

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** AHCC

**Date and Time:** 09/16/2020, 2:00PM

## Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Anita Barker, Co-Chair
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Yoshi Garcia, SFC Rep
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services

If you would like your friend/family member/loved one to be a part of the Local Family Council, please have them write to Jess Robb at the following email address:

[mecantrell@DOC1.WA.GOV](mailto:mecantrell@DOC1.WA.GOV)

or

**Monica Cantrell, Facility Secretary**

**Airway Heights Corrections Center**

**PO Box 1899**

**Airway Heights, WA 99001**

To be part of the Local Family Council, one must be on the Incarcerated Individual's approved visitation list, and "any approved visitor in good standing may attend" (policy 530.155). If one is not on the inmate's visitation list and wish to fill an application to become a visitor please, go to the following website:

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/prison-visits.htm>

## Weekly Update from Superintendent James Key

- We have 9 in the RCF, 1 in quarantine, zero in isolation, and 6 on intake separation (community custody jail, violators, work release revoke)
- Staff testing started Monday 9/14/20. As of 1PM today we have tested 537 staff members, we have close to 750 total staff members. We don't have any positive reports back.
- We have a smoke plan we implemented. At 1:08 PM we were at 211 for air quality. We are currently not having yard, and all outdoor work has been ceased. We are facilitating in unit pill and diabetic line. Some programming in education is happening, and CI workers are going to work. As of Monday we were delivering meals to the units. As of today we are back to grab and go. Every building has a filter system to help filtrate the smoke. Maintenance is out every day checking/replacing those filters. We are hoping for some wind and rain to clear this out.
- Friday, I had a conference call in regards to safe start and visiting. Our statewide rep will be involved with all the updates to SFC. Yoshi Garcia is AHCC representative. She will update the LFC as we know more. We have a strike team looking at our visiting areas. Some challenges we will face is that our MSU is being used for overflow housing for social distancing and our MAIN is being used for rapid hire.
- We received zero grievances from the MSU. We had 5 grievances from the MAIN about wanting to be moved out of K unit, some programming being cancelled for AM times, and medical concerns.

## Additional Questions

### Question

How often are the staff being tested?

### Answer

Every week.

### Question

Could we have a part of the local family council who helps with the safe start at the local level?

### Answer

After the September 19<sup>th</sup> call, if you want to put together some suggestions that we can take forth to the task force, we would be happy to push that forward.

### Question

How are you doing with the smoke?

### Answer

We have implemented our smoke plan. (See above update from Supt. Key)

### Question

Do you have a fire evacuation plan if this gets worse?

### Answer

Yes. We have an internal and external evacuation plan. It's part of our emergency response policy. We have outside transport contracts and plans in place if this happens.

### Question

There have been issues in M-unit with the WIFI. JPay was supposed to come on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but it is still having issues.

### Answer

They came in and fixed it. Then less than 24 hours later it broke again. It is ongoing and very frustrating. There will be a two day time frame where everything is shut down so they can put in a new Wi-Fi booster. This was supposed to happen this week but was cancelled due to the smoke. We will reschedule this when the smoke clears.

### Question

The guys were supposed to sync their tablets and do an update. The update has broken many of the tablets.

### Answer

With the regular reporting process they can report it to our JPay liaison and we can work with JPay the best we can.

### Comment

I just sent Jessica the SFC info, it is this Saturday from 10-3. It is open for anyone to join.

### Question

You stated the visitation rooms are being used at the MAIN and MSU, can you clarify what they are being used for?

### Answer

MSU (C2) in visiting was being used to house incarcerated to maintain 6 ft. social distancing. There is no one in there currently but we are mandated by HQ to keep it operational. We are the using the MAIN for CORE class to conduct new hire training.

### Question

Are the staff hires for all facilities or just Airway?

### Answer

Just Airway.

### Question

Are the EFV's being used?

### Answer

This was used for overflow housing and is currently empty but we are mandated to keep it operational. This is the same for main and MSU EFVs.

### Question

On visitation, several families have been suspended for video visitation. Per policy there is supposed to be a letter sent out in 10 days. I've heard that the incarcerated individual got a letter but not the family member.

### Answer

We have a process in place that video visits are reviewed by staff and if there is any misconduct both the incarcerated and family member are notified by letter. If there is a specific question regarding this please contact the facility.

- LFC Member: Your signature is on the letter so I'm assuming you've watched these?
- No, we have a group of staff who are assigned to this and know the policy. I have a stamp that is used to sign these.
- LFC Member: I am sorry if I am asking repeating questions, I just want to get clarification. I have read the policy probably 20 times. When you click on the policy the attachment for video visits doesn't come up.
- Paige Perkinson: I work at HQ right next to the web team and I will notify them to get that fixed. There is a link that works correctly and we will get that sent to you.

**Update:** this information link was sent to the LFC member on 9/16/2020

- LFC Member: I brought this up at statewide when I was state rep and I don't feel like I need to bring this up, families need to have some sort of warning, everything is perception. Discrimination can happen, a same situation can happen to another person. I am of color so I get video visits suspended, where someone else who is not of color gets suspended for 90 days while I get 30.
- This is a HQ policy decision, we are to follow policy as directed by HQ. We'll move onto the next COVID question.

### Question

If your video visits are suspended do you have the ability to access the footage so you can review what they are talking about?

### Answer

To my understanding the letters describe the behavior. You can use go through public disclosure to try and get the video.

### Question

Question for Statewide rep, you had mentioned there are private ones, what do you mean?

### Answer

Only statewide representatives get together every week, and statewide council is every 2 months and anyone can attend.

### Question

How many employees do you have at AHCC?

### Answer

It's right around 750, maybe 754? This includes DOC, contract, etc.

### Question

Are you able to share if you (Mr. Key) are a part of the phase group?

### Answer

I had a conference call with HQ, specifically Jeneva Cotton. She is going to send out a group to look at visitation. I have not met with, nor am a part of this group.

### Follow-up from 9/9/20

There is follow up from last week, you are entitled to 50 sheets of paper and a pencil every 2 weeks if your indigent fund is under \$10.

## Comments/Closing

My hope is that the smoke is going to dissipate. I am very proud of our incarcerated folks out working on the fires. We will continue with staff testing. I am concerned that there is an asymptomatic person walking around, but this process will help us identify those individuals. The tone is about the same, everyone is tired and frustrated, and the smoke has its added frustrations. Wear your mask and be safe. Talk to you next week.

Starting next week Monica Cantrell will be taking over LFC for Jess Robb. We will send out an email with more information later this week.