

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 1/6/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, Family Secretary
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Sierra Baker, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Joanna Carns, OCO
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Stephanie Colunga, LFC Member
- Roberta Baker, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC State Representative

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 Key

- We have administered 10,379 staff serial tests, 95 staff has tested positive from serial testing.
- We have a total of 1561 Incarcerated Individuals (I/I) who have tested positive, 1195 of those have recovered. We have received 45 positive tests since yesterday; 44 in K unit, and 1 in Nora unit.
- Total I/I on isolation is 248, and total on quarantine 337.
- MSU had 7 COVID related grievances. They were in reference to vaccinations, quarantine for 14 days, and a medical question regarding HIPAA. The MAIN had 40 COVID related grievances in reference to wanting compensation for being unable to work while they had COVID, workers returning to their jobs, getting or contracting COVID, wanting fresh air pads and yard, testing, vaccines, officer wearing/not wearing masks, and mail delivery.
- We will be getting transfers in from Shelton this week, they are I/I who have recovered from COVID. They can be placed anywhere in the institution since they have already had COVID and recovered.

- Regarding the tone of the facility, we have heard from many I/I talking about holidays, and COVID. We are working during the week to get I/I back to their original beds. There are still grumblings over restricted movement. More individuals continue to recover. The tone has more stable than it has been in previous weeks.
- Laundry is back to normal operations as of this week.
- We added another cordless phones to Special Management Unit (SMU), and 6 in R unit. We did get more batteries and have a charging schedule. I have not heard back on the 10 more phones that were supposed to be delivered on the 6th
 - **Update: the 10 phones have been delivered and should be ready for use by 1/9/21.**
- Commissary went back to regular spending limits as recovered workers went back to work to fill the orders.
- We sent out information to the population about quarantine and isolation. These handouts were printed and given to everyone. It gives a little more information on what to expect while on quarantine and isolation.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Any I/I who filed a claim for a stimulus payment, but did not receive a check by December 31, 2020 can file a 2020 Form 1040 to request a recovery rebate credit payment. Will AHCC provide the 2020 Form 1040 and instructions for the I/I?

Answer

As soon we got this in I had our legal liaison contact HQ, and we are waiting to hear back on this.

Question

Is it okay for family members to send in the form and instructions?

Answer

You may send the forms in blank.

Question

Groups of Correctional Officers (CO's) are continuing to congregate at the K-Unit officers' station between 6:30 am and 10:00 am. Would you please view the films of that area to determine what is happening?

Answer

I had staff review the videos from this information and even a week prior, they found that there were up to 4 people at the officer station. These were nursing staff, and officers. Everyone had appropriate PPE on.

Question

Monthly magazines that should have been delivered to K Unit on or about the 28th of December, have not arrived as of today, January 5. Why are the magazines late?

Answer

These were delayed getting to the printers due to COVID-19. They are expected to be out in the next week or so.

Question

How many incarcerated gentlemen from K unit, both A and B side, have tested positive for Covid-19?

Answer

52 total have tested positive in K unit.

Question

Count isn't being cleared till 7:45 pm so food isn't being served till 8 pm. With so many I/I now able to go to work, why are the food deliveries so late?

Answer

On Monday, we had a recount and this can take a couple hours to get cleared. Over the previous weekend we had a few medical emergencies. From what I have seen evening meals have been getting to the units on time.

Question

I was told that reviews are not happening in C5, can you follow up as last week you said they were ongoing?

Answer

There was a week or so interruption when tiers were first put on isolated status. I have confirmed these are taking place. The counselors are going to the tier door, calling the offender up, and going through their review right at the tier entrance.

Question

When will they start getting property again? Nothing has been delivered to them since the first positive cases in MSU.

Answer

Property was being to be delivered last week. We have staff back at a higher rate and were able to get these going.

Question

Currently there are 2 phones down in C5 south. A work order was previously submitted in Oct for 1 of them with no resolution. Is there any way to get these phones fixed on some type of priority?

Answer

An additional work order was submitted 1/5/21. We will follow up on this.

- **Update: The GTL tech will be on-site Wednesday 1/13/21 to work on phones in C5 and T unit.**

Question

The CO's on duty are again not wearing their masks while in offices. This is happening on all shifts and has been witnessed and brought up to them regularly with no change. Has this changed and it is now approved to not wear masks while in the offices?

Answer

No, while they are in the offices and booths they are required to wear masks. We will continue to monitor this with the quality assurance checks and make this a priority.

Question

When will movement go back to normal for C5 as they are all positive?

Answer

The MSU as a whole is on restricted movement and will be released to normal movement when determined by clinical and Head Quarters (HQ) Incident Command Post (ICP). They still have cohort schedules and outside time.

Question

How long will bottled water continue to be given out?

Answer

Until further notice.

Question

If gentlemen are well enough to go to work, why are they not being moved to their original housing assignments?

Answer

We are starting to get individuals moved back to their original housing. It is dependent on cells available in their original unit.

Question

People are scared to report any symptoms as they do not know what the procedure is. This means that everyone reports asymptomatic but could be suffering. The fear of not knowing what would happen is causing these issues, is there a way to post something that explains what would happen?

Answer

We have sent numerous memos out explaining the process separating positives and negatives. These have also been sent out to LFC. The informational handouts being given out today talks about this as well.

Question

It has been a week since medical has done the daily checks in L unit, is this still supposed to be happening daily, or once enough time has passed do they stop doing the daily medical checks?

Answer

L Unit is a recovered unit. The checks are done by acuity. If someone is sick, they can go to an officer and declare a medical need and can be seen by medical.

Question

In T unit it was reported that on Sunday, January 3, 2021, an Officer came across over the loudspeaker and said that masks were mandatory, but he, and another Officer in the booth were not wearing masks. When questioned about it, he said that they were optional for the Officers and that the inmate needed to disperse.

Answer

We can look into this issue. Masks are mandatory even in the recovered units. I will add this to the list for the QA team to check into.

Question

How many vaccines has AHCC received?

Answer

Some staff have received their first round of the vaccine. We will continue follow guidelines given to us by HQ.

Question

How is AHCC prioritizing those who will receive the coronavirus vaccine?

Answer

Staff vaccinations are prioritized with the first group being those who are in direct contact with the incarcerated population. There is also information on the DOC website under COVID-19 FAQ's.

Question

Are there work opportunities for the incarcerated population who have tested negative for the coronavirus and are in quarantine status?

Answer

Not if they are on quarantine. They are still going through the protocols outlined by medical. Once you get to the recovered status you may be allowed to work in other areas.

Question

Are incarcerated at AHCC still receiving the \$30 stipend?

Answer

They should be receiving the first \$30 stipend this month for those who were unable to work in December. Additionally, those who did work and got paid less than \$30 will receive the difference to bring them up to the \$30.

Question

Will the facility be doing a flyer, memorial, or anything for the incarcerated gentlemen that have passed away due to Covid-19, like they have done in the past for all the incarcerated gentlemen that have passed away? If not, why?

Answer

In the past we have facilitated memorial services in the chapel. Based on restricted movement and the current pandemic protocols we cannot allow a gathering.

Question

Did either of the I/I deaths come from K unit?

Answer

I am not sure what unit they came from. We can look into this and report out on this next week.

- **Update: Neither I/I death came from K unit.**

Question

In quite a few of our calls, people will ask a question, (usually a pre-submitted one), and the response is that 'it was answered last week'. Is there a way we could get the notes in time for when we have to have questions in by?

Answer

We'll do our best. We have a lot going on and staff have many duties. I am always willing to continue to answer the question again.

Question

When will units be able to do Late Night sign ups again? Many families relied on this.

Answer

M unit had late night as they were an incentive unit, all of the incentive programs are not currently happening.

Additional Questions

Question

Are both sides of N unit COVID positive? My son is in K unit, where would they send him? What are they doing with the N unit original inmates?

Answer

N unit is used for isolation and quarantine. The status of your son determines where he goes.

Question

Normal lockdown was at 9:20 pm. Late night was allowing I/I to sign up for dayroom access from 9:30-10:00pm to use the phone, JPay kiosk, etc.

Answer

I am not familiar with a sign-up process. I am familiar with one side of M unit. On the weekend nights they could stay out later. Based on the restricted movement, they have specific times I/I are allowed out in all units.

Question

You had talked about the movement times being opened up, but I hear from my husband less now. And if they are all positive they should be allowed out more. Can you explain this?

Answer

We have some proposals we are working on to have more access for C5, but these have not been approved yet. I will look into those and check with ICP.

- **Update from ICP: Currently both areas have dayroom, telephone and outside access. We are also currently assessing the status of Unit C-4 and hope to have some new standards for operation based on their anticipated status change to “recovered”. C-5 is still an isolation unit and we will have to make a determination on how best to allow access for both units to outside recreation activities. Once C-4 has moved to a “recovered” status, they will be allowed to have the same level of access to dayrooms, telephones and J-Pay that Unit C-5 currently has.**

Question

I am not sure why C4 is still on restrictive movement when it has been over 30 days. The same amount of CO's are in the camp, as previous to when COVID hit. If there are the same amount of CO'S working now as before, and everyone in camp is positive, why are they still on restricted movement?

Answer

Not everyone in camp is positive. C4 has a cohort schedule as they are not all positive. There is the same number of CO's as there always has been. I will check into this as I will for C5.

Question

Who is still on quarantine in C4?

Answer

We still have 1 tier on quarantine, C4 F tier. There is a cohort schedule set up for both C4 and C5. They should all have time out to be able to get fresh air and make phone calls.

Question

It sounds like living conditions in the gym are still fairly uncomfortable. Do you know what the thermostat temp is?

Answer

I'm not sure what the temperature is, but it's regulated in the building. We are working on proposals to get those individuals back into a unit. The Associate Superintendent did a walkabout through the gym and said many I/I were thanking him. They were able to receive additional property. We are doing everything we can to make it as comfortable as possible.

Question

Would you be willing to add a 9:30 and 10:00 spot for us to have more opportunities to speak to our loved ones?

Answer

Let me look into this and do some follow-up.

- **Update from ICP: At this point in time due to how fluid our current COVID-19 outbreak response has been, it is difficult at this point in time to commit to time changes related to J-Pay access due to the fact that it could change very quickly with our current situation. Once our response has slowed down and we have some incident stabilization, we should be able to look at this proposal again and evaluate the need to open these times back up again.**

Question

A family member sent a message saying “T unit staff and CUS Garberg are not wearing masks, and I/I are getting in trouble for grieving it”.

Answer

They have every right to grieve that, and I will look into this.

Question

Will they be doing mapping for K unit to find the origin of how COVID got into K unit? They are being moved today because their tests came back inconclusive.

Answer

We did move those inconclusive individuals to isolation today. As far as the positives and negatives we do have to separate them as we have been doing for the entire facility.

Question

Are they taking into account the underlying conditions of those individuals in K unit?

Answer

K unit is no longer a protected unit based on the criteria from a couple months ago. We are following the clinical criteria of any other unit.

Question

What happens with the proposals you send out, where do they go? I am concerned with how many times I/I can use the phone and have to choose whether to use the phone or go to yard. This is very difficult with mental health.

Answer

We send these to HQ clinical for approval. They send back with approval or not and we implement them. I understand mental health is a big deal. Mental health is available to each I/I. We have to stick with the clinical criteria and health of the overall population. I appreciate the concern, however, we are on restricted movement.

Question

Can there be a way to increase the fruit that comes out with the meals?

Answer

The meals are served based on a monthly schedule. I can't speak to this right now, I know they have fruit served but I am not sure the frequency of that.

- **Update from kitchen: There is one serving of fruit in each meal. Therefore 3 servings of fruit each day.**

Question

Once a person has tested positive for COVID and recovered, are they going to be offered the vaccine?

Answer

We talked a bit about this last week. The population will be given vaccines based on medical acuity. This process has been not given out yet. An I/I has the option to receive it or refuse it, if offered. Information will come out regarding this process when the vaccine becomes available to the population.

Question

Who would be contacted regarding issues with K unit? We went this entire time with it being a protected unit, then all of a sudden they are not. I don't understand the reasoning behind it. Why not keep K unit closed until COVID is over?

Answer

K unit has been opened up for about 2.5 months. If you go back in the history of the COVID calls and this emergency, we talked about the fact that I/I in K unit have the same medical acuity rate for some I/I in all units. This is why they were stepped down to have the same protocols as the other units.

Question

When you talk about the proposals for the camp, do you have an estimated time for when these will be approved?

Answer

I will check on these this afternoon and tomorrow morning to see where they are at.

- **Please see update on page 6.**

Question

Is there a possibility of purchasing any ultraviolet lights that sanitize?

Answer

Based on my knowledge, that is not a part of the medical protocols or being approved by medical.

Question

There was picture taken outside of a window that looks like the gym on the OCO report and it doesn't look like there is any social distancing? Why are they not social distancing?

Answer

These are asymptomatic individuals. They do not have to have the 6 foot social distancing as they have been COVID positive and are considered recovered.

Question

With a kite or grievance is there a box they can put those in or do they have to hand it with someone?

Answer

There is box or container for both kites and grievance resolutions.

Comments/Closing

Thanks for your questions. Please get those submitted by 12 next Tuesday. We have some things to follow up for next week. Wear your mask, social distance and be safe.