**CORE Program**

***Community Option for Re – Engagement***

**Overview**

CORE Program is a court ordered, treatment-focused program for male youth aged 10-17 located within a secure facility. Youth can only be referred to the program through a court order at the recommendation of their county social worker. The maximum length of stay allowed can be up to 365 days (per Wisconsin Statue Section 938.34(3)(f)).

The CORE Program is located in La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility, in the city of La Crosse, WI. Western Regional Adolescent Services (WRAS), a department of La Crosse County Health and Human Services, operates the detention facility and CORE Program.

The CORE Program takes an individualized approach to treatment. The program Case Manager and Therapist work with placing Social Worker, family, and the youth to establish length of program, treatment targets, and reentry plan that will best meet the needs of the individual youth. Residents progress through the program is measured by their progress on the established treatment targets. Simultaneously, family and the placing Social Worker work on addressing other needs to prepare for reentry. Due to the structured and controlled environment of the CORE Program, a step-down placement between CORE and final permanency goal is recommended.

**Screening and Intake Process**

Our referral process follows three important steps, outlined below. The WRAS Treatment Team is comprised of the WRAS Case Manager, Therapist, Supervisors, and Superintendent. The WRAS Treatment Team collects information to determine if the CORE Program can meet identified treatment needs prior to making an intake decision. In some cases, a family interview may be requested as well.

The WRAS Treatment Team may request additional assessments and/or documents in order to make an intake decision. The CORE Program does not perform assessment/observation periods for referred youth. The CORE Program cannot complete psychological evaluations or medication evaluations.

1. Preliminary Screen.
	1. Phone call with WRAS Case Manager to ensure resident meets requirements for program, measured with the following tools.
		1. DRAI (Detention Risk Assessment Instrument)
		2. YASI Risk Level
		3. CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) – LON (Level of Need)
	2. Placing worker will send over requested documents and completed referral packet.
2. Interview with placing worker and WRAS Treatment Team.
3. Interview with youth and WRAS Case Manager and WRAS Therapist.

For any questions regarding the CORE Program or to make a referral, please contact:

Hannah Sultze

WRAS Case Manager

(608) 386 - 1205

hsultze@lacrossecounty.org

**CORE Program Components**

* Individual Therapy

Residents will discuss and develop strategies for making better choices and techniques that help to better deal with difficult thoughts, feelings and impulses. Discussion about different events and people in life and how those events and people have influenced decision making may occur.

* Family Therapy

A therapist will meet with the family to address family dynamics, address problem areas, identify strengths and determine ways to support a return home. Residents will be integrated into these sessions when therapeutically appropriate.

* Group

Residents are required to participate in program activities. Residents will be expected to be actively involved during discussions and to complete assignments. These groups may include:

* Substance Use Disorders (group and/or individual depending on needs)
* Dialectical Behavioral Therapy group
* Aggression Replacement Training
* Cognitive Behavioral Groups
* Skill Building

The Case Manager will meet with the residents to learn and practice skills, based on needs/strengths areas. The resident and case manager collaboratively set goals to work on skills, which may include, problem solving, communication/social skills, independent living, and goal setting.

* Educational / Activity Groups

Adolescent Workers (AW’s) and volunteers provide structured activities and groups. AWs facilitate structured on unit and in gym activities. Volunteers offer other activities such as, Bible Study and Pet Therapy.

* Youth Mentoring

CORE partners with The Good Fight, a youth serving community center here in La Crosse, to provide individual mentorship to residents in our program. Eugene visits our facility once per week. When residents earn the privilege to leave the facility, they have the option of visiting The Good Fight.

* Full Time School

Provided by the La Crosse School District. Transcripts, student schedules and Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be reviewed once a resident is enrolled. An education plan will be created by the teaching team for the resident. Credit recovery and pathways to graduation will be discussed in team meetings when creating educational plan.

* Crisis support 24/7

La Crosse County Crisis Program offers crisis intervention to de-escalate a heightened emotional situation and provide support. Crisis responders are available on call, and utilized when the WRAS Therapist is not in the office.

Clothing / Personal Items

Residents are allowed to bring: up to ten pairs of underwear and one pair of tennis shoes (can be earned to use in the gym). No other personal items will be allowed into the facility. Residents will be provided a uniform and all personals hygiene products by the facility.

Once residents have earned the privilege to leave the facility, the WRAS Case Manager and parent/guardian will arrange to bring up to three changes of clothing and one pair of shoes.

**Facility Information and Resident Care**

**Medication/Nursing**

Upon intake, an AW will complete a medical screening form that will be submitted to nursing staff. Nursing services are provided on a scheduled basis, and on-call services available 24 hours/day. Juveniles can request to see the nurse at any time. They will complete a ‘request for health care form’ and submit to the facility nurse.

If a resident requests a special diet because of medical need or allergy, the facility nurse must approve the diet before special food is ordered. If a resident has asthma and no inhaler with them OR has a cast or other injuries, they will not participate in recreation time until approved by the nurse.

Any medications the resident enters the facility with will be called-in to our provider for approval. While the resident is in CORE, medications will be filled directly by on site nursing staff. Upon discharge, all medication will be sent with the resident.

CORE collaborates with the Seal A Smile statewide program for dental services inside the facility. Seal A Smile grants local school-based oral health programs funding to provide preventative dental care. Hygienists will do an oral health check and place dental sealants that help prevent cavities. They will recommend if additional dental work is needed. If residents are in need of dental care beyond what Seal A Smile can provide, the WRAS Case Manager will work with the family to find a provider based on location and insurance.

**Visitation**

**Hours:** Daily 1:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.

* Phone Calls: Residents will be able to receive phone calls during visitation hours, and able to make phone calls during any unscheduled time.
* Booth Visits: During regular visitation hours, cannot be scheduled. We have two visitor booths for all residents, so we cannot guarantee a booth will be available immediately when you arrive.
* Contact Visits / Virtual Visits: During regular visitation hours on weekdays, but able to be scheduled outside these hours on weekends and holidays. Must be scheduled ahead of time with the WRAS Case Manager. These visits are a privilege and can be restricted based on behavior and program compliance.

Each resident will have an approved visitor list established upon entrance to the program. This will identify who is able to visit. Parents/caregivers, primary social workers, and the program case manager will make this list together. Photo ID will be required by each visitor and all visitors may be subject to a search by a metal detector. Minor siblings must be accompanied by a parent.

Loud and boisterous conduct, profanity in the visiting area, or disrespect to the facility staff will result in immediate termination of the visit and may result in future restrictions of visiting privileges.

Any visitor who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will not be allowed to visit.

Cell phones and cameras are prohibited. Food, drink, and other miscellaneous items are prohibited. Visitor’s personal property will be locked in a locker outside of the visiting room.

Placing Social Workers are expected to visit per Youth Justice Standards, per the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – Division of Safety and Permanency. Family is expected to visit regularly, frequency of which is dependent on their transportation and distance from facility. The placing county is expected to assist with transportation for these visits.

Residents will work towards earning time out of the facility, and progressively earn more time out leading to home visits. First, residents will engage in community service work with a CORE staff. Then, residents will be allowed to go out with CORE staff, family, and placing social worker within the La Crosse community. Finally, residents will be allowed home visits. Frequency, duration, and time of visits will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Facility Rules and Resident Responsibilities**

1. You are required to shower every morning. Evening showers are optional.
2. You are required to clean your cell every morning. This includes folding your bedding, towel, and washcloth. You are required to assist in cleaning the other living areas of the facility.
3. You are not allowed to stay in your cell during the day other than for illness or cell confinement.
4. You will be required to attend school Monday through Friday, when school is in session, and follow teacher directions.
5. Clothing/uniform:
	1. Upon arrival you will be issued clothes which are the property of the facility and must be returned undamaged. Your clothes you arrive with will be washed and your initials placed on the inside. Clothes and personal items will be stored in a locked locker.
	2. You will be in full uniform when outside your cellblock: shoes, socks, underpants, pants, white t-shirt, and at least one blue top. Juveniles may remove their blue top for physical education or recreation time in the gym. Shower shoes may only be worn inside the cell block. Underpants should not be visible.
6. No physical contact is allowed. This includes wrestling, pushing, touching, hitting, or fighting. Causing harm or injury to yourself, other residents, or staff, as well as threatening, harassing, or intimidating anyone will not be tolerated.
7. Sexual assault, abuse, and misconduct is prohibited. Any sexual contact between residents even if consensual is against the law. No resident or staff ever has the right to ask you for a sexual favor or to have sex with you.
8. No borrowing, lending or gambling allowed. No exchanging or giving away food at mealtimes.
9. No inappropriate drawings, writings or gang signs permitted.
10. You will not talk about or participate in any organized rebellion or escape. Tampering with fire safety equipment or security devices is not allowed.
11. No swearing, insults, inappropriate comments/gestures/jokes, or encouraging other residents’ negative and/or rule violating behaviors.
12. You are to ask permission to move around the multipurpose room. Follow staff directives in other areas of the facility.
13. You are to stop at the black line in the carpet of the multipurpose room and ask permission to cross.
14. You are not allowed to go into the staff area or in another residents’ cell.
15. When a staff member enters the cellblock, you must enter your cell. Do not exit your cell until the cellblock door is shut and locked or until directed by a staff member to do so.

***Contraband***

Certain items are not allowed in the facility: cigarettes, lighters, matches, chewing tobacco, food, drugs, alcohol, eating utensils, letters to or from other residents in the facility, makeup, hair dryers, curling irons, hair spray, gel, jewelry, hats, bandannas, belts, and jackets. You may not have any article or instrument that could be used as a weapon or tool for escape. Any item not presented during the intake is considered contraband and may be confiscated.

You are allowed to have in your cell: one soft covered book, one soft covered bible, rules and rights forms and legal papers. Any other property found in your cell without prior approval of the superintendent will be considered contraband.

Cells will be searched at the staff’s discretion. Any contraband will be confiscated, and appropriate action taken. A personal search may be ordered if it is suspected that contraband is being carried or concealed.

**Rights and Privileges**

1. You have the right to call your attorney and family member after the intake procedure. You are allowed unlimited calls to your attorney and social worker. You can request to call your attorney at any time during the day, if they do not answer you will leave a message. You will be allowed a 10-minute call to a family member once per day. Family members will be added to your call list by your social worker. You may make phone calls during any unscheduled time.
2. You have the right to see a minister, priest, or rabbi of your choice. If you want a visit, let staff know.
3. You will be allowed to send and receive un-inspected, sealed letters from the Court, your lawyer, facility and government officials, and the news media. All general mail will be opened by staff so that it can be inspected for contraband. All general outgoing mail will be scanned to protect the security of the facility.
4. You will be allowed unlimited visitation from your lawyer, social worker, therapist, clergy, and teachers. Family visits will not be restricted to less than 30 minutes. There is a limit of three visitors per visit, and all family members under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. You must ask permission to give anything to or take anything from visitors.
5. You have the right to medical care. If you wish to see a nurse, ask staff to fill out a healthcare request form.
6. One hour of recreation will be offered each day.

**Confidentiality**

Any information regarding a resident and their family confidential. This means that the information will not be shared with agencies other than those involved in the CORE Academy and people/agencies that we have retained releases of information for.

The exceptions include:

1. Information related to violation of facility rules, regulations, and policies that may affect the safety of participants or staff.

2. Information related to escape plans or attempts.

3. If there is reason to believe that anyone may be in danger to themselves or others, necessary steps will be taken to protect anyone involved

4. Information that is specifically ordered released by the court.

5. The youth’s progress will be shared with the courts at scheduled reviews.

6. Information related to physical or sexual abuse, or neglect, even if the abuser and/or the victim are not in the program, will be reported to social services for possible investigation and protection of anyone that may be in danger. This includes information related to sexual contact between minors who are not legally of age to give consent.

7. Information may also be shared with others with the written permission of the participant’s legal guardian.

**Grievance Procedure**

La Crosse County Juvenile Facility has a Complaint Procedure for you to follow if you do not believe you are being given adequate care or being treated fairly at the facility, or if you believe a staff member or another resident has violated your rights. You must first discuss your complaint with a staff member. If the staff member cannot help you resolve your problem, you may complete a Resident Complaint Form.

**Making a request to the Treatment Team**

All residents have the right to make a request in writing to the Treatment Team, which is comprised of WRAS Superintendent, WRAS Supervisors, WRAS Case Manager, and WRAS Therapist. These requests are processed at weekly meetings. Requests can be made for purchasing new facility items, privileges, incentives, concerns, changes, etc.

**Security / Secure Facility considerations**

The CORE Program is located within the La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility. The facility takes specific considerations to ensure safety, security, and the wellbeing of all residents and staff.

Secure Rooms: Resident rooms will include a bed, desk, sink, and toilet. There are multiple rooms in a block/pod, with a shared day room and shower.

Checks: AWs will perform ‘checks’ on residents, meaning they are making visual contact with the resident, every 5-15 minutes.

Room searches: To minimize the potential for injury and protect resident and staff safety, AWs conduct regular room searches. Any confiscated items will be recorded. If the item belongs to the resident, it will be placed in their personal belongings’ locker. If the item does not belong to the resident, was smuggled into the program, meets the definition of contraband, or violates any facility rules, it will not be returned to the resident.

Searches of person: All residents are subject to a pat down search at the time of admission, after contact visits, and when returning from any appointments or visits outside of facility. Pat down searches will be conducted only by a staff member of the same sex as the resident being searched. Pat down searches are a complete search from head to feet after removal of secondary outer clothing.

Law enforcement may be involved in incidents in the detention facility such as assault on another person or drug possession.

POSC (Principles of Subject Control) is a system of verbalization skills coupled with physical alternatives. Staff may use physical force with a resident only if force is necessary.