

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 1/27/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, Family Secretary
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Bryenna Johnson, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Stephanie Colunga, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Doug and Valerie Smith, LFC Members

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.rob@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

- Numbers as of 1PM per the website:
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 254
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1662
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 207
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 2
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 11
- We did walkabouts in the MSU the tone is good. They are getting yard time, dayroom use based on the schedule, phone calls, and are excited to get outside. The tone in the MAIN is good. The units that are cleared are happy to have grab and go back. MAIN has a yard schedule for those units that are cleared: L, M, RB, T, and Gym north. I have observed about 50-70 I/I in the yard a time.
- Staff are happy to have higher staffing levels back based on the testing process.
- There were 27 grievances in the MAIN. These were regarding test results, not able to go to work, not able to go SOTP, masks issues with staff, not being able to wear a cloth mask vs surgical mask, missing

property from a move. The MSU had 5 grievances regarding: not getting back to original cell on the same tier, pay from CI when DNR assisted in the MAIN.

- We are hoping to get more information from HQ by the end of the week in regards to the stimulus cards. HQ is working on this. Jess will get this information to you once we receive it.
- We started tier reps meetings and received good feedback. We will continue to do those meetings in each unit.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Many of the incarcerated have stated that they have not received their unemployment funds yet. Do you have an update on when this will happen?

Answer

DOC approved a \$30 stipend for all incarcerated workers who were previously employed but unable to work during the COVID-19 outbreak in December. We've talked to supervisors and sent information to the population. We are working on this through jobs and inmate banking. Supervisors have to go through their lists and send them to inmate banking.

Question

Now that Washington State has moved to Phase 1b for Covid-19 shots and everyone over 65 is eligible to get vaccinated, how are the I/I going to be prioritized for getting the vaccine?

Answer

Our health service manager will be submitting an I/I vaccination plan. It will be referred to HQ Health Services prioritization of the patient population, per prior HQ communications. If that has changed, our fallback will be to an age-based prioritization per our Facility Medical Director. The lists will be based on this list of acuity rate.

Additional Questions

Question

I didn't understand the memo in regards to the stimulus money. Is there a change in deductions?

Answer

We sent information out today which you will receive this afternoon from HQ. They will need to fill out the forms like the first time. That question about deductions has been sent forward. This information will go out in the future.

Question

Some I/I are getting conflicting information on getting back to their original housing assignments. Is there more of an update on when more I/I will going back to their original assignments?

Answer

This is an ongoing process. We are moving I/I back, but we are still coming up with some positives. We are moving some individuals on quarantine status. Moves are based on availability in their original units and whether they are isolation or quarantine.

Question

Are you testing I/I before they move, or just doing a 14-day quarantine?

Answer

We are testing K unit and those on isolation and quarantine before they are cleared.

Question

How many I/I have tested negative?

Answer

I don't have this information. We are tracking positive cases.

Question

My loved one tested positive, went to the gym and then was moved. I am concerned that he was not tested negative before he moved.

Answer

All of the individuals in the gym were considered non-active. Once they reach this criteria they are considered recovered and eligible to move.

Question

There has been concerns in some units regarding consistency. It is getting confusing as things change rapidly. The dayroom schedule changed in L unit over the weekend three times. Mail is chaotic. The I/I are getting in trouble for not following processes, but it changes constantly.

Answer

With the large amount of information going to I/I and staff there may be times when things get confusing. There have been no changes as far as the upper and lower tiers being allowed out in the dayroom. Since Wednesday, as far as quality control goes, there was an issue in L unit that has since been corrected. My expectation of new staff is that they read the protocols, but I cannot guarantee this happens every time. We are doing our best to address each issue in the unit.

Question

My husband was in K unit and moved to RCF. I am trying to get his glasses. I have contacted the unit counselor and property to get them with no result. Who else should I contact for this?

Answer

We will look into getting your husband his glasses.

Question

When they are alternating individuals in N unit vs. tier for dayroom time, is it correct that the call button does not work? What happens if there is an emergency and that is disabled?

Answer

That call button should always work. We have a booth officer that monitors this. I will check with the unit to make sure these are working on both sides.

- **Update: The call buttons will set off a beacon in the booth when activated by someone in a cell that is locked down. The officer will then call into the cell. It doesn't allow them to push the button and speak to the officer. It will set off the light and the officer then activates the speaker to address the concern.**

Question

Regarding the HIPAA form, the facility calls them an ROI form. They weren't in the gym. How do I get one?

Answer

It's my understanding it's supposed to be in all areas. He can request one from medical. I will make sure these are in all areas.

- **Update: Additional forms have been placed on each side of the gym.**

Question

Is these ombudsman number in that area as well?

Answer

I know it was at one time, but I will check again.

- **Update: Additional OCO posters have been placed on each side of the gym.**

Question

A family member's loved one was moved out of LB, moved to M or N, then when everyone went back to their original housing units, he went to a four-man in LA. He's trying to move back to LB. His spot is open and available. Is he supposed to put in a move request or how does that work?

Answer

There currently are no four person cells in the MAIN. We are only placing two to a cell. This individual case I cannot specifically respond to. I would encourage the wife to write us and we will try to find an answer for her. Move slips are not being used right now. All moves are based on a medical decision. I will check into the four-man cell.

- **Update: For isolation/quarantine purposes we will only house 1-2 I/I in a cell together. Those individuals who are non-active COVID recovered that have been cleared can be housed in a 4 man cell for capacity management reasons.**

Question

Is there anything the loved ones on the outside could do for the units as moral support?

Answer

I would say continue to encourage your loved ones that we are moving forward. It will never be as fast as we want, but we are going through the protocols and making progress. Continue to push forward and push through. I appreciate the offer, but I could not have something be done just for one side of the unit. We have done the activity packets and goodie bags for the entire population.

Question

Have any stimulus cards been sent back to the IRS to request they be sent in check form?

Answer

Not to my knowledge. HQ is working on getting something out to the population on the direction of this.

Question

Have you heard anything about transfers to Work Release (WR)?

Answer

We have information coming out regarding that. I think some local work release sites have been having issues with COVID. We should hear something on this in the near future.

Question

I have been hearing a lot about the variants of COVID. The CDC is requesting individuals wear double masks. Will you be handing those out?

Answer

I heard about this on TV, but I have not heard anything from HQ or our clinicians to implement this.

Question

Last week NB was cleared. Has that changed this week?

Answer

Nora unit on both sides are back to isolation and quarantine.

Question

My husband is on LA. He said the grievances have not been checked.

Answer

I get grievance numbers from the MAIN and MSU every other day. I am receiving them.

Question

Are you aware of the legislation bills that are being presented for early release?

Answer

I am aware there are some, but I have not read through them.

Question

Do you have special COVID meetings that you do with the administration? Have they discussed the natural immunities only lasting 3-5 months and what could come in the next 6 months considering we had a widespread outbreak to do something different?

Answer

We have meetings throughout the week to report numbers and discuss processes and protocols. You can check the protocols on the website. They have been updated to version 24.

Question

I see a large uptick in outside emergency response calls to the facility. I'm not sure if this is due to people being sick or COVID. I know AHCC is a medical facility. Will AHCC consider starting a protected unit?

Answer

I cannot predict the future after COVID. We have a high number of medical acuity in the institution not just in K unit. Some calls are COVID and some are not. It's a combination of both factors.

Question

I know there was a memo about visitation that went out. I know they weren't going to visit it again until March 16th. Are you still meeting with the visit committee until then?

Answer

That's the safe start committee out of HQ. I am not a part of that committee, but I know they are actively working on visiting.

Comments/Closing

Thank you for your time and questions. Please get questions in by Tuesday at 12. We are making progress, everyone wishes it was faster, but we are still moving along. Masks and social distancing are getting better. We had a few areas we had to correct with our QA; these are showing good progress. MSU is happy to be out and we are happy to get them out. Have a good week, stay healthy, and we will speak with you next Wednesday.