

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 2/17/2021, 2:00 PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Facility 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
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Anita Barker, Co-Chair
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Juanita Rodriguez, LFC Member
- Mildred Hawthorne, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, 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 Key

- Numbers as of 1 PM per the website:
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 51
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1671
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 209
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 5
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 2
- We had one COVID related grievance in the MAIN regarding wearing a surgical mask for religious issues. MSU had 0 COVID related grievances.
- Friday Feb 19th the JPay tech will be on site to work on C5, K Unit, and RA.

- The only non-cleared unit is Nora A side (NA). They are still on quarantine. We are waiting back for test results and hoping to clear NA in the next week. If cleared, we would like to bring this to HQ and get the MAIN off restricted movement. We are still on cohort schedules for dayroom use, yard, etc.
- MSU is on unrestricted status. We have been able, while continuing a cohort schedule, to initiate Chemical Dependency (CD) outpatient and education classes. We are in the process of getting some classrooms back in shape. Many had storage in them from movements. We are looking for space to begin Thinking for a Change (T4C).
- Based on walkabouts last week, we had a lot of questions on when we will be removed from restricted movement and when programming can begin. We are seeing much better compliance with wearing masks. MSU is on cohort schedules. Our staffing levels are continuing to go up. The tone with the I/I was better and hopeful. Staff is the same. We are not out of outbreak status yet, but we are hopeful and waiting on the tests for NA to send a proposal to HQ to be taken off restricted movement.

Update from Associate Superintendent Heinrich

- We are working on planning for beginning programming in the MAIN once the restricted status has been lifted. We did start CD assessments in the MAIN. Staff go out to each cleared unit and are doing assessments and one-on-ones.

Additional Questions

Question

Yard started and has been cancelled quite a bit. What were the reasons for the cancellations?

Answer

The last few weeks we have had temperatures in the teens. The safety officer closes the yard based on those temperatures.

Question

Is there additional yard times that could be scheduled to make up for those cancellations?

Answer

There is not a make-up yard time. We go back to a regular schedule once the temperatures go up higher. We are not allowing I/I to walk in the dayroom as they were not able to maintain the six-foot distancing. This morning we had some medical emergencies and inclement weather due to fog.

Question

Why is Mary unit not an honor pod anymore?

Answer

There has been no decision on this yet. We are discussing incentive based programs for every unit in the institution. This would give us more bang for a buck as far as helping more I/I. We still do not have everyone back to the unit where they came from.

Comment

There a few guys in K unit who are happy to be back to work and that video visiting spots have been returned. The outside workers were happy it was shut down because of the cold. Speaking to the mailroom staff was awesome and they helped resolve many mailroom questions.

Answer

Appreciate your comments.

Question

Were you able to have a chance to read the Ombudsman report?

Answer

I read the monthly report and if there are any issues they are run through HQ.

Question

Why aren't the I/I allowed to work out in the dayroom for their 45 min out? It's been a full year and we are over it. We feel like yard time hasn't been happening as much as we want. It always seem like something keeps coming up.

Answer

Most units don't have a workout area. As previously stated, we stopped the walking due to individuals not social distancing. This was not stopped until we opened the yard. We do have a regular yard schedule, and the regular unit rules say that there is no exercising in the dayroom. There may have been some yard times cancelled, but these haven't been happening regularly. Sometimes there are medical issues and circumstances where things get shut down. I understand the frustration, but I think we have come a long way with restricted movement and yard time.

Question

Have any of the I/I at AHCC received the vaccine?

Answer

The medical/ clinical group at HQ is still working on this. We are waiting for the process and procedure to come back to us from HQ.

Question

Thank you for the workout sheets. My husband enjoys those. They are helping.

Answer

Thank you for your comment.

Question

When it comes to the COVID vaccination, what will happen if the officers don't want to take that shot?

Answer

Whether you are incarcerated or staff, like medical procedures, you have the choice to receive it or not.

Question

An I/I had an HSR that allowed their job be put on hold based on being high risk during COVID. Then they tested positive for COVID. Do they lose their Health Status Report (HSR) or does that stop when they tested positive for COVID?

Answer

I am not aware of the individual and the effect with COVID. HSRs all have time periods listed on them. So I believe that would be a medical staff decision during that period of time.

Question

Do you ever have meetings with the legislators of the district for Airway Heights?

Answer

They come out for tours on occasion. They usually do inquires to HQ and those are directed to the institution from HQ.

Question

There has been some concern with hot water heaters in R unit and L Unit. They don't have much hot water.

Answer

We'll check that out and speak with our plant manager.

- **Update: One of the two hot water tanks in L unit was offline line for about a day this week for repair. Maintenance has been notified about R unit.**

Question

Were you able to see if you are able to place those legislative books in the units?

Answer

We checked with CRCC and they had no knowledge of those books.

- LFC Member: Why did you have to ask CRCC?
- Supt Key: Last week you stated that CRCC had a binder for legislative information. This has to be a process that all institutions contribute to.

Comments/Closing

We're waiting for tests for the MAIN to come back negative so we can continue to move forward with programming and get back to a new normal. The cohorting schedule is working well in the MSU and some programming has started back up. Please get questions in to Ms. Robb by Tuesday at noon. Have a great rest of the afternoon, be safe, we will talk to you next Wednesday.