

Local Family Council COVID -19 Teleconference

Larch Corrections Center (LCC)

April 23, 2020

Time: 1400 -1428

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

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

Attendance: Bradley Boyse (Sergeant) Nancy Simmons-CPPC
Stephanie Sanderson

Purpose: Update on LCC/COVID-19

Things That We Are Doing -- Supt. Miller:

- We bought 3 additional TVs for the facility.
- We also bought new movies.
- 19 residents were released.
- We are sowing more masks for the residents.
- I visited the residents on Saturday that were moved in to the Visiting room that were not as happy to be there; there are now happy and doing well.
 - The shower is installed.
- Residents are working on the new garden.
 - The produce from the garden will be donated to the local food bank.
- Had a group of staff working on Saturday (For approximately 10 hours) and Sunday to ensure that the residents on commutations/rapid reentry were released on time.
- We are meeting with the Tier reps on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - Residents seems to be happy with what we are doing.
 - Received a few compliments and thanks from the residents concerning the TVs, Movies, popcorn etc.

Televisions (TVs)/Commutations -- CUS Richer

- A new TV will be installed today in Elkhorn Unit (EHU).
- All commutations are completed from our facility.
 - Working on a few of the rapid reentries.

Masks/Popcorn -- Nancy Simmons

- Working with some of the residents who are making masks.
 - We will have 2 masks for each resident.
- Popcorn will be done on Friday and Saturday night after mainline.

Fundraiser:

- Possibly having a fundraiser in May (not sure as yet).
 - Will be an abbreviated fundraiser.

Contest:

- Since that we cannot have a Mother's Day event, we will have an art contest for Mother's Day cards.
 - We will take the 3 winning entries.
 - Have cards printed up with envelopes.

- Each resident will receive a card, picture of themselves and a piece of stationery to write to their family member they would like to send it to.

Extended Family Visits (EFV) -- Sergeant (Sgt.) Boyse

- Working with my staff at the EFV screening station concerning how to talk to and assist the residents who have relocated to the EFVs and the Visiting room.
 - Trying to get them to understand that, we are all working together on this.
 - Letting them know that things may take a while before we get to a “new normal.”
 - They all seemed to be taking it very well.
- **Stephanie Sanderson** -- The feedback that I received from my loved one is that the movies are nice. He loves the popcorn.
 - Had a question concerning the bead orders not going in. He also mentioned no banking; so when they are putting orders in there are not going through. I don't know if that is because they are short staffed because of the rapid release program and that is a priority. Do you know anything about that and why?
 - i. He said that several people have put in bead orders and they are getting rejected or not going through. They are being told bead orders are not being processed.
 - **Sup. Miller's response** -- I haven't heard anything concerning that.
 - **CUS Richer's response** -- I did give some guys some beads last week, from the warehouse to the chaplain.
 - i. Part of the problem is that a lot of the shipments are coming in slowly, due to the store prioritizing the orders.
 - For example, household items are being prioritized above the normal stuff.
 - **Stephanie Sanderson** -- So it is considered non-essential, is what you are saying?
 - **Sup. Miller's response** -- It is a priority, but, it's a lower priority.
 - **Stephanie Sanderson** -- As far as mail, for mailroom or property, is that a low priority as well? Also as far as sending out or receiving?
 - **Sup. Miller's response** -- No. Mail is never going to be a low priority, because this is one of the causes for people getting uneasy.
 - Mail goes out and come in every day.
 - **Stephanie Sanderson** -- What if an inmate has something that they want to send out to a loved one, what is the process or priority for that?
 - My loved one has a package that he is trying to send out and it has been over a week. He has not seen the postage come out of his account or his spendable. We are just wondering, when is that going to happen? Because his son's birthday is next week and the stuff in there is going to his son.
 - **Sgt. Boyse response** -- Is he trying to send beaded stuff?
 - **Stephanie Sanderson response** -- Yes. He is Native American and trying to send medallions to his son, along with the rest of his birthday stuff.
 - **Sgt. Boyse response** -- I have seen the recreation specialist take stuff over to the warehouse. The issue with that and the same with the beads, it is not that it is not a priority for us, it is when they (the shipping companies, Fed Ex or UPS) pick it up or take it, based on their priority needs.
 - Nancy Simmons will follow up on the package.
 - **Stephanie Sanderson** -- You said that the garden is going on and you will donate the food, so that is awesome. How many guys are you having working on the garden because I think originally you said they were going to be 25 people? So is it 25 people?

- **Sup. Miller's response** – No. To get it started we hired two and then I put an entire crew on it. So it is approximately 12.
- **Stephanie Sanderson** -- **How many people are in the Visiting room?**
 - **Sup. Miller's response** – 12 and 6 in the EFV.
- **Stephanie Sanderson** – The Mother's day contest is a really good idea.
 - Thanks for everything that you are doing to keep them occupied and happy. I really appreciate it.