

CRCC COVID-19 TELECONFERENCE NOTES
WITH LOCAL FAMILY COUNCIL
May 8, 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

OMBUDS

Joanna Carnes, Director Ombuds

Caitlin Robertson, Assistant Ombuds

Purpose: To ensure that families are provided with information related to the COVID – 19 pandemic and how CRCC is managing this within the facility to ensure for the health and safety of all.

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 COVID19 Pandemic 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.

Please ensure your phones are on mute.

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

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Testing Results: As of Situation Report 5/7/2020

Total Number of Individuals Tested: 14

Positive: 0

Negative: 13

Waiting Results: 1

Quarantined: 10

Isolation: 6

Staff Positive: Seven (7) CRCC staff have tested positive for COVID-19. One (1) staff member has fully recovered and is back to work. Four (4) of the staff members were at training in Walla Walla, WA and were not onsite.

There are not any changes to operations at this time. We are in a holding pattern at this time in terms of operations.

Pre-exposed questions given to Associate Superintendent Michelle Duncan on Thursday May 7th, 2020 by Stephanie Beidman:

1. What is the status of both staff and incarcerated individuals who have been tested, please?

Staff: **Please see above**

Incarcerated individuals: **Please see above**

2. Who is on the call from HQ, please?

No Headquarters staff identified themselves.

3. Who is on the call from Omsbud office, please?

Ombuds personnel have already announced themselves, please see their names and titles posted at the top of these notes.

4. What is the status of the men being released in each category, please?

There are no categories. However, our Rapid Re-Entry team has continued to work on this process. As of May 7, 2020, twenty eight (28) Rapid Re-Entry individuals have been transferred to out to the community. These are partial

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confinement, generally through home monitoring. All of our commutations have been released.

5. Why don't the kiosk machines work for video visits? Everyone is getting the "cannot connect" message. This is beyond frustrating. I have reported this before. My son is in F unit and the kiosk is 005. Could you please check into this?

I am going to assume you are talking about JPay. The kiosks and JPay are two different things. However, since this is regarding video visits, I have answered the question in regards to addressing that issue.

The issue with the F Unit Jpay is the same as the issues with the rest of the Jpays throughout the facility. We have an issue with our internet bandwidth. The internet service that is available in Connell is inadequate to support the JPay infrastructure during peak usage, causing connectivity issues and poor quality conditions. I don't believe that it is just Coyote Ridge that is having these issues. As stated on previous calls, JPay is working to correct this problem. We cannot fix this issue.

6. Follow up: You say it is policy now for all staff to wear face coverings, but in the same response to last week's question about it, you said you are "encouraging" them to wear them-please advise as to which it is, an encouragement to wear them or a directive/policy/mandate/requirement...

It has been directed from Headquarters that persons (staff and incarcerated individual alike) wear face covering while onsite at the facility. When it is identified that they do not have their masks on they are addressed and told to put it on. Our approach to enforcing this that disciplinary action is not our first approach. It is our hope that discussion will help in reinforcing this. We try to impress upon them that it is important to protect themselves and protect others. We are not adhering harsh punishments for non-compliance.

7. How can our LOs kite for mental health if they are not allowed out of their cell only every 7 days for a shower?

Mental and medical health professionals make rounds to every individual located in isolation, as well as doing quarantine checks for those located in quarantine. We have a mental health professional that is an 'open provider' each week.

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They do not see scheduled patients, they are to be available should a mental health emergency arise, as well as making rounds to those unable to visit our mental health department.

Also, any staff member is able to refer an individual to mental health should the staff notice anything concerning.

Individuals may also request to see mental health through the unit staff, or if they would prefer that their condition remain private, they can request a kite for mental health from the unit staff. This information was provided by medical staff.

If you have a concern about your loved one, please inform us and we can follow up with health services.

How often are the rounds?

Rounds for Mental Health are conducted three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Open Questions:

1. How many doctors and nurses do we have one staff?

We have one (1) doctor on staff, we have five (5) nurse practitioners. On Monday and Friday's we have two on staff.

How do their shifts look?

They are on a 4-10 schedule.

2. Last week we had a conversation about transfers. This week there was a transfer from Medium to Camp. Has this policy changed and if so, what is the new policy?

We are not aware of anyone moving from Medium to Camp. I can't provide any information.

Someone from C Unit went to Walla Walla this week.

Walla Walla isn't necessarily a camp and has many custody levels, without specific information I cannot comment on why the transfer took place.

I was told that that is where they were going.

There are many reasons as to why someone might be transferred, including safety and security concerns and to reduce overcrowding and density. CRCC makes the recommendations for transfers but Headquarters makes the final decision. Without specific information I wouldn't be able to comment on that.

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3. The Re-Entry is varying widely from day to day. Do you have any information on what may be driving the changes, and how many guys were added given the month time frame that was added?

I don't have much information on this process, as I don't normally oversee this. These release plans often change and thus causes the list to change for example if there is a detainer that is identified. Releases vary and are case by case. If you have questions regarding your loved one, please reach out and we can look into this.

Would you be able to ask the facility expert for next week's call or to include in the minutes?

The following information was provided by the Correctional Program Manager after the call:

Additional information received from the Correctional Program Manager. The list was screened for original criteria and since that list was created, individuals have been removed for various reasons such as felony warrants and detainers that have come up, the inability to mitigate victim concerns, and the incarcerated individual's own negative behavior. For additions, some individuals have been removed due to detainers and then put back on once they were able to resolve these concerns. The list is managed on a day to day basis due to each incarcerated individual's situation.

We received a new list when they extended the 30 days and CRCC had 17 individuals on it.

Is there a particular person at Headquarters that can address this?

Not that I am aware of. It comes out of the Classification Unit.

4. Do we have a target date to have our rapid reentry guys released?
Not that I am aware of. I will speak with our CPM regarding this.

5. Does JPay resolve issues with the local internet?

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Neither Coyote Ridge nor DOC provides internet service. We believe that they partner with a local/other provider. The product is obviously not delivering everything that they advertise to deliver. Their services require a certain amount of bandwidth and we don't have the correct amount of bandwidth. The expectation is that JPay correct the issues. The system doesn't seem to be able to handle these things. We currently have a tech onsite working on this. This is not an issue we can correct.

6. Do you believe that this is an epidemic at this facility? With such low numbers?

At this moment we don't have a case. We are doing everything we can do to avoid the virus getting into our facility. We are working on keeping everyone safe here, and knock on wood, it seems to be working.

(Stephanie): I was on the Ombuds call yesterday and someone had mentioned that one of the facilities had tested positive and they weren't aware until that person needed medical attention. There is a belief that it is more prevalent at CRCC than what is being said.

Joanna: The individual was released from WSP and was asymptomatic. The CDC and the DOH are only calling for symptomatic people to be tested. The Department is following that guideline. The decision on who to test is determined at the Headquarters level, it is not made at the facility level.

7. Is there plans to go back to a normal recreation and mainline schedule?

There is no conversation I have heard that implies we will be going back to a regular schedule in the near future. We are still wearing masks and following social distancing procedures as directed.

Thank you for joining us.