



WCS Connection

September 2019



From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

Celebrating National Recovery Month

For the past 30 years, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has designated September as National Recovery month. The purpose for doing so is to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders and also to provide a time to celebrate with those who are in recovery. The month is also used to ramp up efforts to educate all Americans about the importance of treatment for behavioral health needs. Managing treatment and recovery for behavioral health needs is more critical now than ever. We know that behavioral health is just as important as physical health and is essential to one's overall well-being. Seeking to find ways to prevent behavioral health problems should always be a priority, nonetheless we know that treatment is very effective and that people can and do recover. And, in fact, many individuals go on to lead very positive and meaningful lives. We need to view behavioral health needs and disorders in the same way that we see physical illnesses, and make access to treatment, recovery and support services available to those in need. I invite you to join WCS in our efforts to make awareness around recovery from mental health and substance use disorders a year-round endeavor, and to not just relegate it to one month out of the year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clarence Johnson'.



Community Resource & Job Fair

On August 28th, the WCS Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) in conjunction with the WCS Employment and Training program was held the 5th Annual BMAC Community Resource and Job Fair. The event was attended by 154 individuals and featured 20 community vendors, 21 employers, and a complimentary lunch provided by the Milwaukee Center for Independence. The event made resources and job information available to men, especially African American men, in the Milwaukee community. The WCS BMAC helps in the efforts and desire of African American men to improve their life prospects, take care of their families, and become more involved with their communities. The Community Resource and Job Fair is one of the ways that the Council helps to build a stronger community.



News from Unlimited Potential

The Unlimited Potential (UP) Outpatient Clinic has been operated by WCS since 1975. This clinic serves individuals with substance use or mental health needs and in some cases, both. UP provides excellent services as demonstrated by the results of a recent survey. Unlimited Potential conducted a Substance Abuse Certification Survey as part of its annual reporting. WCS is pleased to share that 81% of the individuals surveyed reported their substance abuse issues as being much improved. Given the fact that improvement and recovery from substance use is often very difficult to achieve, an 81% rating of much improved is remarkable. Moreover, when you compare that with other challenges that many of the individuals served by UP are also facing such as involvement with the justice system, unemployment, domestic violence, issues with housing, and other challenges it is even more notable. The services provided by UP are vital and are positively impacting the recovery efforts of numerous individuals in our community.



Share Your Heart!

Heart of Canal Street is Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's signature community program that raises funds for children's charities – and the **Youth Services Programs of WCS** are in the running to be a beneficiary.

Heart of Canal Street has raised more than \$19 million for hundreds of area children's charities since 1994. The program honors the Potawatomi tradition of nurturing younger generations so they grow to lead healthy, productive lives.



Half of each \$3 or \$7 *Canal Street* Bingo game purchased goes to the *Heart of Canal Street* fund, which totaled more than \$1.1 million last year! Share your *heart* by playing the *Canal Street* Bingo game now through December 12. Visit paysbig.com/heart to learn more.



Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is looking for hard-working, caring people to fill these position:

Community Services Options Coordinator – Waukesha Adult & Juvenile Services

The coordinator processes all new court-ordered community service referrals. In this position the individual will work with adult offenders, community service sites, Waukesha Huber facility staff, court personnel, attorneys, Wisconsin Probation & Parole, and Waukesha County officials. Travel within Waukesha County is required in this job. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in the human services field and knowledge of and/or experience in the adult criminal justice system.

Case Worker/Forensic Specialist – OARS Program

The case worker will be part of an intensive program providing wraparound case management services to high risk/high need individuals with mental illness who are released from the Wisconsin state prison system. This position will serve participants in the Milwaukee and Waukesha area. A bachelor's degree in a related human service field is required as well as experience in case management and service coordination, particularly with mentally ill, substance use disorders, or other special populations.

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

Did You Know?

WCS champions the use of Mindfulness, an important moment-to-moment awareness practice. The agency integrates it into both programming for participants and staff activities.



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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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