

WELS World Missions Care and Support Services

Services offered to WELS world missionaries
and their families by Wisconsin Lutheran
Child & Family Service, Inc.



Wisconsin Lutheran
Child & Family Service



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Child & Family Service**

Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc., is grateful for the opportunity to assist WELS missionaries and their families as they work to declare God's praises throughout the world.

This short booklet is a reference to the services that are available to missionaries and their families. If you have any questions about the information presented, please contact Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc., at 1-888-685-9522.



Pre-Placement Assessments



Purpose

The WELS Board for World Missions conducts standard Pre-Placement Assessments for all called workers holding a Call to a world mission field. This service is also available on a voluntary basis to the spouse of the called worker. The purpose is to determine psychological/personality fitness and suitability for mission work in an overseas environment.

Process

The process includes the administration of a battery of standardized assessments and an interview with the examiner. A report with recommendations is then sent to the appropriate Board for World Missions representatives. Additionally, follow-up assessments are administered every six months during the first 18 months in the field and annually thereafter.

Service Location

Christian Family Counseling,
Milwaukee office

Servicing Personnel

Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP

Furlough Consultation



Purpose

When a missionary and his family return to the U.S. for furlough, they often schedule appointments with doctors, dentists, chiropractors, etc., to assure and maintain good physical health. There may be times when it is beneficial also to schedule an appointment with a mental health therapist/psychologist to maintain balanced psychological functioning. Life situations in the mission field may create stress for the individual as well as for the marriage and family. A trained professional will be able to identify problems and suggest appropriate recommendations. Furlough Consultation would serve as a “psychological checkup” for the missionary and his family.

Process

Scheduling of appointments is done on an individual basis by calling one of the servicing personnel (see box at right) at 888-685-9522 during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST.

Service Location

Christian Family Counseling,
Milwaukee office

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW
Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP
Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP

Professional Counseling



Service Locations

Christian Family Counseling
offices in Wisconsin including:

Milwaukee
West Bend
Oak Creek
Fond du Lac
Appleton
Brookfield

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW
Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP
Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP

Referrals requiring other
specialty treatment will
be referred to other staff
members in Christian Family
Counseling.

Purpose

Therapy (professional counseling) would be recommended after a therapist/psychologist has evaluated and assessed a person and a problem has been identified. Goals for therapy would be established and agreed upon by the parties involved. The actual number of sessions needed to accomplish these goals will vary by client. Some matters are quite complex, requiring considerable time to accomplish these goals, whereas other situations take less time to resolve.

Process

Psychotherapy typically occurs in 50-minute blocks of time. The first session may last up to 1 1/2 hours for the initial assessment. Initially sessions usually occur once per week. As progress toward the goal for therapy is being made, the time between sessions is increased.

To begin the counseling process, individuals should contact Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP, at 888-685-9522 to obtain an initial screening and provide preliminary information. Upon completion of this step, the client will be referred to the appropriate clinician.

Crisis Response



Purpose

At times traumatic or critical situations may arise on mission fields that require immediate attention.

Process

Servicing personnel can be contacted directly by the individual in need or by a world missions representative. Telephonic crisis response will be provided by Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW, or Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP. They will complete an initial assessment of needs, assist to stabilize the individual, determine if appropriate referrals can be suggested, or decide if on-site response is warranted. Sheryl or Dr. Tonnacliff can be reached by calling 888-685-9522.

Service Location

Telephone

On-site

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW

Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP

Educational Services



Purpose

WLCFS will provide information and experiential learning opportunities to world missions personnel on a variety of pertinent topics. We are also able to assist the Board for World Missions with orientation and repatriation seminars.

Process

On-site educational presentations can be scheduled by contacting Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP, at 888-685-9522. On-site educational presentations are listed on the WLCFS Web site (www.wlcfs.org). Topics include:

- Conflict management,
- Team building,
- Culturally competent behavioral health care,
- Managing stress and anxiety,
- and many more.

Service Location

On-site

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW

Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP

Consultation



Purpose

Consultations are available to individuals or groups within the Board for World Missions on issues pertaining to the care or concern of missions personnel or systems that impact missions personnel.

Process

Consultation services can be initiated by contacting Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP, at 888-685-9522.

Service Location

Telephone

E-mail

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW

Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP

Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP

Re-Entry Consultation



Purpose

The purpose of the Re-Entry Consultation is to assist the returning missionary and family in the transition to their home country. Through education and evaluation, a positive re-entry experience can be facilitated.

Process

Servicing personnel from WLCFS will initiate the re-entry consultation process after being notified by the Board for World Missions personnel of a called worker's return to the United States. An invitation letter will be sent to the missionary and his family describing the service and process.

The re-entry consultation will be conducted within 30-40 days after the family's arrival in the U.S. During re-entry consultation, the following issues will be addressed:

- Discussion of reverse culture shock syndrome
- Discussion of the stages of separation, loss, and bereavement
- Explanation of how negative thinking impacts adjustment stages
- Discussion of developmental, psychological, and cultural adjustment regarding children (Third Culture Kid or TCK)
- Coping-skills training in areas such as stress management, nutrition, sleeping, materialistic overload, social cues, and technological advancement

If the consultant thinks individuals in the family need further assistance, appropriate referrals will be made. Follow-up contact with the family will be made within 3-6 months after the re-entry consultation. Please call one of the servicing personnel (see box at left) at 888-685-9522 for more information.

Service Location

Christian Family Counseling,
Milwaukee office

Servicing Personnel

Sheryl Cowling, MSW, LCSW
Brandon Hayes, Ph.D., LP
Myles Tonnacliff, Ph.D., LP

Contact Information

Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc.
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Milwaukee, WI 53223-5905

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Milwaukee, WI 53224-9539

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