



## **Information for Community Agencies** **Recruitment and Referral Information**

The following document outlines the recruitment and referral process for WISH and all related services. This document is dynamic and WISH staff will try to make all reasonable accommodations. If you have any questions related to WISH or regarding the processes outlined below, please feel free to contact the Program Director (contact info listed at the end of the document).

### **What We Do**

The program **Women in Support of Health (WISH)** utilizes evidence-based practices and programs to provide services to women engaged in, or at high risk for becoming engaged in, prostitution or sex work. The WISH program is intended to facilitate access to needed health/behavioral health care that meet the unique health needs of the population of focus (POF). The Care Advocate helps the client identify personal skills, abilities, and assets and will develop a strong alliance with the participants to set realistic client driven goals. All WISH programs and services meet the participants “where they are” and offer a broad menu of services to engage individuals at varying levels of readiness. Steps are taken to divert all WISH participants away from unhealthy lifestyles while helping increase the client’s self-esteem, resources and quality of life. The WISH Team operates in Wilmington, Delaware and surrounding New Castle County.

### **Criteria for enrollment:**

The WISH target population is women aged 18 and older who have a sex work (prostitution) history or who are currently sex workers, women who may be “at risk” for prostitution, women who are at great risk for STDs and HIV/AIDS, women who are HIV positive and women who have had trauma (most appropriately, sexual) in their life time. The WISH Program defines being “at risk” for prostitution by assessment and evaluation of the participant’s current lifestyle. Recognizing that these risks are not exclusively female, WISH services are also available to transgendered individuals.

For example:

- Women who are currently or formerly engaged in sex work
  - Women who engage in high-risk sexual behavior
  - Women with a history of STIs or other related health conditions
  - Women who have experienced/are experiencing trauma
- Women who are at great risk for HIV/AIDS and/or STIs
  - Women who are sexually active or engaged in substance abuse but have not been tested for HIV/STIs in the last 12 months



- Women whose partners are sexually active but have not been tested for HIV/STIs in the last 12 months
  - Women who engage in substance abuse and/or have behavioral health challenges
  - Women whose partners engage in substance use
  - Women who have been failed by previous treatment programs
  - Women who are homeless
  - Women who are justice-involved
  - Women who are HIV positive
    - Women whose partners are HIV positive
- \*\*This list is not exhaustive, but is intended to serve as a guide for recruitment.

### **How to Refer a Client/Community Member to WISH**

#### **Methods of Enrollment:**

- **Call 302-757-6126**

Initial client interview will be scheduled with Care Advocate in person (preferred) or by phone (if necessary)
- **Use the WISH Referral Form (attached)**

Fax to BCCS: 302-504-5937 (Attn:WISH) and then email [maronson@brandywinecounseling.org](mailto:maronson@brandywinecounseling.org) to notify us that the WISH referral was faxed.
- **From street outreach/Walk-in**

General enrollment guidelines apply. However, women who want to learn more about programming or enroll in some form of service may walk in to Brandywine Counseling and Community Services or Beautiful Gate Outreach Center at any time, during their normal business hours. A Care Advocate or Outreach Worker will be contacted immediately to speak with them, and will make every effort to provide all prescribed services in a timely fashion. Additionally, the Care Advocates are on-site at Brandywine Counseling and Beautiful Gate Outreach Center regularly, to take walk-ins and ensure linkage to care. Hours for walk in services are:

  - BCCS: Mondays, 8:30am-10:30am
  - Additionally, a Community Wellness Advocate is on site at BCCS during normal business hours however, appointments during the above times are preferred.



### **Services Offered by WISH**

- Access to Outreach Workers
- Access to harm reduction supplies
- Access to Peer Support Group
- Assignment to a Care Advocate
- Access to Trauma Treatment
- Access to Self-Advocacy Training
- Access to Outreach Workers
- Access to harm reduction supplies
- Access to peer support group

*Please note that all WISH clients will be asked to participate in incentivized data collection, in accordance with our federal grant. However, participants who decline to provide data will still receive equal services.*

### **Staff Education Resources**

#### **How to Schedule a Professional WISH Presentation**

#### **WISH Film Screening**

- A documentary is available to provide an overview of the issue of prostitution and harm reduction services that are available to this population. Screenings are offered at no cost to the community.
- Contact Joanna Champney for scheduling
- Must be presented by member of WISH management (or designee)
- We are currently capable of hosting 2 film screenings per month. If the organization requesting the screening has a specific scheduling need, we will try to accommodate.
- Film screenings should be scheduled in 1-hour blocks.
  - The film is approx. 25 min. long, and we will need time before and after for introductions and Q&A.
- WISH staff have all necessary screening equipment for a small audience (40 ppl or less):
  - Laptops, projectors, DVD players, portable 5'x5' screen
  - Larger audiences will require additional conversations about equipment accommodations



### **Presentation on services/benefits for Staff**

WISH staff can host a professional overview presentation of WISH services, to include eligibility criteria and referral process. Presentations should be scheduled in 45 min. blocks, to allow time for introductions and Q&A. WISH staff are available (as their schedules allow) to present throughout New Castle County. Presentations outside this geographic area will be considered on an individual basis. WISH staff will also consider virtual presentation (via Skype, FaceTime, teleconference, etc). Literature will be made available.

- Contact Program Manager for scheduling
- Presented by member of WISH management (or designee) or Care Advocate (CA)
  - Program Manager will contact WISH management to check availability
  - Program Manager will contact Beautiful Gate Outreach Center (BGOC) to check CA availability
  - We will put presenter in direct contact with requesting organization, for scheduling and needs discussion

### **Presentation on services/benefits for clients**

WISH staff can host a community-level overview presentation of WISH services, to include eligibility criteria and referral process. Presentations should be scheduled in 45min blocks, to allow time for introductions and Q&A. WISH staff are available (as their schedules allow) to present throughout New Castle County. Presentations outside this geographic area will be considered on an individual basis. WISH staff will also consider virtual presentation (via Skype, FaceTime, teleconference, etc). Literature will be made available. Client information is presented in a format and manner that is most considerate of the population.

- Contact Program Manager for scheduling
- Presented by member of WISH management (or designee), CA, or Outreach Worker (OW)
  - Program Manager will contact WISH management to check availability
  - Program Manager will contact BGOC to check CA availability
  - \*We will put presenter in direct contact with requesting organization, for scheduling and needs discussion
- Direct WISH enrollment, following a presentation
  - We will try to provide 2 staff members for client-centered presentations (1 staff member should be CA or OW)
  - Participants may enroll in WISH directly after a presentation
  - Participants may enroll in Comparison group directly after a presentation
  - All participants will be given the following:
    - Contact information for CAs and OWs



- WISH outreach bag, containing harm reduction and personal hygiene products
- The opportunity to enroll in WISH services, or in either section of the research study (service or comparison)

### **What we don't do:**

- We are not primary healthcare professionals.
  - However, it is our goal to link every WISH client to health coverage and medical care
- We are not police.
  - We are not duty-bound to report a woman's activities to the authorities (sex work, substance use, etc.).
  - However, as social service professionals, if we witness abuse or neglect of a child, we may be required to report the incident.
- We are not probation officers.
  - We anticipate that most of our clients may not even be involved with Probation.
  - Women on probation who volunteer to transfer to TIP (Trauma Informed Probation) have previously been enrolled in WISH as a condition of their probation. When this is the case, the CAs are required to report on their progress in court, and to the probation officer.
  - Regardless of a woman's probation program (TIP or standard), the Care Advocate will accompany them to check-ins and court, to provide support and guidance.
- We don't make false promises.
  - We will make every effort to connect every woman with every service she needs, and be honest about which services can be provided immediately, and which will require a bit of time. However, there are sometimes challenges beyond our control (i.e. emergency housing). We will continue to reach out until our resources have been exhausted, but patience is often required.
- We do not give up on our clients.
  - The WISH team prides itself on meeting every client "where they are" and understanding that recovery and change is a PROCESS.



## WISH Team Contact Information

### **Program Director:**

Domenica Personti, LCDP  
Director of Adolescent Services and Prevention  
Brandywine Counseling and Community Services  
2814 Lancaster Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
(302) 588-6946  
[dpersonti@brandywinecounseling.org](mailto:dpersonti@brandywinecounseling.org)

### **Program Manager:**

Bonita Mullen  
Program Manager  
Brandywine Counseling and Community Services  
2713 Lancaster Ave.  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
(302) 757-6126  
[bmullen@brandywinecounseling.org](mailto:bmullen@brandywinecounseling.org)

### **Advocacy Management:**

Joanna Champney  
Associate Executive Director  
Delaware Center for Justice  
100 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 905  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 658-7174 x25  
[jchampney@dcjustice.org](mailto:jchampney@dcjustice.org)

### **Trauma Treatment Management:**

Stephen C. DiJulio, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
Clinical Director, SOAR Inc.  
405 Foulk Rd.  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
(302) 655-3953 x103

### **Care Advocacy Management:**

Renee P. Beaman, RN  
Executive Director  
Beautiful Gate Outreach Center (BGOC)  
Bethel AME Church  
604 North Walnut Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801  
302-472-3002 (Office)  
[BeautifulGate1@aol.com](mailto:BeautifulGate1@aol.com)



**Outreach Workers:**

February O'Donnell  
WISH Outreach Worker  
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2713 Lancaster Ave.  
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p(302) 656-2348 x 159  
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Mildred Turner  
WISH Outreach Worker  
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**Care Advocates**

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WISH Care Advocate  
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Patty Dangelo  
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**Data Coordinator**

Julie Hammersley  
Data Coordinator  
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c(302) 757-9819  
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# WISH



Women in Support of Health

## WISH Services Referral Form

**Fax to: 302-504-5937 Attention: WISH**

**Date:**

**Referring Agency:**

**Client Name:**

**Referred By (name and phone):**

**Client Phone Number:**

**Client Number (if applicable):**

### Client Needs (Please Specify)

<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Social	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Probation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Education (GED)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care (BCCS)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Trauma Treatment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

**Notes:**