

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 09/30/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Monica Cantrell, Facility Secretary
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC State Rep
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Anita Barker, Family Co-chair
- Frank Rivera, Associate Superintendent
- Ann Wise, CCOP
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Erin Molish, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- Sheri Winsted, AA3 to Superintendent

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

mecantrell@DOC1.WA.GOV

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 Associate Superintendent Kay Heinrich, PhD

- Update who is present here: It is myself, Kay Heinrich the Associate of Programs, Frank Rivera the Associate Superintendent of Operations, Monica Cantrell, Anita Barker, and Sheri Winstead.
- We have zero in the Regional Care Facility, 3 in Segregation ISO, 2 in Segregation Quarantine and 9 in Segregation for separation.
- We have 13 staff that were tested positive, 11 recovered, 2 currently of which 1 tested positive through our serial testing process.
- September 14, 2020 is when we implemented our serial testing since then 1407 staff have been tested
- We had 0 grievances in the MSU and 4 in the MAIN.
 - K-Unit not being able to attend callouts
 - Would like their dayrooms restored to what it was pre lock-down.
 - One of the questions and issues at the tier rep meeting was that the nozzles for the spray bottles for the cleanliness kept breaking so we did some research on that and we are getting better nozzles for them.
 - The porters picking up the KOP are not following protocol they are mixing the units unfortunately that is not accurate it is one of the grievances that have come out

Pre-Submitted Questions:

Question

As of 9/23, the LFC minutes for 9/16 had not been posted in K Unit. How long does it usually take for the minutes to be posted?

Answer:

We checked with K unit and L unit and in fact they have been posted so we are not real sure as to why that was mentioned but I would like to reassure that the minutes are posted on the units

Additional Questions

Question

How many units are still on the modified movement schedule?

Answer

All units are on a modified movement schedule currently. K unit specifically is a little tighter and has more restrictions because of the requirements from headquarters.

Question

Do you know how long it is going to last? Other facilities mains are not on a modified movement schedule. Airway has not had any breakouts.

Answer

Associate Rivera: Each tier has 45 minutes out and we allow 15 minutes of cleaning and sanitation between the dayrooms having the next tier move. That is based on the social distance protocols that are in place. For instance, if we allow a whole wing out at the same time, there is no way we can contain those social distancing protocols consistently.

Question

Is it all the main that is on that schedule?

Answer

Associate Rivera: yes

Question

You stated that there were 1400 employees tested is that correct? And no one is positive?

Answer

Yes, 1407 as of 0900 this morning and there is 1 positive contract staff identified through the testing process.

Question

This relates to the previous question. I was thinking the same thing about when we can let them off of the modified schedule because other facilities aren't doing that, so how are these facilities doing the social distancing without the modified lockdown schedule but we can't do that here.

Answer

Associate Rivera: I can't speak for other facilities. I know that at this facility we have had 1 staff test positive through the testing process. We had 13 total since the pandemic started and we have had 0 of our incarcerated individuals at this facility test positive. I believe it is due to the safeguards and protocols that we have put in place from the being to maintain social distancing, and all of the other protocols that we were given to us by headquarters.

- LFM: I was just looking at letting them out more than 45 minutes a day 2 or 3 times a day. That would be a little mentally wearing and not being able to see family.
- Associate Rivera: We do understand that, but I cannot give you a time frame on that. This is new to everybody in the world especially us, and we are sensitive to the individuals that are here and their families alike. We are constantly looking at things we can do to provide programming, and activities to keep themselves occupied. I cannot say what other prisons are doing works or not. I do know what we are doing works.

Question

Is there updated information on the Court-mandated programming?

Answer

Yes, there is no specific date, but we are working on that.

Question

I am wondering about visitation. When it does start, will we be tested, or will it be like other clinics where they take our temperatures?

Answer

To be determined. I do not know when visitation will be opened, but headquarters is working on that issue and when we know we will be more than happy to let you know too.

- LFM: The minutes from the state has been posted to the website and it has a rough draft as to what visiting would look like.

Question

My loved one has an HSR updated for 6 months, but if visiting opens in 4 months will there be protocols put in place to safeguard against potential harm factors to those that have health issues?

Answer

That is why visiting is taking so long, they are taking into consideration all aspects and questions like the one you just asked so that all the precautionary measures are taken into consideration. Like Associate Rivera said, we are one of the institutions that have been keeping vigilant with keeping the virus outside. We will not start till we have all the T's crossed and I's dotted to ensure that all loved ones are kept safe. There are a lot of different levels that we must make sure are taken care of and the CDC qualifications are met.

Question

Is the restricted movement schedule direction coming from headquarters?

Answer

Associate Rivera: Every facility is different in their physical plant so you can have one unit that can accommodate more individuals in a dayroom than another. So each facility has to make sure that when they implemented this process, they looked at the social distancing protocols: how many people can they safely have out at a time, what is the maximum allowed to assure that that social distancing is adhered to whenever possible. The compliance of that is a whole other issue because we now need all the folks incarcerated to comply with that social distancing. Outside the compliance issue we need to make sure that we have enough room to accommodate the folks if we are managing their social distancing properly. To answer your question it is not a mandate from headquarters as far as the specifics on how to implement it in every facility. It really depends on your physical plant of your particular unit as how many you can have at a time.

- LFM: Basically, what you're saying it has to do with staffing.
- Associate Rivera: It is not staffing, it is the physical plant, and not how many staff are in a unit. It is how many individuals can be out in that dayroom at any particular time spaced 6 feet apart and having an entire wing out at a time, we cannot do that. It just is impossible.
- LFM: When they walk to the chow hall and programming, they are not 6 feet apart.
- Associate Rivera: When they are out on the breezeway and when they are walking from point A to point B they are supposed to be maintaining a 6 foot distance between each other. That is the expectation

Question

Called JPay the other day. They stated that when it comes to JPay visits, if there are issues like for example: if we are not given our correct refund credit amount or anything with visiting, the I/I are supposed to put in a request to inmate services and that is how it gets fixed. Just wondering if that is correct?

Answer

Associate Heinrich: I will get back to you on that. I have not heard that either, but I will talk to our liaison and get that information back to you.

- Update from JPay Liaison: The outside party who set up the video visits needs to contact JPay to request credit to their account. The I/I is not involved with this process. In order to get the free video visits each week, you must use the full 2 in the prior week.

Question

Have you gotten any directive to start moving anything out of visitation area from headquarters?

Answer

Not at this time.

Question

Have they been out to measure the visitation rooms?

Answer

Associate Heinrich: Yes, they have done that.

Question

Were medical files not being reviewed because of the pandemic and are they still not being allowed to be reviewed for the same reason?

Answer

Associate Heinrich: I will have to check with medical and get back to you next week

- Update from Public Records: A patient requesting a review record does not need to go through the Public Disclosure Unit, but may. Direct requests for copies must be directed to the Public Disclosure Unit. Once the request to review the health record is received the appointment will be within 15 working days of receiving the request. If no appointment is available within 15 working days, the patient will be notified of the date of the appointment via form 13-423FP Health Services Kite (or the offender's 13-423 Health Services Kite, if responding to her/his kite request to review).

Question

Some of the camp I/I were given 2 chairs in their cubicles and then one of the chairs has been taken away. Do you know why?

Answer

Associate Heinrich: I know that they are not supposed to have the chairs in their rooms. We did discuss it at the tier rep meeting and it was the lieutenant that stated that the chairs could not be in there. But I will double check that with the lieutenants and confirm.

- LFM: why would they not allow chairs?
- Associate Heinrich: Safety and Security. The chairs requested were to be used as a table and not to be in their room. That was not approved, but I will get more clarification and let you know next week.
- LFM: If they have tables where are they supposed to sit?
- Associate Heinrich: They sit on their bunks and one chair in the cubicle allowed.
- LFM: Can they reach their tables?
- Associate Heinrich: I do not know exactly what the furniture layout is in the MSU so I will double check for you and get back to you next week.

Question

Do you have a gauge on whether or not the population wants visiting back or are they concerned with COVID?

Answer

I think it is a combination, people are really concerned having people come in because we have been so vigilant on keeping the I/I COVID free but yes, they miss it too. It is catch 22.

- OCO: Statistically a lot of folks that are incarcerated do not have visitors.
- LFM: You need to look at how far people have to travel, if people were closer to facilities you would have a lot more visits.
- OCO: Making facilities more accessible is another issue.

Question

Kay do you read the OCO reports that come out?

Answer

Yes, but I am not sure that is a COVID question.

Question

The weekly calls you sometimes have other staff join the calls; can you get other staff like that to come in? It is easier to understand them on what is going on in other areas.

Answer

That is up to the Superintendent. I will ask Superintendent Key, he usually has the answers where I do not and I like the extra help.

Follow-up from 9/23/20

Question

What percentage of the vegetables went to kitchen?

Answer

Medical Lake Food Bank 49.32%, MSU kitchen 20.97%, and Women and Children Free Restaurant 29.71%. Last donation had increased because of increase in production. Currently nothing has gone to

the Main kitchen because of issues we are having in the kitchen such as not being able to get it out on time, the clam shells, trying to meet all the COVID protocols, and not enough staff to utilize the fresh vegetables.

Follow-up from 9/16/20

Question

Follow up from the other week about JPay players and the fixes.

Answer

We are still having issues and are fully aware of those issues. We are trying to work on them to make sure they get up and running and the JPay videos. We know there are continued problems and the liaison continues to work with that. It is a weekly apology and hopefully it will get resolved.

Comments/Closing

Associate Rivera: I want to clarify something, there were several questions asked earlier about the dayroom. I totally understand where the population is with that and I talked to folks inside. Just for some clarity the question “Was it mandated by HQ”, and “How do you do that?” When we were first hit with pandemic each facility was given a task for dayroom use and social distancing based on square footage, how many tables you have, how many folks can be sitting at a table at a time, basically the square footage of each dayroom. Each physical plant of every facility is different. If you have more room in one facility, they may be able to allow more people out at a time. As for the cleaning piece, the protocol for Hepastat is 10 minutes to let it set. That is why we have a 15-minute span in between so that the porters have time to get the dayroom cleaned before the next tier comes out. Airway Heights first went into this because every single one of those units medium and minimum in the main institution are the same square footage roughly. So the determination on the onset was 50. We added to that since then and now allow out an entire tier at a time, which can consist of up to 64 individuals. Some issues that come up is if people are at work why cannot we come out. There are some issues still and we are trying to be consistent when possible. We are looking at people who are away at work Monday through Friday and then those who work the weekend in food service. It is so difficult to maintain any type of consistency with how a unit or a prison is being managed. I can tell you that we are looking at these issues and at what point can we expand safely and be consistent. Although we understand how this impacts the population we are doing everything we can to keep your loved ones safe and I hope this explains more to your questions.

- LFM: I just feel that we can advocate on their part for more time out. I know that I go stir crazy and I can go wherever I want but they are stuck inside. I must give it to them that they are strong for the 45 min. 2-3 x's a day given that there is no code or whatever.
- Associate Rivera: I can respect that, but what I can do is reach out to the Associates of other Main facilities and ask what their dayroom protocols how. We can then perhaps reevaluate.

Associate Heinrich: Mr. Key will be returning for the next call. Have a safe week.