

Local Family Council COVID -19 Teleconference

Larch Corrections Center (LCC)

March 26, 2020

Time: 1400 -1428

Facilitator: James C. Miller Jr. (Superintendent of LCC)

Assistant Facilitator: Jason Richer (Corrections Unit Supervisor for Elkhorn Unit (EHU))

Attendance:

Caroline Melhuish--Family Services

LaQuesha 'Q' Turner – OCO

Matthias Gyde –OCO

Nancy Simmons

Jason Richer—Corrections Unit Supervisor (EHU)

Lisa Zimmerman

Molly Hunter

Stephanie Sanderson

Purpose: To address the concerns/questions related to the COVID-19.

Sanitation: At LCC our goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible during this pandemic. Sanitation measures includes us using germicides (which has been approved by the health department) to combat the COVID-19. We are also utilizing different approved chemicals such as Clorox. With the Clorox we are wiping down doors and different areas. We have hired more porters for the Administration Building and all of the units who are constantly cleaning. We have signs that have been placed all over the prison that are reminding people to wash their hands, cover their coughs and gives information concerning the symptoms of COVID 19. We have quarantine some of the residents not because someone has tested positive, but because we are taking all measures to make sure that all residents are safe.

Testing: Just wanted to emphasize that in the State of Washington, no residents has tested positive with COVID 19 and if someone is quarantined it is just for precautionary measures.

Social Distancing: We are encouraging and reminding all residents to maintain a distance of 6 feet. After this meeting CUS Richer, myself along with some of the other staff will speak to the residents on each tier and reemphasize the importance of social distancing. We are seeing that some of the residents are not adhering to maintain the 6 feet apart direction, so we will remind them of the necessity to do so.

Questions:

1. **Lisa Zimmerman** -- Is there hand sanitizer available for the residents?
 - a. **CUS Richer** is the unit supervisor for Elkhorn. We are going off of the CVC guidelines, which says that soap and water is better than hand sanitizer.
 - i. **Sup. Miller** -- Hand sanitizer is not something that we will distribute to the residents due to it having 60 %alcohol. However, each resident will be given 2 bars of soap. We are just waiting for the soap to arrive at LCC.
2. **Stephanie Sanderson** -- You mentioned 2 bars of soap, do you have the estimated time of arrival for that?
 - a. They will be putting out, but because of where we are located we hoping by tomorrow or early next week.
3. **Stephanie Sanderson** -- I have a loved one that is on the DNR crew and I understand that DOC does their screening. You all do a great job at screening each person that comes in and out. Because DNR is a subsidiary contract, who makes sure that they do a good job of screening their people because they work with their supervisor who can go to headquarters and then go out again and then come back? I just want to make sure that our guys are not getting exposed by third party contracted parties that's coming in and out

and then exposing the other guys in the units. Otherwise, social distancing and the screening Correctional officers (COs) is meaningless, if you are not making sure that DNR is not doing their job and screening their people.

- a. **Sup. Miller** – Before you can enter into LCC, everyone gets screened and checked in (which includes all DNR employees).
 - b. With the DNR, they are going up in the woods, where they are not in contact with anyone else but the DNR people.
 - c. I understand that you are saying that they are going home, but so are our officers. There is no way for us to prevent all of the contact, but when they are working, they are in the woods and away from everyone else.
 - d. We have things in place that if DNR were asked to go to a fire, we have already put things in place so that our people would be kept away from the regular public.
4. **Matthias** – There is a concern that was brought up yesterday-the concern is that there is a relatively new CO that is letting 36 guys at time out to make calls. This would leave 32 people gathering for the phones. There was a concern about social distancing with that.
- a. **Sup. Miller** – I have CUS Richer with me here and I have been over in the units every day since this started. Each phone group has 3 phones and (there is a group of about 4 sets of phone). We have shut the middle phone down. We are letting one Tier out at a time. Some of the Tiers get to go outside and play. We don't allow people standing by in the hallways. Somebody saying that, it is not the truth and that is not what I have seen.
 - b. **CUS Richer** – I have not seen that. Every Tier is controlled by movements and they have to be called over the intercom. Anyone who is found outside is sent back to the Tier.
5. **Matthias** – A lot of the community has been asking for this. Are you able to provide us with the number of people who has been quarantined or any tests that you may have done?
- a. **Sup. Miller** – We are not going to be doing any tests here but anybody that we thin needs to be isolated automatically gets sent up to WCC.
 - b. Right now we have the Therapeutic Community (TC) quarantined.
 - i. **CUS Richer** – It doesn't mean that we suspect them of COVID 19. If there are any indications or symptoms we will put them in there and if medical deems that they needed isolation, then they will be sent to WCC.
 1. There are 90-98 individuals right now quarantined from TC and a proximately 5 or 6 guys from the general population. Again it is not that they are sick, we are just taking extra precaution right now.
 - c. **Sup. Miller** – The guys that are quarantined. They have 4 or 5 days left from the 14 days that they are to be quarantined for and then they will be coming off of that.
6. **LaQuesha 'Q' Turner** – Can you all please chare what you are doing in the “chow hall” as far as social distancing? Also what is going on with your programs; have any of them stopped?
- a. **Sup. Miller** – This is what the tier reps gave to us. At first the residents were eating in the ‘chow hall’ and we stopped it.
 - b. For breakfast they would come down, grab a hot meal and take it back to their own tier and eat it. It was taking a long time and by the time one meal was finished we were beginning the next meal.
 - c. What we decided for breakfast and lunch was have them come down, grab their meal and take it back to the units to eat it at their own speed. In this way also it was not interrupting their phone time. They would come down for dinner and we thought this would give them some time out of the units.
 - d. The tier reps came about 4/5 days ago and said that they would rather eat in our units all the time. So then we went and made all 3 meals where the residents can eat in their units.

- i. So we don't have to worry about the social distancing in the 'chow hall' because no one is using it right now except to come down and get their food and take it back to the units.
- e. **As far as the programs:** Court mandated programs are still taking place as long as there are no more than 10 people in the room. What they have done, is if it would normally take X amount of time, they have cut the time down and they are doing 2/3 different classes.
 - i. Example: T4C is going.
 - ii. TC are on quarantine, so they are having their group session in the Dayroom.
 - iii. Roots of success has not been cancelled (just no more than 10 in a room).

Infractions: recognize that this is a very stressful time for the residents and we are keeping that in mind. We are trying not to give infractions to the residents, but to educate them and talk things out. At that same time, we will hold people accountable if we need to.

Visiting Room: Our Recreation Manager went out and bought games yesterday. We will open the visiting room to around 9:00pm-10:00pm. We are hoping to have chess/bingo tournaments. Have 2 people to a table and spread it out, to keep everyone busy. This information have not been given to the residents as yet.

Gardens: Per Secretary Sinclair, he mandated that we develop gardens, so we can donate food to the community. We understand that the community is going through a rough time, and the gardens would be a help. We have already ordered equipment to get this project on the way and also we will get around 25 of the residents to be employed in this job. It is a paid position.

Screenings: No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in at this time. All staff is being screened before the start of their shifts. If you do not pass the screening then you are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days or until the medical staff from Headquarters (HQ) calls and give you the secondary screening.

Transports: We have no intentions of keeping residents past their release date. If a medical issue arises, then we would release them to the medical institution where they are releasing. If you are coming to pick a resident up that is being released, you are being told to park in the Visitor's parking lot and we will get your loved one to you. You would not have to worry about being screened. Our screening is in the Visitor's parking lot.