

Local Family Council COVID -19 Teleconference

Larch Corrections Center (LCC)

April 2, 2020

Time: 1400 -1428

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

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

Secretary Senior: Elsa Isaac

Attendance: Caroline Melhuish--Family Services
Molly Hunter
Stephanie Sanderson
Gail Wingender
Nancy Simmons

Purpose: Update on LCC/COVID-19

Quarantine: Last week at our meeting we spoke of a group of residents that were placed in quarantine. Those residents will be off of quarantine on April 3rd.

Testing: A couple of the residents were sent out to be tested last week for covid-19. The tests results were negative.

- There are no positive residents or staff at LCC.

Entertainment: To try to keep the residents entertained during this time:

- We have bought games for the residents
 - There are chess/basketball tournaments
 - Bought the King size candy bars and hygiene products to be given as gifts for the winner of the tournaments.
 - Mr. Herzog purchased a license where the residents can watch PG movies on the Television
 - Have popcorn available for the residents.

Releases: Releases are still being done.

- We had a couple of releases this week.
- If a resident is under quarantine but is due to be released, the resident will be released but the local health department would be notified.

Religious Programs/Units--CUS Richer: In the absence of CPM Denny, I am working on getting some of the religious programs up and running again.

- Have been collaborating with Nancy Simmons along with the Chaplain and it looks like some of the services will be taking place either by the end of this week or next week.
- In the units we are continuing to clean.
 - We just had maintenance switch out some of the bleaching products to restock us on that.
 - As we come off of our quarantine, some of the microwaves will be removed off the Tier (the residents would not need as many) because they will be able to utilize the dayrooms.

“Read to Me” Program – Nancy Simmons: The “Read to Me” Program is where approved residents can read books to their children. The session is videotaped and the book and DVD is sent to their children. We have 40 residents that are signed up for this program.

- The program will be starting back on Monday.

Social Distancing: We are still encouraging and reminding all residents to maintain a distance of 6 feet. Please remind and encourage your loved ones to adhere to this rule.

Family Council meetings -- The Family Council meetings will continue to be held weekly on Thursdays at 1400.

Representative for LCC for Statewide Family Council meetings/calls – Deputy Director Jeneva Cotton states that there isn't anyone that represents LCC on the calls.

- Stephanie Sanderson volunteered to be the representative.
- Could be contacted through phone/email/social media.
 - Supt Miller receive Ms. Sanderson's phone number and thanked her for stepping up.

Caroline Melhuish--Family Services – If Stephanie is willing to be a point of contact for other family members. It is a small group. If she can reach out to the families and get the questions to you Superintendent that may be better than being bombarded.

Supt. Miller's response – Okay with this or meeting on Thursdays.

Extra Notes from Supt. Miller: If you have any questions/concerns that are pressing feel free to give me a call or email.

Questions:

1. **Gail Wingender** – Had a question about the Education Program and the fundraisers.
 - a. **Nancy Simmons' response:** I have been in contact with Costco. They might be able to do a limited fundraiser. For example: pepperoni pizzas. They would not be able to supply chickens, since they have a limit of one chicken per customer.
 - i. We are looking to do a "down and dirty" fundraiser if possible.
 - b. **Supt. Miller's response** --The Education program is under Clark College and what they will allow their staff to do.
 - i. We are in contact with Doug Helmer (Education Director).
 1. We are collaborating about some things, but there is nothing concrete as of today.
2. **Evidence Based Programs** -- Are the evidence based programs still operating with reduced numbers and social distancing as you talked about last week?
 - a. **Supt. Miller's response** – Thinking for a Change (T4C) is still up and running. They are getting ready to begin graduation for this cohort.
 - i. Graduation will be different this time for T4C because of social distancing. They will be graduating during their class (one group at a time).
 - ii. Cake/ice-cream/coffee and cream will be served at the graduation.
 - b. **Therapeutic Community (TC)** will be off of quarantine on April 3rd.
 - i. They have been attending classes although with some adjustments.
 - ii. Parenting Inside out is still functioning.
 - c. **The Flagger's class** which is done twice a year will take place on April 26th.
 - i. The residents receive certification that is good for 3 years and can be used in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana.