

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 08/05/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Kehalauni Walker, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- Ashley Werth, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Cody Darrigan, LFC Member

Weekly Update from Superintendent James Key

- There are currently 3 incarcerated in the RCF (Regional Care Facility) in the shedding phase, 0 in the infirmary and 0 on hospital watch. AHCC has 2 incarcerated on quarantine that were work release transferred back to the institution and 0 in isolation.
- AHCC is still working with HQ and monitoring the MSU incarcerated capacity to ensure we are keeping the 6 foot social distancing with transfers in and out of the facility.
- The ICP (Incident Command Post) sent some proposals to HQ to increase K unit yard time, we are waiting to hear back.
- The tone of the facility is staff are pushing forward. We have been in this emergency for 158 days and people are seeing this as the new normal. I/I say it's even keeled. The CUS's of each living unit have done a good job being present and answering questions for the incarcerated population.
- The MSU had 0 COVID related grievances since our last meeting. The MAIN had 1 grievance, it had to do with the dayroom schedule in T unit conflicting with yard time.
- AHCC has completed 37 COVID-19 tests total as of 8/5/20. We have no pending results.
- K unit will be hiring individuals to pass out commissary in the unit for an extra job opportunity.
- Our numbers are down in our RCF, however others institutions have rising numbers. We plan to keep the RCF open to help those other institutions.
- Last Thursday our ICP and other departments focused on getting our mental health counselors out in the units more. CO is working to open up more jobs for incarcerated. We are trying to make plans to push forward and make things better for the incarcerated population. Our medical team is meeting on a weekly basis with the Spokane Health Department. The research says masks and social distancing works, and we are keeping this is the fore-front of the institution priorities.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

You said that the Yoke's fund raiser that was held in April was very successful and that the quarterly fund raisers will continue. Inmates in K Unit aren't aware of the fund raisers. Are they allowed to participate?

Answer

The inmates in K unit do participate in all fundraisers provided.

Question

Since the inmates in K Unit are not allowed to leave the unit, how are the tier reps from K Unit involved in the weekly tier rep meetings and any surveys?

Answer

When the tier reps have questions they bring them to the CUS or CC3, then the questions are forwarded to Dr. Heinrich to be discussed and answered at the tier rep meetings.

Question

How are the inmates informed of the discussions held at the meetings?

Answer

The tier rep minutes are sent out to the CUS's and counselors each week for posting on the units.

Question

Senior council meetings are not being held in K Unit. Are they being held in other units?

Answer

Senior council meetings only apply to K unit. These K unit meetings have been suspended since Covid-19 as these meetings consist of I/I from both A and B side and these are separate due to CDC /HQ protocol.

Additional Questions

Question

They have added a new column on the DOC website called "individuals tested", what does this mean?

Answer

This category means an individual who is tested on either quarantine or isolation status would count as a 1. If a month later this happens again to the same individual they would get another number. We had a conversation this morning to try to figure out how to re-label this data. If a person gets 3 negatives in one round of testing it counts as 1 negative on the website. Check next week and see if this changes.

Question

I appreciate you writing to HQ to get increased yard time, it seems once a week the yard time is cancelled. Can you explain this?

Answer

The schedule alternates each day between A side and B side. Cancellations can be caused by a facility emergency or excessive heat right now. We have been having 2-5 medical emergencies a day. They do still get the time out on the outdoor fresh pad. We can research this.

Question

Are you still having Tier Rep meetings?

Answer

Yes we do. Meetings are every Thursday. 12:30 in the MSU and 1:50 in the MAIN.

Question

What are the qualifications of your infectious control nurse?

Answer

Zina Blachar, she is a licensed infectious control nurse and is following all CDC guidelines and is in constant communication with the Dept. of Health.

Comment

Last week we discussed a laundry situation, and shortly after it was taken care of and I appreciate that.

Question

I have heard that other facilities are going to start LFC meetings, is this happening at AHCC?

Answer

We have collaborated with HQ and have one scheduled for August. You will receive an email regarding this in the near future.

- Associate Heinrich: We have looked at having the LFC conference call meeting on 8/24 at 1:30PM. We would like everyone to get their questions in by the 19th so we can make up an agenda for the meeting.
- LFC member: Are we going to be able to vote on that? Some of us work on the weekdays. This is a FAMILY meeting, and we need to accommodate the families. Are we following policy? I am going to be emailing Geneva in regards to this. I don't understand why we are sending in questions? This is not per policy. This week I was a part of the state legislature round table and I believe I am an advocate for the LFC.
- Superintendent Key: Based on the direction from Geneva Cotton, we were directed to set times that work for the institutions. We have to set these based on staff schedules.
- Associate Heinrich: This has been part of the LFC process, we meet with the CO-Chair and the secretary to create an agenda for these meetings to have answers prepared. In the past we have alternated meetings on the weekdays and weekends to try and accommodate all LFC members.
- LFC Member: I just want to say that you should be grateful that they are even trying to accommodate us.
- Superintendent Key: Hang on...
- LFC Member: NO, I am allowed to have my moment. To the woman who chastised me, I just want to say Mr. Key you need to take charge of your meetings. At most of these calls when I make a comment I get attacked by other members.
- Superintendent Key: I will take control if you'd let me. This topic is now over and Dr. Heinrich can continue to discuss the LFC meeting information.
- LFC member: I have heard that Mr. Herzog has been on LFC calls at other facilities, when will he be attending an AHCC call?
- Paige Perkinson: He is attempting to be a part of a call at each facility. He will be on a call, but we do not know which one.

Question

Could we have the number of actual individuals tested added to the webpage?

Answer

I can ask. I am not sure how we are collecting this data.

Comments/Closing

Be safe, wear your mask, and please have your questions in for next week's teleconference by Tuesday at 12.