

## **MCC Local Family Council**

### **Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference Notes**

**April 10, 2020**

**Family Members deemed via email:** Felix D'Allesandro , Carol Welch, Wendy Wilhelm, Byron Coats, Virginia Sprague, Danielle White, Lynn Barker, Carol Darby, Kim Day, Joanne Todd.

**Participants:** Mike Obenland, Ina McNeese, John Padilla, Kathleen Bechler, Elke Jackson, Mike Hathaway, Rob Tarver.

Captain McNeese welcomed everyone and proceeded to answer predetermined questions.

#### **MCC Quarantine & Isolation**

There are 331 men on Quarantine status

There are 45 men on Isolation status and 7 COVID Positive Individuals.

5 staff have tested positive for the virus.

#### **JPay and telephones**

CPM Hathaway addressed concerns about JPay and phones. The phones and PJay reset on Sunday so the week is Sunday to Sunday. All the Kiosks on the hill are up and functioning and the Wifi is working. The vendor is coming to MCC to service JPay. The JPay system has been updated with a patch. With more people at home and teleworking in the state, there is reduced picture quality and he explained the drain on the system. The band gets bogged down and at times there is a 3 to 4 hour delay in messages getting sent. Currently MCC is receiving 10,000 messages per day and we used to get that many in a week.

Video Visiting – CPM Hathaway was going to get clarification if there is one free video visit for each customer or if there is one per week. He will follow up and let everyone know.

Question – Was the Wifi turned off the night of the disturbance?

Answer: Yes, it was turned off for all of MCC. This was done to get the attention of the men at the Camp in order for them to understand directives and there is no way to turn it off for just one unit. It was back working by the next morning.

JPAY machines are cleaned between each use. Access is adjusted per movement scheduled. We are meeting with tier reps weekly and up to daily to get information on how the population is doing and let them know what is happening.

#### **Meals**

Some of the meals that are served on quarantine units are served cold. We continue to make improvements to our meal delivery processes for those individuals on Quarantine and work to get the meals out while they are still warm. We are trying to make improvements and you can email concerns regarding meals.

### **Cleaning Supplies**

All MCC units are in full cleaning mode with porters out all hours. High touch surfaces are a priority. Individuals in each unit are aware of their unit's in-house cleaning gear availability and need only ask for supplies.

### **Recreation**

We have come out with a new schedule to get everyone out to the yard while practicing social distancing. We alternate each unit to go out to the yard one unit at a time and rotate so everyone has time in the yard.

### **Thinning out Population**

Questions were asked about early releases and that is mandated by the Governor and Department Secretary. We are doing as much social distancing as possible. There are no transfers in unless there is an emergent need. We will continue to release as mandated and are working to spread the population out.

The Violators process has not changed with the "Swift and Certain" Protocol. All Violators are screened by Headquarters nursing staff. We have opened an old unit to house the violators. Their health is screened as they arrive.

### **PPE/Masks**

Staff wearing masks was voluntary. As of today, it is mandatory for staff to wear masks while working in the facilities. Staff who are working on the Quarantine units are required to wear additional personal protective equipment (PPE). When working with men on isolation, staff must clean up before working another assignment.

### **Dental**

Aerosol-generating procedures should be permitted in Emergency dental treatments only (to be determined by the individual dentist). Procedures that are not deemed an emergency and generate aerosols are suspended until further notice. Dental needs are being triaged and screened. Those needing antibiotics and/or pain medication are being treated as needed. MCC has two full time dentists.

### **Law Library Access**

There was a request for assistance with the law library as the hours are reduced because there aren't any volunteers.

### **Communication**

A Daily Newsletter will be coming out to staff and population from Public Information Officer. There is frustration from men not getting information. It's hard to get the information out as quickly as it is changing.

We are getting emails from population about receiving property. When MCC goes into emergency staffing, we follow a staffing plan and property is one of the first positions not to be filled. We are working to get a plan in place to get property out in a timely manner.

There was a question about money not coming off the books as quickly when mailing items out. Process is to check to see if there is money on the books, then the items are mailed. Staff in inmate banking are working from home so it takes longer to process, but this is not slowing down sending the items out.

Question: Is it true men have moved into the EFV Trailers? Yes, this is done to spread men out and make it easier to socially distance themselves.

Sewing machines are available and we would like to get some of the men fabric to make masks.

We appreciate the good communication and appreciate the families' patience during this difficult time.

Superintendent Obenland said he has been out and about at MSU and did a walk through with the Ombuds and the Governor's office. He appreciates everyone's patience. This is a very fluid situation. We are doing our best to address idleness and trying to give everyone yard time.

During the COVID 19 Crisis, MCC will have weekly phone conferences on Fridays at 1 pm. Our next conference call is on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1300 Hours.