

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 11/18/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Michelle Mason, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Ann Wise, CPPC
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member

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:

Jessica.robbs@doc1.wa.gov

or

**Jess Robb, 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 wishes to fill out an application to become a visitor please, go to the following website:

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

- Questions need to be submitted to Ms. Robb by noon on Tuesday before the meeting. Please keep your questions, pre-submitted and during the call, to COVID-19 related topics.
- Please keep each question concrete and specific via bullet statements.

Weekly Update from Superintendent James Key

- We have 7 I/I in the RCF, 5 in isolation, 11 on intake separation (field, work release, CCJ), and 8 on quarantine.
- As of yesterday we have tested 265 I/I since the beginning of this pandemic.
- 5,923 total tests have been completed since beginning staff serial testing, 5 staff have tested positive. We have gone up 4 cases since our last call on 11/4.
- Memos went out to the staff enforcing the importance of face coverings and social distancing. I'm putting up signs in high traffic areas and sending out more executive staff presence to hold others accountable in the facility.
- A kiosk message was posted in regards to the suspension of transfers to work release. Work release on the west side is having many COVID-19 positive cases. We think this will be in effect until Dec. 15th, then this will be re-evaluated.

- We had 2 COVID-19 related grievances in the MAIN regarding searches and social distancing of staff. There were 0 from the MSU. This data is from last week. Our grievance coordinator is on temporary layoff this week.
- HQ released information regarding stimulus checks. There is 1-800 number to call to verify their identity if they got documentation asking to do so.
- Hot breakfast has been postponed to January 4th due to labor issues with CI.
- COVID-19 confirmed cases in Spokane County have been above 200 each day. We are still following all the CDC guidelines and protocols. We are acknowledging the higher numbers in the community. They are concerning but we are working within the guidelines we have.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Since funds are being provided to states from the U.S. Department of Justice as part of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program and the Alabama Department of Corrections was 1 of 7 agencies that each received a grant for \$585,000.00 for use of purchasing protective equipment such as masks, gloves, sanitizers and thermal temperature monitors. Is or has Airway Heights Correctional Facility submitted a grant request to the U.S. Department of Justice?

Answer

Any funding requests would come from the department as a whole, not a particular facility. WSDOC via HQ budget and finance professionals continue to monitor funds available as appropriate.

Question

Why is Airway Heights Correctional Facility not allowing {besides once a year birthday call credits} GTL to apply free COVID-19 phone call credits to Individual Incarcerated GTL phone accounts? Especially when the JPAY video visits are not working correctly due to only 100MB of bandwidth being provided for the entire Incarcerated Inmate population to share to support JPAYs software system? Please note it takes 20MB per Video Call Visit in order for the system to work correctly.

Answer

The IIU (Internal Investigations Unit) Supervisor Mr. Servatius confirmed with HQ that these are still occurring at all facilities. Each week, I think it is on Sundays, each individual gets credited 2 free 5 minute phone calls. When the individual places a phone call they are given the option, by the automated system, to place the call direct, collect, or use a free 5 minute call.

Question

How is the facility handling the increase in staff positive cases in the past week?

Answer

We are following the PPE protocols outlined in the Version 22 COVID-19 guidelines.

Question

Has mapping been completed?

Answer

Yes. We map any case that occurs.

Question

Are there any possible exposures to the population?

Answer

Not that we are aware of. If there were, we would follow isolation and quarantine processes outlined in the version 22 COVID-19 guidelines.

Question

Is there anything in policy or within DOC's mission and value statement or maybe some type of code of ethics that states expectations or requirements of staff to uphold in regard to keeping the population safe?

Answer

Our mission is to improve public safety by positively changing lives. Our Commitment is to operate a safe and humane correction system and partner with others to transform lives for a better Washington. Our vision is working together for safer communities.

Additional Questions

Question

Do COs have a code of ethics that they are held to for COVID-19?

Answer

There is nothing specific to COVID. We have our mission and values. These are outlined as our strategic anchors, which you can find on the DOC website. We use these no matter what we are dealing with.

Associate Heinrich: I know for chemical dependency, medical and NAADAC there is a specific code of ethics. We do not have a parallel one for WSDOC.

Question

I hope your staff heal quickly and safely. There were a handful of inmates putting a roof over the RCF for access to the toilet and shower area. They worked multiple days doing so. At the end of the work day they went back to their normal units, and on the last day of work they were all put into N unit quarantine due to a staff member testing positive. Did these individuals know the staff had tested positive when they were going back to their units each night?

Answer

We are working on winterizing the RCF. We did have a maintenance staff test positive based on serial testing. Those individuals were mapped out and moved into quarantine as soon as it was known that the staff person tested positive.

Question

If the inmate had possible exposure from a staff member, would that include their cell mate in the mapping process?

Answer

There are many protocols in the mapping process. Everyone was wearing PPE, and guidelines were followed. We have done a thorough mapping process for any possible contact that could have taken place.

Question

Since work release has been suspended, is home monitoring suspended?

Answer

I don't think so. I have not heard anything in regards to home monitoring. We are still doing releases into the community.

Question

When would you make the decision, since you had 5 positive employees, to test the entire population?

Answer

It's not within my authority to approve testing for the entire population. This decision would come from the HQ Incident Command Post.

Question

Some I/I are saying they have received their stimulus checks while others have not. Have stimulus checks been distributed to I/I?

Answer

Yes they have. Different people get them at different times, kind of like a tax refund. The ones that came to the mailroom got processed as quickly as possible. Once they come in they are distributed and processed through the business office.

Question

There was a memo that went out when COVID-19 first began regarding PREA about where they could submit allegations. Is there a box that they can put PREA information in?

Answer

I am not aware of a memo that went out in regards to changes. We have posted some new information as we have a PREA audit going on. The reporting process has not changed for PREA.

Question

Where have the PREA allegations been submitted to for 5 months?

Answer

We are still getting PREA allegations. There are 3 different ways they can report. I get notified every time a PREA is reported. If you have something specific from Deputy Director Herzog to reference please send it forward. We will research this and get back to you.

LFC Member: This memo was sent April 9, 2020.

- **Update: There was a memo sent out March 27, 2020 stating "Due to office closures, the Colorado Department of Corrections is currently unable to receive PREA-related information from the incarcerated individuals using DOC form 21-379, Report of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Allegation. Any forms deposited in grievance boxes will be forwarded to the Shift commander or Work release Supervisor to address."**
- **Update: April 9th, a memo was sent to classification counselors stating the PREA Risk Assessment process was reviewed and deemed an essential service and must continue, however we needed to examine processes for quarantine or isolation instances to ensure initial (72-hour) assessments were completed on time and COVID-19 protocols were maintained.**
- **Update: On November 10th a memo was sent out letting the incarcerated population know these restrictions have been lifted and all reports from (DOC 21-379 Report of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Allegation) deposited in facility mailboxes will again be mailed directly to the Colorado Department of Corrections as previously done.**

Question

On the DOC website COVID-19 references for staff and I/I testing numbers, the bottom of it has RCF information. Those numbers are always showing that there are 0 I/I housed at those areas.

Answer

There are RCF's at AHCC, WCC, WCCW, and GIG Harbor. There were a couple week's we had 0 in the RCF. But based on some outbreaks we do have I/I in ours now. We report our numbers every day to HQ.

Paige Perkinson: I have not noticed this, and I will follow up on this.

- Update from Paige Perkinson: These numbers have been updated on the website. These numbers are delayed 1 day due to reporting times from facilities.

Question

It was mentioned to me that the N-unit I/I are using the same bathroom and phones as those who are on quarantine. Are they cleaning in between?

Answer

Yes. These areas are being cleaned between the times that individuals who reside in the unit come out and the times when those who are on quarantine are allowed out.

Question

Are the PREA audit reports public?

Answer

We get audited regarding PREA every 2 years. It is done by the Department of Justice and individuals outside DOC conduct these. This year they cannot come on site, but documentation has been provided and interviews have been conducted. I am not sure if these are public information or not.

- **Update from HQ: These are available on the DOC website. On the front page of the DOC website, scroll to the bottom. Under the "About" section click Prison Rape Elimination Act. Then click on the "Resources" box. If you scroll down on this page you will find "Audit Reports" for all facilities.**

Comments/Closing

As I talked about before, the numbers in the community are going up. Those will always have a direct effect on the institution. We have new information from the Governor about how it affects us in the community. We are working on having more executive staff to talk to I/I and answer their questions. COVID-19 is something we are not getting away from no matter where you go. We continue to follow protocols and be safe. We have a task force working on scenarios and protocols to safely prepare us in case we do have an outbreak at AHCC. I have approved all the menus for Thanksgiving meals for the population. I walk the site on Thanksgiving and talk to the population as I know it's difficult to be away from family. I will continue to do that especially this year. Be safe, follow the guidelines. Our next COVID teleconference will Dec. 2nd. Get your questions in by Tuesday before the meeting at noon. Have a great Thanksgiving.