

**MCC Local Family Council**  
**COVID 19 Teleconference Notes**  
**May 15, 2020**

**Family Members deemed present by sending email:** Lynn Barker, David Bullard, Jody Bullard, Suzanne Cook, Felix D’Allesandro, Caryl Darby, Kim Day, Dianne Durall, Angela Hinton, Josephine, Johnson, Christine Mathison, Stephanie Meadows, Rob Tarver, Joanne Todd, Carol Welch, Danielle White.

**Participants:** Ina McNeese, Kathleen Bechler, John Padilla, Mike Obenland, Casey Gallagher, Karen Haydon, Kari Styles, and Matthias Gyde.

Captain McNeese welcomed everyone and proceeded to answer predetermined questions.

**MCC Quarantine & Isolation**

LOCATION	ISOLATION	QUARANTINE	Population
SOU Core Inf.	-	-	-
IMU J-Pod	3	-	-
IMU M-Pod	10	-	-
IMU H-Pod	-	5	-
MCC Hosp. Watch	-	-	3
WSRU A-Unit	-	1 (5/16)	-
WSRU IPU	-	11 (5/25)	-
TRU B Unit	-	58 (5/27)	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>75</b>	

**JPay**

We met with Tier Reps on Thursday with representatives from A, B, C, and D units while maintaining Social Distancing. The Tier Reps were frustrated with ongoing problems with JPay. One of our tier reps mentioned the telephone app on JPay. Using the app isn’t a decision that can be made at the facility level. Our cable contract expires in 2022 (or 2023) we are unable to make changes until then. It would be a good idea to poll the population before entering into another contract. We have done everything within our power to extend available hours for access to phone and kiosks on dayshift and swing shift. Shift I is not an option as we don’t have the staff to facilitate. WSRU Tier Reps report that although the machines are up and running, service remains poor, downloads difficult and those that received new players are unable to sync their devices and the internet keeps shutting off.

We continue to forward all issues to Headquarters, and yes, DOC staff are just as frustrated with these issues. TV’s are being passed out to the population and we are suspending rental fees during the COVID Crisis.

**Communication**

With the COVID Crisis we are working to communicate with the population. Tier reps are meeting with the CUS daily and we continue to meet with the tier reps weekly. Tier Reps report they were happy to have the LFC minutes posted. There are many moving parts to this organization and no doubt communication is always a challenge as we continue to make improvements.

**WSRU Tier 4 and single person cell assignments**

There is a moratorium on transfers in and out of MCC other than for facility needs at this time. As room becomes available due to releases, our CUS’s and Unit Sergeants have been directed to spread individuals out. This is a slow process. At yesterday’s tier rep meeting we talked about this and found that a hold had been placed on courtesy moves which will be reinstated.

There was a movement of individuals leaving our Max custody to make space because our segregation was full. Incarcerated Individuals are put on quarantine status for 1 week prior to releasing for Rapid Release and Work Release. There are no current routine transfers.

#### Extra Mattresses

With the State budget being in crisis, as new mattresses are purchased, the CUS's are to ensure the old mattress is given to those who don't have two mattresses starting with our elderly and/or disabled. This is an on-going process.

#### Social Distancing at MSU

There are no visiting rooms currently being used to house individuals for Social Distancing. We separated bunks at MSU to ensure 6' distancing. The extra bunks have been moved to our Medical COVID 19 Unit (formerly WSR Education building 2).

#### Correctional Industries/Optometry

With the COVID Crisis CI Optometry had to shut down. We don't have any information on when it will get going again.

#### GTL telephone problems.

If you have a problem with phone issues, a work ticket to GTL is to be submitted so that GTL is aware of it and they can work to resolve the issue. They will need to know the time and date of the call as well as which phone was used. Free phone call dates have extended to 5/31/20 but will not be carried over after the end of the month.

#### Tier Reps and weekly calls

The weekly teleconference is meant to be informational for families during the COVID Crisis. We do not plan to invite tier reps to join the calls. CUS's are directed to meet with tier reps daily, and the Captains, CPMs, Associates, and Superintendents weekly so we are working to keep our population Informed.

Tier Reps talk to the population by walking the tiers and talking in the yard. They make their rounds to get the information out. Only the minutes from the Quarterly tier rep meetings are posted. The daily/weekly tier rep meetings during the COVID Pandemic are not recorded via minutes for posting but are meant to help inform us of necessary information and allow us to discuss changes as they occur.

#### Staffing

With a number of staff out, we are close to critical staffing levels. We are working creatively to give population as much Recreation/yard time as possible.

#### Hot breakfasts

Correctional Industries (CI) has been authorized to hire staffing for it. Once hot breakfasts occur, we will lose the 0630 Recreation movement to accommodate dining room access. It may start before the end of the year.

The Movie Channel the equipment has already been purchased and is awaiting installation. This is taking time based on our reduced staffing.

Book carts are at SOU because they don't have a library. With the libraries closed, having book carts on the units will have to be discussed with Associate Superintendent Wood.

Testing - When a person on isolation has 2 negative tests, which are 48 hours apart, they come off isolation and the others in quarantine, that were identified through contact mapping, will then come off quarantine.

Video calls. An LFC member explained what SCCC did to improve the JPay video call and said we should reach out to find out how they were able to improve their service.

Fabric for masks. If you have fabric for donation for face masks, please contact Kaela Chong, who will help with the arrangements.

The Family Council said they appreciate the Notes from the Teleconference being posted for the population.

There was a question about items being mailed out and not received. Captain McNeese asked that the details be sent to her via email and she will look into it.

During the COVID 19 Crisis, MCC will continue to have weekly teleconferences with the LFC on Fridays at 1 pm.