

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 08/19/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Secretary
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Breanna Johnson, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member

Weekly Update from Superintendent James Key

- We have 8 COVID-19 positive incarcerated individuals in the RCF, 2 on quarantine, and 1 on isolation.
- A memo was sent out to incarcerated individuals and staff regarding yard time for K unit. K unit will have yard time in the mornings starting on Monday 8/24. This unfortunately will cut into a few other yard times, but staffing should not be a problem in the future. Yard staff will be wearing masks and shields, and extra cleaning will be done before and after yard. Numbers will stay at 125 to maintain social distance. This should not be a problem looking at data from other units.
- There were 11 grievances in the Main. They were in reference to playing cards in the day room, yard time for K unit, schedules, staff issues, and cleanliness on the unit. We had 0 COVID-19 related grievances for the MSU.
- We are working on increasing court mandated programming, such as chemical dependency and SOTP, associated with release dates and ERD's. We are facing some challenges with class sessions and programs since we cannot cross units. Hopefully we have more information next Wednesday on how we are going to implement these.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Are the yard cancellations in K unit due to a lack of staffing?

Answer

Yes and weather. We scheduled the protected unit out in the morning due to the 100 degree weather we have been having. We did not want K unit out in the afternoon.

Question

Would the administration consider additional staffing at K-Unit so these men can have outside exercise time?

Answer

K unit will now be allowed to attend yard in the morning. Extra cleaning will be done before and after this yard time.

Question

Mr. Key has mentioned doing walk arounds at the different units and at yard to see how everyone is doing. Is this happening at K Unit?

Answer

Thursday evening, I did a walk around and spoke with some guys outside of K unit. The conversation was good and the tone was decent.

Question

Concerns about staff not social distancing while in the officers station, what options do incarcerated have if they were signing up for late night phone calls if there is no space to avoid officers. Officers didn't have masks, were eating and were not socially distancing. What options do they have? What is the best way to approach this uncomfortable situation?

Answer

Incarcerated can always go to the SGT, CUS, or CC3 when and if these situations happen. I always encourage the incarcerated to take control of the issues in the unit to handle at that local level. I would hope that you would encourage them also to do the same. You can provide times and dates of the issue for management to look into but that certainly take time vs handling it in the unit.

- LFC Member: No SGT, CUS or CCS was available it was 9pm when it occurred, in middle of L units, happened Sunday night. What would you advise?
- If the population in any unit sees anyone not wearing masks, they can make an apt with their counselor or send a kite, there are many options for this. They can send a letter or their loved one can send a letter to me and I will investigate. We need to make sure everyone is compliant including staff.

Question

When will serial testing of staff at AH begin?

Answer

We are currently in the planning process. There is no set date for this, but we will speak to this as it gets closer.

Question

My in-laws had a video visit tonight back to back. The kiosk AHCC024 apparently was black all day. When my husband notified the CO he had a visit, no one informed him the screen had been black or down all day. When he went out to discuss the screen with a CO they informed him that they have a switch to turn it off and back on but they do not have a key. The CUS is not there often. Why is the key not available for an acting CUS or someone who is in charge when the CUS is not there? How can we ensure that this can be avoided in the future?

Answer

J-Pay was down yesterday and probably the reason why there was a problem with connecting. According to our J-Pay liaison it was down all day up until a little after 5 PM yesterday. There is no switch for turning the J-Pay off and on that the CUS has. This was a J-Pay network issue, not a local issue. This is an individual concern and if you'd like to send me more additional information we can look into this.

Additional Questions

Question

Can the CO's inform incarcerated individuals when the Kiosk is down? My loved one is afraid to go into the dayroom as he doesn't want to get COVID-19.

Answer

There is a schedule of calls that take place in each unit. Sometimes we do not know the KIOSK is down before the population. Regarding day room usage, we only allow so many people to be present due to social distancing. I understand they might be scared, but we have set protocols to keep individuals safe.

Question

K unit is on modified schedules for being high risk, there are inmates who just as high risk in the regular units, if not more high risk than K unit. When they lost gratuity, I understand you opened more jobs in K unit. Will there be alternatives for others outside of K unit who are high risk as defined by your medical? When medical said they were high risk they lost their jobs.

Answer

Gratuity for the folks who lost jobs was for everyone in the institution. Regarding K unit, this is the direction that was given by HQ. As an institution we are working hard to get amenities back. As far as others who are high risk outside of K unit, this is determined by our medical staff. Each job is screened by medical. This is a case by case situation. If you have an individual situation please let us know and we can look into it. At any time pre or during COVID-19 medical has always screened before someone has been approved for a job. In each process, there is a grievance or appeal process that can be filed.

Question

You mentioned about treatment programs, these are still happening in MSU. Are they not in the main?

Answer

They are with smaller class sizes and social distancing. The bigger aspect is K unit and group settings or individual providers.

Question

Is the law library open?

Answer

Yes it is. All services are being provided to meet legal needs.

Question

I had to call the mailroom for the first time, and whoever was working was awesome.

Answer

You are probably talking about Sgt. Westfall. I appreciate the comment.

Comments/Closing

We have an LFC meeting scheduled for Monday. We will have an agenda sent out and speak to you on Monday. Be safe, I'm happy to see that Spokane COVID-19 numbers are on the decline. Please have your questions in for the Wednesday COVID-19 teleconference by Tuesday at 12.