

Local Family Council COVID -19 Teleconference

Larch Corrections Center (LCC)

April 9, 2020

Time: 1400 -1428

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

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

Attendance:

Caroline Melhuish--Family Services	Gail Wingender
LaQuesha "Q" Turner – OCO	Matthias Gyde –OCO
Molly Hunter	Stephanie Sanderson

Purpose: Update on LCC/COVID-19

Update on Monroe Correctional Complex--Supt. Miller: There was a disturbance at the Monroe Complex Center on April 8th. This news was some unsettling with everyone and so if there are any concerns or questions before we move on, we would be willing to address those.

- No questions/concerns.

Update on LCC --Supt. Miller

- Due to that disturbance additional staff was added at LCC on April 8th.
- Movies have started.
 - 10-15 (depending on the cost) of the newer/latest movies will be bought.
- We have not started with the popcorn as yet, because our volunteer coordinator has been approved to telecommute.
 - We are looking into getting staff access to the machine, so that the popcorn would be readily available for the residents.
- **We had some complaints.**
 - The complaints received today were:
 - Concerning the movies.
 - The residents wanted a schedule
 - "Chow" - they wanted a little more.
 - Requiring the food manager to have custody staff take random pictures of the meal so we can get this issue resolved.

Tier Rep Meeting --CUS Jason Richer: Had a Tier Rep meeting today.

- **Consistencies in schedule:**
 - There has been a lot of changes in the last couple weeks and different things going on with our operation.
 - They needed clarity concerning as to how the staff can make things clearer for them.
- **Recreation time:**
 - Some of the residents that work in the day, do not get as much times in the evening.
 - Wanted more recreation time.
- **Requests for baseball:**
 - We might not be able to host a full game, but we are looking at getting some balls out there so they can pitch to each other.
 - We are also looking into soccer and some other things as well.

Supt. Miller -- All these games (basketball/free throw shooting competitions) has to be vetted through Headquarters. This is because we have to maintain social distancing.

Visiting Room:

- Visiting room is open for bingo/cards and other games.
 - Some of the concerns that came (not from the residents) from others:
 - How can they play games in the visiting room when the tables do not have the space to do so?
 - We have pictures taken of the visiting room as to how we have the tables' set-up. It is not just one table but 4 tables.
 - Residents are still asked to maintain the 6 feet distance.
 - Hoping to get the approval to have this information on our website.

Garden:

- Secretary Sinclair has approved every facility to have a garden.
 - The purpose is that we can give back to the food banks in our community.
 - We ordered a pretty expensive roller tiller.
 - We hired additional residents to work on the garden.
 - We will take pictures of the progress and put on the website.
 - Residents are excited about it.

Units:

- In the units we didn't have televisions (TVs) in all of the day rooms. On April 8th, authorization was given for 3 more TVs were purchased and 2 out of 3 are already set up.

Quarantine:

- As a precaution, one resident was sent to WCC. He will get tested and we will keep you posted as we receive more information.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Work Camp:

- Everyone knows that LCC is a DNR work camp.
 - a. One of the concerns that came up is that we had a certain amount of residents riding in the back of the trucks (Crummy truck) going out to different work sites, but it was said that, we are asking the guys to remain 6ft apart.
 - b. One of the things that DNR will do is provide face masks for the DNR work crews. They will not be allowed to wear the masks inside the camp right now, but when they are in the crummy truck they will be required to.
 - c. We are also considering separating DNR from the General Population because they are going out and coming back. We have to get the okay to do this from Headquarters.
 - It would make it a lot easier to quarantine them if they were exposed to covid-19.
 - We are doing our best to keep these guys well.

Questions:

1. **Stephanie Sanderson**— A few weeks ago when the quarantine began, there was a gentleman that was sent to WCC and there is rumor that the resident was tested positive for covid-19.
 - d. **Supt Miller's response**— No staff or resident has tested positive for covid-19. If anyone was tested positive then it would become public information. Both of the gentleman that went to WCC have returned and they are not positive.
 - e. The Therapeutic Community (TC) residents that were on quarantine are off from being quarantined. They are 4 on quarantine, but this is from the last resident that was just transferred to WCC.
2. **Stephanie Sanderson**— have you stopped all non-essential personnel from coming into Larch?

- a. **Supt Miller's response—** Yes all of our volunteers have already been informed that they cannot come in right now.
 - b. A large majority of our staff are telecommuting. Although I wasn't a big fan of having people work from home, this is something that was directed from Mr. Herzog. On a daily basis there is minimum staff here to make it safer for everyone during this pandemic.
3. **Molly Hunter—**In regards to the Tier rep meeting, could the tier reps receive/write down everyone's questions to bring to the meeting and then have the questions and answers hung up after the meeting? I think it important that our loved ones have well informed information being displayed.
- a. **CUS Richer's response—** if they want they are more than welcome to write the questions and answers. I have a Tier Rep for almost every tier except the TC program. The TC program has a lead structure, so there are only two who relay to the other tiers.
 - b. **Supt Miller's response—** we will look into typing the questions and having the answers available to be sent on the kiosk.
4. **Molly Hunter—** from last week are there any additional classes that are running now?
- a. **Supt Miller's response—**No. The classes that we had last week are the same classes that are still taking place.(Legacy, reformed, TC etc. are still going on)
 - b. The Education classes are controlled by Clark College and we had one person that said, until we get a better feel of this, then our staff will not be allowed to come to teach. One person said that LCC was counting on us to teach. They were due to have a meeting and once they come to a solution that is what will take place, because LCC does not have control of the decision.
5. **Molly Hunter—** can the minutes be sent from last week and this week?
- a. **Supt Miller's response—**Yes. Hopefully we have everyone's email address. I can get with my secretary and when she type these minutes up we can send them to you.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, April 16, 2020
 - Easy Access Number: 1-800-509-6344
 - Access Code: 7943956#