at least 20 years old, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and must meet one of three needed qualifications (please see the job posting online to learn more).

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

## Did You Know?

The WCS Behavioral Health Services Division serves approximately 2,500 individuals throughout the year.



**Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.**  
3732 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 320  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
Phone: 414-290-0400  
Fax: 414-271-4605  
[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.

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