



History of Providing Services in Westchester County

1943 - 1944

- WJCS founded by a small group of Westchester residents who recognized a growing need for family services, particularly for Jewish families who were moving from New York to the County. Chartered by New York State.
- Served 112 families from our Main Street office in White Plains.

1950 - 1958

- Opened Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle offices and all three offices became licensed by the NY State Office of Mental Health as Family Mental Health Clinics.

1963 - 1967

- C.K. Whitehill Counseling Service founded.
- Northeast Yonkers Office licensed as a Family Mental Health Clinic.
- TARGET, a remedial education program for children that later grew into the Learning Center, serving adults and children with learning deficits, launched.
- Central Yonkers Office licensed as a Family Mental Health Clinic.

1972 - 1979

- Mother-Child Home Program, a pre-school early intervention program, established.
- Yorktown Office licensed as a Family Mental Health Clinic.
- Apartments for the Frail Elderly established in White Plains.
- Panel Homemaker Service certified as a Licensed Home Care Agency
- Rye House, first group home for the developmentally disabled, opened.

1981-1989

- Palmer, Harrison, Bryant. and Bon Air Houses opened as group homes.
- First WJCS satellite opened in Bedford Hills.
- Victims of Incest Program (renamed Treatment Center for Trauma & Abuse).
- WJCS HQ and White Plains Family Mental Health Clinic moved to Hartsdale.
- Mamaroneck Office, a satellite of New Rochelle Clinic, opened.
- Westchester Self-Help Clearinghouse became an affiliate of WJCS.
- WJCS accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.
- Camp Rainbow affiliated with WJCS.

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- Renee Pollack Home Care and Geriatric Center opened in White Plains.
- Panel Homemaker Service, Inc. changed to Home Health Services, Inc.
- Satellite of Hartsdale Family Mental Health Clinic opened in Elmsford to provide mental health counseling for people with HIV/AIDS and their families.
- Certified Home Health Agency licensed in White Plains.
- Geriatric Continuing Day Treatment Programs in New Rochelle and White Plains acquired from Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center.

1990 - 1999

- Two Supportive Living Apartments for developmentally disabled people opened in Mount Vernon.
- Youth Counseling League merged w/WJCS - Youth Consultation League (YCL).
- WJCS Claudet Way, Beach House, and Cannon Lane group homes.
- YCL's Ossining and Peekskill sites became NYSOMH licensed satellite clinics.
- A Different Start joins the WJCS family.
- CCAAAMHP (Comprehensive Child & Adult Ambulatory Mental Health Program) established in collaboration with Center for Preventive Psychiatry (forerunner to Family Matters).
- Social Club opened in Mohegan Lake.
- Center Lane became County's first community center for gay and lesbian teenagers.
- Linkages – Juvenile Justice Program began at the New Rochelle Court House.
- Partner Intervention Program – Initiated Domestic Violence Program.
- KICS, a school-based initiative, at Yonkers' Martin Luther King School.
- WJCS created the Women's Center.
- WJCS' Behavioral Health Services were trademarked as WESTCARE.
- Established Families First as collaborative community-based project between Family Matters (formerly CCAAAMHP), Project Intercept and the Center for Preventive Psychiatry.
- Opened second Social Club within the Mohegan Park Home.
- Westchester Seniors Housing incorporated.
- Established first apartments for adults with traumatic brain injury.
- Home Health Services accredited by JCAHO.
- Broadened after-school services in Yonkers in collaboration with The After-School Corporation.

2000-2009

- Opened Gramatan Avenue and Clairmont House/Mt. Vernon, Valdale/Yonkers, Maple House/Harrison, Hudson Terrace, Chai House for women community residences; a supportive apartment on Barker Avenue in White Plains; received approvals for three additional supportive apartments.
- Family Center in Yonkers began day care services and parent support activities.

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- Center for Women's Issues replaced Women's Center.
- Established office within the Northern Westchester Alliance UJA-Federation site in Mt. Kisco.
- Expanded anti-violence and sexual abuse services and established the Treatment Center for Trauma and Abuse to coordinate all programs related to violence and abuse.
- Established of the End-of-Life Care and Bereavement Center.
- Began the WJCS Jewish Spiritual Healing Center and Jewish Healing and Hospice Partnership.
- Provided extensive community programming in the aftermath of September 11th tragedies.
- Opened new clinic site in Peekskill, and expanded the Center for Trauma and Abuse into the community and implemented school initiatives.
- The Learning Center renamed the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Learning Center.
- Launched Undoing Racism Alliance dedicated to eliminating societal racism by presenting speakers and educating on issues relating to racial injustice.
- Pathways to Care, a comprehensive program for people coping with advanced illness and bereavement, became the Westchester regional center of the UJA-Federation.
- The Peekskill Family Mental Health Clinic expanded and moved, incorporating services previously provided by Catholic Charities.
- A changed environment for senior adults prompted the closing of the Enriched Housing Apartments for the Frail. Elderly and residents were successfully relocated.
- Senior Services in Mt. Vernon at Sinai Free Synagogue began programming for older adults previously served by the Rose YM-YWHA.
- Launched: Milestones Early Intervention Program in New Rochelle & Pleasantville JCC; Early Childhood Matters and Child Care Home Programs; Early Step Forward-Building Better Beginnings.
- Margaret's Place safe rooms were situated in four schools in partnership with The Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation.
- The Autism Family Support Center, funded by UJA-Federation of NY, began providing resources and services for families with children on the autism spectrum.
- Began implementation of Child & Family Clinic Plus to provide emotional health screenings and services for children entering public schools.
- Incorporated Hardy Girls/Healthy Women curricula in 10 WJCS programs.
- POINT (Pursuing Our Independence Together) was established to provide a supportive community for adults with special needs, enabling its members to live, work, and socialize independently.
- Established Juvenile Fire-setting Evaluation and Treatment Program.
- Began Envision to encourage and support the academic and career goals of young women.
- Collaborated with Crossroads in Jerusalem.
- Began Family Caregiver Network providing support and referrals.
- Became partner in Gramatan Village Project.
- Discontinued services at the Yorktown Heights Mental Health Clinic.

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- Opened the Mary J. Blige Center for Women.
- Terminated the Family Center daycare program in Yonkers.
- Began Connect to Care to help Jewish community affected by economic downturn.
- Launched Guiding Parents Through Services (GPS) to link families to resources.
- Collaboration of Project Trust with White Plains Police Dept and WJCS Trauma Center.
- Began Women Helping Women, assisting women displaced by economic downturn.
- Initiated Project SEED to help synagogue nursery school educators address challenging behaviors.
- Home Health Services became a provider for the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion program.
- Closed Day Treatment Center in White Plains and the New Rochelle Clinic, expanding services in Peekskill, Yonkers, and Mt. Vernon.
- Received NYS Office of Mental Health grant to partner with community groups in coordinating emotional/developmental screenings of children in Yonkers.
- Expanded Supporting Children's Opportunities and Parents.
- Empowerment in Schools (SCOPES) in Oakside School in Peekskill.

2010-2019

- Coordinated Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) Incorporated.
- CBHS Became Partner in New York Integrated Network (NYIN).
- The Academic and Career Support (ACS) program launched at the Mary J. Blige Center for Women in Yonkers.
- The Taft Community Room in White Plains opened as a community space for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. (It later expanded to include a vocational center, social, recreational and educational activities.)
- WJCS closed its Achieving Milestones program after seven years of providing effective, comprehensive, early intervention services to the Westchester community.
- The Off the Street after-school program at Hamilton Elementary School expanded to five days a week to double the number of children served to 125.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid launched in collaboration with Westchester's Department of Community Mental Health to equip adults to support youth who may be experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis.
- The Wiener Academy for Young Women at the Mary J. Blige Center for Women was created to provide girls in Yonkers, grades 4 to 8, with after school and summer experiences designed to build character, enhance social development, and promote health and wellness.
- WJCS implemented an intensive training program for all program staff to become trauma-informed in recognition of the pervasiveness of trauma.
- WJCS established an alliance with Greyston Bakery to provide care management services to their employees.

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- The Treatment Center for Trauma and Abuse was renamed the Trager Lemp Center for Treating Trauma & Promoting Resilience.
- To address the serious opioid epidemic, WJCS acquired a clinic license to treat substance abuse to individuals also struggling with a mental illness.
- WJCS launched its first one-week Center Lane Pride Camp.
- Launched Westchester's first NNORC (Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) in Yonkers to help seniors age safely in place.
- Provided trauma trainings to first responders to help them handle the stressful circumstances of their jobs.
- Began screening all mental health clients for substance use to improve treatment outcomes for those with co-occurring disorders.

2020-present

- In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, pivoted to providing behavioral health services via telehealth video chat and phone sessions.
- Direct Support Staff provided 24/7 care to 90+ WJCS group home residents whose day programs were canceled and whose families couldn't visit due to social distancing prohibitions during the pandemic.
- WJCS announces partnership with the YWCA Center for Racial Equity to ensure a diverse and inclusive agency culture.
- Introduced numerous programs in response to critical needs due to the Covid pandemic, including the College Wellness Initiative, the Digital Equity Project, and the Covid Relief Hub, in partnership with UJA Federation of NY.
- Provided bereavement training for social workers across WJCS because of the many clients who lost loved ones in the pandemic.
- Conducted vaccination clinics to ensure that WJCS staff, who are essential workers, could get vaccinated.
- Provided transportation so that many of our Holocaust Survivor clients were able to be vaccinated.
- Mt. Vernon and Peekskill Family Mental Health Clinics were awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Grant and launched an array of "wraparound" services, including peer support, care management, and employment assistance.
- Treatment for co-occurring disorders expanded with the introduction of Encompass, an evidence-based treatment for individuals with mental health and substance use problems, and CRAFT, a treatment for the significant others of substance-involved individuals.
- Teen Mental Health First Aid was introduced to train high school students in grades 10-12 to recognize depression, substance abuse, and other common mental health problems in themselves and their peers and provides knowledge about how to access appropriate care.
- WJCS School-based Clinics expanded services to all three Elmsford Schools Public Schools.

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- WJCS established a mobile crisis response team in collaboration with the Peekskill Police Department and Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health.
- WJCS Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) in Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, and Peekskill offered mental health clients "wraparound" services, including connection to housing, legal, and other community resources, advocacy assistance, and hands-on help during at-home visits.
- All individuals treated for mental health conditions at WJCS clinics were encouraged to meet with one of our Licensed Practical Nurses for Health Monitoring Visits to screen for medical problems and ensure medication safety and compliance.
- WJCS opened a Parent Child Center in Tarrytown and launched a ParentChild+ program in Yonkers.
- The Crime Victim Advocacy and Support Services Program (CVASSP) was launched to provide comprehensive services to all victims of crimes.

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history of doing good
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