

CRCC COVID-19 TELECONFERENCE NOTES
WITH LOCAL FAMILY COUNCIL
May 1, 2020 @ 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Facilitator: Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent

Attendance:

Local Family Council Members:

Elizabeth Deleon, LFC Family Co-Chair

Stephanie Beidman, LFC Family Secretary

DOC Staff:

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Ron Thompson, Captain

Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager

Bill Copland, Family Services

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Paige Perkinson, Corrections
Specialist | Engagement &
Outreach

OMBUDS

Joanna Carnes, Director Ombuds

Stella Spraklin, Early Resolution Officer (OCO)

Caitlin Robertson, Assistant Ombuds

Purpose: To ensure that families are provided with information related to the COVID – 19 outbreak and how CRCC is managing this within the facility to ensure for the health and safety of all. These calls are not Local Family Council meetings and are not intended to replace those.

As a reminder, all answers/discussions are based off the information that we know it to be today. The agency continues to work on strategies to manage the epidemic within the prisons and as such things are constantly evolving.

Ground Rules:

Meeting time will be one (1) hour.

We will answer all the questions first and open up for questions/comments afterwards.

If any questions are left unanswered at the end of the meeting, we will add them to the next meeting.

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Please ensure your phones are on mute.

Please provide your name before asking a question or responding to assist.

Testing Results:

Total Number of Individuals Tested: 13

Positive: 0

Negative: 12

Waiting Results: 1

Quarantined: 12

Isolation: 9

Staff Positive: 7 – 3 at CRCC and 4 new staff at training at the Millcreek Training Center in Walla Walla. These 4 staff had not started working at CRCC and had not been onsite.

Pre-exposed questions given to Associate Superintendent Michelle Duncan on Thursday 04/30/20 by Stephanie Beidman:

1. Is there an ombud on the call and if so, who are they please?

The Ombuds has already announced themselves. Please see the top of the notes.

2. Is there a person from HQ on the call and if so, who are they please?

DOC staff has already announced themselves. Please see the top of the notes.

3. How many staff have been tested and what are the results, please?

We do not have any information on how many staff has been tested. A total of seven (7) positive staff assigned to CRCC. It has been reported to us that 3 staff members have tested positive and the appropriate mapping process has taken place. CRCC

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also had 4 new staff members that were at the Mill Creek Training Center in Walla Walla that tested positive. However, these staff members had NOT been working on site at CRCC. Please refer to the WA DOC COVID 19 webpage as those numbers are reported there.

4. How many inmates have been tested and what are the results, please?

Thirteen (13) individuals have been tested, twelve (12) are negative and one (1) is pending.

5. How many tests have been purchased for CRCC? This information is being provided in other facilities. Please provide that as asked for on the last call. Thank you.

As explained on the last call, we needed to look into it as we did not have any information on that so I really appreciate your patience. We have kits that come to us from the Headquarters Logistics Units. We do not purchase them. As we need them we request them through HQ.

6. Please provide the information of what position any positive tested staff has held. Frontline? Admin? This info is being provided on the web site so why do you refuse to tell us? **AND**
7. Superintendent stated on 4/24/2020 call that he couldn't provide information about positive staff tests because of medical privacy. Yet other states are breaking down cases by whether they are frontline guard staff or administrative staff. This is vitally important for families to be able to understand the level of risk to our loved ones. Please tell us whether the 3 positive cases were frontline guard staff or administrative staff and continue to identify them as such in the future. Example:



As discussed previously, we will not be disclosing this information as this is against their personal information protection. We are providing the number of cases on the WA DOC COVID-19 information website. If this information is posted publically for

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your reference, I would refer you there for that information. At this time, from what I can gather, DOC is not sharing this information in any public manner, is it is not our right to do so.

8. Notes from the CRCC call from the 17th and 24th are not posted-Please put them on the omsbud web site.

We do not post COVID 19 meeting notes on the OMBUDS website. Our meeting notes are posted on the WA DOC webpage for CRCC. Due to staffing concerns this week, the notes from the April 24th call has not yet been completed. As soon as we are able we will have them completed and posted. If the notes are posted on the Ombuds website, it is the Ombuds posting that information.

9. When will the next set of men be released, how many will there be, and from what category, please? **AND**
10. What is holding up the GRE program early releases? The governor ordered them on March 15th within 7 days or "as soon as possible", and there are 80+ Coyote Ridge guys on that list that should already be home. Are counselors and other admin staff working mandatory overtime to get their release plans in place during this national emergency?

This was discussed on the last call. Our staff are working on the list of individuals that was provided by headquarters for the rapid reentry release. We have no information on the timeline of when that will happen.

Commutations were ordered for the 7 day period and all incarcerated individuals that CRCC had that was eligible for commutation has been released to the community, 55 in total. The Rapid Reentry process takes longer due to the electronic home monitoring systems being available and staffing for supervision. Coyote Ridge is expecting that a group will be transitioning this week, though circumstances are subject to change. Several names have been submitted to HQ for transportation to finalize. We have a team of amazing staff that are working diligently on this process.

11. It says the first day to order the summer package is May 6th but according to the kiosk message that was sent out, it is today. Please clarify.

The first day to order the summer package is May 6th. The kiosk message that was sent out on 4/23/2020 was concerning errors and changes to the summer package indicated that the mail in order dates are April 29th to June 4th. However the first day

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to order is May 6th. There was a kiosk message, but it was in regards to submitting a mail-in order.

12. Any word on visits resuming?

We have no information on resuming visitation at this time. This will come from Headquarters when it is time to resume them. For now, visitation is still suspended.

13. On a previous call you stated men in iso will receive time out for showers and phone calls, then in another call we found that they are only allowed to shower once every 7 days. Has there been progress on getting tablets to the men in iso who do not already have them? And are they getting the calls made for them that you stated in the last call would be made?

The direction from headquarters regarding time out of the cell for isolated individuals had changed at the recommendation of medical personnel to every seven (7) days. This was discussed last week on the call. If the individual has a Jpay tablet they are allowed to have it in isolation. We are not issuing them to those that do not have a tablet. All isolation cells have been given televisions for their use.

Regarding phone calls, once every 7 days, staff make contact with those that are on isolation, get the name, number and message for the person they want called. Staff call with the message and relay back any message to the individual. We are still waiting for a portable phone that is able to be sanitized, once that is in place, we will begin allowing them to place calls themselves once per week.

14. As a follow up to last week's call about the internet service at CRCC where it was stated that "we are not an internet service and we don't provide the service" (or something like that), but CRCC does in fact pay for and supply the internet for the JPay product to run off from along with all other things that are provided for by internet service at CRCC. So, we want to know why you cannot up the speed or bandwidth in order to better support the JPay video visits that we so need in this time!

Coyote Ridge pays for the service like you would pay for service at home, we do not supply it. CRCC does not control the bandwidth that the service provider is capable of supplying to us. We continue to report to Jpay concerns regarding this service. They are continuing to work on their end diligently to alleviate these concerns. The

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department is collaborating on ideas at the headquarters level to allow for additional bandwidth but there haven't been any final plans implemented.

15. Why would inmates pay \$.50 every month for internet if CRCC does not provide the internet service and how would CRCC internet be being paid out of the betterment fund if you don't pay for and are not providing the service?

Incarcerated individuals pay \$.50 cents every month for television service not internet.

16. We have heard that our men are being served half portions to save contact from inmates, to food, to inmates. How can you feed them less when they need their caloric intake to stay strong? What is the current caloric count of the meals being served? I want to know my man is safe and being fed!

This is simply not accurate. In response to the pandemic, we are serving one (1) cold lunch sack with fresh fruit and half cup of fresh vegetables six days a week on the 7th day we serve a hot lunch. With the exception of the cold lunches there have been no changes made to the menu. Prior to the pandemic the average calorie count for lunch was 841 kcal. The cold lunches we are serving now have an average calorie count of 1022kcal.

17. In the kitchen my man wears gloves, hair net and beard net, these weird jumpsuit things, and no mask, they aren't providing them with a mask. Why if it is mandatory to wear masks, are they not provided masks?

This is not accurate.....The CI Kitchen workers were the first ones to be provided face coverings. They are required to be worn anytime they are out of their cells to include while at work.

18. DOC Communications staff Jeremy Barclay has stated on an Ombuds conference call that DOC procedures on COVID prevention measures with prisoners is to provide "gentle correction" and "lead by example" rather than being punitive. Yet last week in Unit C, an entire pod was collectively punished and told to cell back in an hour early as punishment for one person not wearing his face mask. Now they are being threatened with segregation and infractions for not wearing a mask. These tactics are especially offensive after such a long time of guards flaunting not wearing

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PPE themselves and putting prisoners at risk. Please describe the policy and procedures you have directed your staff to follow regarding prisoner non-compliance with COVID protections, and if punitive measures are not included, describe what you will do to correct these guards?

Face coverings are required for all staff and incarcerated individual as discussed on prior conference calls. If a staff member is not wearing their face coverings they are addressed. We have worked towards encouraging all individuals to wear the required face coverings and this has been a gradual implementation. It is expected that all incarcerated individual have a face covering on prior to leaving their cells.

Regarding punitive measures, we always attempt to handle situations at the lowest level. There is no yes or no answer. It would depend on the situation. If they are defiant, they may not be allowed out of their cell. If they are swearing or using foul language, they may be infraacted. I cannot comment on anything specific regarding C Unit. If you have concerns regarding specific situations please send a private email and we will look into it.

19. On April 10 call, when asked why prisoners in medium couldn't also be spread out to sleep in more socially distanced conditions like those in minimum, CRCC answered that they could not be kept in conditions less than their classification level. However, you now have many prisoners in medium who have been classified as minimum for weeks and weeks and are still there because transfers to camps have ceased. Please tell us why you are not using all available space (visitation room in medium, for example) to spread out prisoners that are being subjected to conditions higher than the custody level they have earned, as well as provide adequate social distancing.

At this time there are no plans to move individuals at the main institution like we have moved them at the minimum facility. Please refer to prior notes on why those individuals were moved at the camp. Those that promote to lower levels of custody will be transferred with space becomes available and transfers resume at the camps.

Information from LFC Co-Chair and LFC Secretary:

Co-Chair: When can we have an actual LFC Meeting?

Michelle: We will check into the possibility of having an actual LFC Meeting.

Yes, because I think we could take care of some other issues that are important too.

Michelle: Yes, I agree and we will look into it.

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Stephanie: There was an issue that seems to be resolved. Many families were upset with not being able to get on the call. I haven't heard anything about any issues as of today. So, we will just leave that there.

Michelle: We have explained why there was change in number and was not in an attempt to keep people off the call. If there are any future changes by us, we will ensure that there is adequate time. As a reminder these calls are intended for information concerning COVID-19 with the LFC members. Each member got an immediate update in email with access code to at that time. If you did not get it then it is likely I do not have your information. Please reach out to use if you would like to be added to that list.

Statewide Family Council Report:

The minutes for the call on 4/24/2020 have been submitted with the questions for this call. Highlights include:

- No transfers to MCC or SCCC, yes from Max to Max, statute states we have to take inmates from county.
- Likely still no transfers to MCC or SCCC happening after April 27, 2020 which is the date of reevaluation for such.
- Some inmates do qualify for the stimulus check. The information about that and what deductions would come out of it if distributed are in the SFC Minutes provided.
- Kiosk message was sent to incarcerated individuals about how to put in for an ROI (Release of Information).
- JPay issues were discussed. DOC has no authority. Must notify JPay directly.
- Conversation was had about making sure only LFC members are on these calls and that they don't put the number for the calls on Facebook or other public forums. The information that Michelle talked about last week was a directive to follow that came from DOC and an email was sent to the SFC from Geneva Cotton, Deputy Director. Statewide Family Council was asked to distribute the info so I am doing so now. If you would like more information concerning this please let me know. LFC members may be identified in the future with an info sheet completed to be sure that particular person is on an incarcerated individuals visit list.

Kate: I have info sheets and will send them to anyone who would like one.

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Michelle: If you are not on our LFC members list and would like to be added to that list please send me or Kate an email.

- DOC discussed at length, asked SFC to vote on signing, then when not enough members would, asked SFC to ask LFC members to sign, and then when that was decided against, it was decided that a superintendent of some facility (I am unaware of which one) would be signing a letter of request for an LFC member to basically cease and desist with disruptive behavior on calls. We were asked to encourage our members to be respectful on these calls so that we can get as much done as possible. I am not sure it that was our facility, so if there are issues with that, I can try to help with that. I know we sometime have upset families on the call, but not sure if this was in reference to us.

Jeff: I am unaware of anything like that here.

- A memo was put out by Sinclair that there will be Regional Care Facilities put into place to house positive COVID-19 incarcerated individuals at AHCC and WCC for now. The memo is attached to these notes.

Live Questions:

1. Does everyone in isolation get tested for COVID?
Not everyone that is housed in isolation is tested for COVID. Testing is determined by medical personnel and varies depending on the symptoms of the individual. Certain symptoms would mean that a test is administered, yes. However, again, that decision is made by a medical professional.

2. Our adjacent state, Oregon, is reporting much more useful breakdowns of prisoner infections than Washington. Why can't we be provided with this level of detail so the public and prisoners can see where the danger really is? You are already providing us with this information for CRCC, will you pledge to ask Headquarters to release it statewide?
This would be a Headquarters decision. We can't provide any information on this. However, this may be a good topic to bring up at the next Statewide Family Council meeting.

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3. The Rapid Reentry list is also varying wildly from one day to the next- 26 pages, then 22 then 26, and now down to 20 pages. Can you please ask Headquarters what is going on with people being put on and pulled off the list for release over and over? This is wildly irresponsible to jerk prisoners and their loved ones around about whether or not they are going home with a list that is made available to the public.

If I can, I will put this question on hold till next week and get back to it on the next call. Thank you.

4. In a previous set of notes, you referred to April 27th as being the day after which transfers could be re-opened. Even some of the staff have told prisoners that, and yet this week you again told a counselor that transfers to camp are not open, and that you have no information about when that will happen, that it's all decisions coming from Headquarters. Quite frankly, we don't believe that you don't know a potential date when transfers down in custody for prisoners long overdue for them will finally get what they have earned, or that CRCC has zero control over that happening. Please, enlighten us, because right now you've got a prisoner population that's losing hope over good behavior being meaningless, and getting zero information about anything to look forward to.

I am unsure of where the date April 27th came from, I would need to review the notes; however, transfers are not our decision. Headquarters make the decision of where and when someone will transfer. If you can share with your loved ones, this is about protecting a whole population, we are simply trying to help.

Who are they that make the decision?

Many people are involved in the decision from the department. Department of Corrections Headquarters has a very large Classification Department whose sole purpose is to review classification changes, custody levels, transfers, etc. This is a large and complicated process and we don't really know the specifics in regards to transfer decisions.

5. Is there still someone on the call from the Ombuds office?

Yes, this is Joanna.

Are you guys planning a tour of CRCC?

Our office was designed to receive and respond to complaints. We are unaware of any complaints at CRCC but will continue to monitor for anything. We are having an internal discussion about going back inside.

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6. My husband requested to be tested and was denied. His whole cell was quarantined, so why not the whole unit?
We aim to start at the lowest level. Because they are in close contact with those in their cell, we start there. They won't be tested if they are not experiencing any symptoms. If quarantined, they have been exposed to some illness, not necessarily COVID-19.

7. I have a family member in quarantine from being exposed to a kitchen staff with symptoms.
Quarantine is precautionary in nature. Decisions are made by medical staff and are confidential. We have quarantine measures to help stop the spread of illnesses.

8. Joanna, when can we expect you will visit CRCC and when will we get the Monroe report?
The report is already out and has already been in the news. It is also on our website for public viewing. After this call we will be discussing going back out, what the purpose would be, what to address, etc. I know that as family members we want to do a tour and it would mean a lot to us!

9. What could you say about the rumor that in Monroe there is an underground cell of sorts where individuals placed there are mistreated, not fed well, and there for no reason?
Yes, I have heard that rumor. I know nothing of a dungeon kind of cell. That rumor is from SOU, but I have not witnessed that because I have not gone to that part of the facility when the rumor comes from.

10. I tried to message a loved one who is in isolation but JPay said we cannot message them.
We can look into this if you send us an email.

Thank you for joining us.