

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 6/5/2020, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- Jody Bullard
- Byron Coates
- Felix D'allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Kim Day
- Diane Durall
- Angela Hinton
- Josphine Johnson
- Christine Mathison
- Stephanie Meadows
- Julyan Pegram
- Rob Tarver
- Joanne Todd
- Carol Welch
- Danielle White
- Wendy Wilhelm
- Mike Obenland
- Lisa Anderson
- Karen Haydon
- John Padilla
- Ina McNeese
- Kathleen Bechler
- Kari Styles
- Bill Frantz
- Mark Miller
- Melida Ferrell
- Bill Copland
- Joanna Carns
- Matthias Gyde
- Elizabeth Kingsbury

Weekly Update

- **COVID and Isolation**

Earlier this week MCC began receiving COVID-19 positive incarcerated individuals from Coyote Ridge Corrections Center and Airway Heights' Regional Care Facility. These individuals are being housed in a medical isolation pod of the COVID unit. MCC had the first positive cases of COVID-19 in Washington prisons and is well equipped to house and provide medical care to the individuals being transferred here. The medical and correctional staff working in this unit are fully trained in proper use of appropriate PPE.

Currently, MCC has 5 on Quarantine, 1 from TRU, 1 from MSU and 3 Violators. There are 15 on isolation, 1 from TRU, 2 from WSRU and 12 from CRCC and AHCC combined.

Once those individuals from Coyote Ridge Corrections Center and Airway Heights have completed treatment, they will be returned to their respective facilities.

- **GTL (Phones)**

Free telephone calls are expanded through June 30, 2020

Pre-Submitted Questions

- **Recreation**

Question 1

Why does it make sense to separate units when all 4 units have been mixing at work since the beginning of this pandemic? [Exception: 60 offenders who work for Correctional Industries (where they do keep A/B separate from C/D.)] It is easier to socially distance outside than inside, especially since there are less than 100 who go to yard at any one time.

Answer

Separating the cellhouses for recreation movement is the best option for managing the numbers in the yard and gym. Yes, Individuals from all units work together in various locations but they are on a call out and it is easier to keep track of who is together for contact mapping. The current yard movement schedule set up gives everyone a chance to get out to the yard and makes contact mapping without a call out more manageable.

Question 2

The reason people are okay with the current schedule is that they're expecting to go back to normal fairly soon. And pre-covid normal means the Yard and Weight room are open basically all day for those who want to spend their days outside, especially in spring/summer. **Could you do an inmate survey instead of relying on Tier reps, many of whom do not care about yard? Is the intention to go back to the pre-covid schedule/routine? Do you intend to keep C/D and A/B separated long term or just until social distancing is relaxed?**

Answer

I will not be conducting a survey and feel very connected to our population, whom I talk to and kiosk daily. Once Headquarters lifts our restriction of 150 for the yard and 50 for the gym, we will allow open movement to the yard and gym. Same applies to the weight deck.

- **Visiting**

Question 3

Is there any information you can give us regarding your conference call from last week regarding the visitation suggestions people had sent to you or other EFV questions?

Answer

Our call last week was primarily to discuss EFVs, the new policy, and the need to update OM's. It turned out to be very much a tone report of what has occurred at all facilities, how visiting staff are re-assigned, and steps necessary to move forward. There will be more detail to come.

Question 4

I've heard rumors, of course I'm assuming rumors that visitation may starting during the 4th phases, any truth?

Answer

I would caution everyone that the phases described by our Governor may not accurately describe what will occur in the facilities. We have not been provided with any updates from Headquarters yet, or been given a tentative date.

- **Movie Channel**

Question 5

The movie channel that was supposed to be hooked up. I heard that it is, but it's not playing any movies, is there a reason why not?

Answer

This week our Electronics Technician was able to install equipment in the IT building, and designated channel 80.1 as the available channel. He reported that he found he must purchase more equipment for the internet access to the Swank website. As soon as this is received it will be installed. I don't have a date yet, but am very pleased with the progress.

- **Soap**

Question 6

Are people allowed to get more soap whenever they need it or is it only when it is passed out to the whole population? It was our understanding they would get 2 bars each time it is passed out, and they have gotten 1 bar instead.

Answer

They get 1 bar every 2 weeks, handed out to the population.

- **Pay Compensation**

Question 7

My husband's unit (B unit) was one of the first to be quarantined. And he missed work for those 14 days. He was told they wouldn't be getting paid for the quarantine because it was before the memo about quarantine pay came out. C/D has been paid the entire time they were quarantined. Why can't the units that were quarantined first get the pay for those weeks?

Answer

The directive to compensate those whose work is disrupted due to our COVID response was issued on March 27, 2020. If there is anyone who did not receive pay due to quarantine or isolation, they should kite either the CPM Office or my office for follow up.

- **Ice Cream**

Question 8

Could you please give us an update on the Ice Cream etc. for or all inmates at WSR?

Answer

We are working on trying to find a vendor for ice cream at a reasonable cost and we are moving forward. We finished the fund raiser in May, and are now working on the next one which I believe is in July or August.

- **Law Library**

Question 9

Law Library – currently at two days a week Mon 7:30 – 10:30 and Tues 12:30 – 3:30 - Those who work outside the unit have no access to the Law Library. Any ideas on when it will again return to regular hours?

Answer

Our Legal Library Staffing is running shorthanded for the foreseeable future. If an Individual needs to be excused from work to attend the limited available hours, this will be handled on a case-by-case review.

- **Meeting Minutes**

Question 10

Suggestion for more detail in the minutes.

Answer

We recently received an approved format for these LFC meeting notes, which we will use moving forward. I am aware that I tend stick to the facts but will work to provide as much context and detail as possible.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Do CI workers get back pay for being on quarantine/isolation?

Answer

If someone didn't get the pay they think they are entitled to, ask them to send a kiosk message to the CPM or myself to look into it.

Question 2

Are we getting all the COVID Patents from CRCC?

Answer

It is not likely that we will receive all of the patents at CRCC. AHCC has a Regional Care Facility, and WCC is preparing one. As the numbers exceed the available bed space on the East side, we will accept patients. The IMU/Violator unit has an isolation unit currently with 21 patients, 16 are on isolation and 5 on Quarantine,

Question 3

What is being done about the problems with GTL Phones?

Answer

These issues are not limited to MCC. It is preferable that Individuals report issues using the automated system at the telephone they are experiencing trouble with. When that option doesn't work or is not available, you can send an email with the details as to which phone and when the call was placed so we can look into the specifics.

Question 4

The meat choices on the CI store list were not available. Why?

Answer

CI heard there may be a possible issue with the meat choices and played it safe by not offering it and held the item back until there is a replacement.

Question 5

When Education resumes, will the building be available?

Answer

There is a second education building at WSRU and we are also looking at alternative places for classes.

Comments/Closing

Superintendent Mike Obenland

- COVID UNIT

There is a message going out to the population today regarding the COVID Unit. Each bed is set up to have power and will be used for oxygen if needed. Patient are being furnished with a radio, TV, Game Boy and we are trying to make it as comfortable as possible. They will not be able to mingle with others. They will be allowed 3 phone calls per week. We will be getting patients from CRCC as they are in the situation that we were in in April. They will not be in restraints when they go out and will be allowed some personal items.

Superintendent Obenland thanked Captain McNeese for doing a great job conducting these calls.