

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 7/9/20, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Diane Durall
- Josphine Johnson
- Christine Mathison
- Diane Pasta
- Jennifer Patterson
- Rob Tarver
- Joanne Todd
- Carol Welch
- Danielle White
- John Padilla
- Ina McNeese
- Kathleen Bechler
- Kari Styles
- Sandra Arrietta
- Jack Warner
- Mark Miller
- Kayla Chong
- George Turcin
- LaQuesha Turner
- Matthew Gyde

Weekly Update

- **COVID and Isolation**

Of the 56 Individuals housed in the COVID Unit, (Isolation and quarantine) 41 are from CRCC. 10 are from MCC and the remaining 5 are Violators.

There are 70 Individuals on Quarantine at the MSU (B-Unit)

We also have 21 recovered patients from CRCC living in WSR 3A pending transfer back to CRCC. 17 of these individuals are scheduled for return to CRCC within the next week.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Concert this Summer: I understand there is talk about having one. What is the current status of it taking place?
Band Room – There has been talk about opening it up for practice – for general folks and for the band that would play at the concert. What is the Status?

Answer

We discussed both a summer concert and the possibility of practice sessions in the band room however, we may not open the band room for practice sessions, yet. This for WSRU. Associate Superintendent Padilla has tasked myself and CPM Styles to come up with some sort of concert in the yard that would allow for the units to rotate through. More to come.

Question 2

Law Library sign ups – There are two different approaches to signing up – one on the Kiosk and one on a paper sign-up sheet. Apparently the call outs are not being coordinated utilizing both lists.

Answer

We are using the kiosk for Law Library sign ups. We heard the D unit kiosk was broken, so we posted two paper sign-ups to avoid issues. Now that it's fixed, we're back to electronic requests only.

Question 3

I saw Monroe incarcerated numbers went up. Can you tell us which facility this person was from? From what I hear MSU has been on quarantine and individuals are being tested there. Did every person at MSU get tested or only that unit? Also, is it true that a CO from MSU had tested positive?

Answer

This week, a portion of MSU, B unit was quarantined due to a positive COVID test of an incarcerated individual. Yesterday, 70 individuals were tested for COVID, resulting in 6 additional individuals testing positive. Despite our best efforts at cleaning, mask wearing and social distancing a single lapse of a possibly asymptomatic person can result in the spread of this virus. We have yet to determine who or how this occurred. For now, DOC has not authorized testing of MSU staff.

Question 4

Are guys positive or negative still being transferred from CRCC?

Answer

In short, yes. The longer answer is that transfers have slowed down. Since we have been able to send recovered patients back to their parent facilities, it appears the testing and cleaning at CRCC has stopped the onslaught, slowing the spread of infection and providing safe spaces within the facility.

Question 5

When violators are brought in, why are they not isolated or quarantined to be sure they are not positive before just being put in with other guys?

Answer

In a sense, they are quarantined amongst themselves and separate from general population. They are screened medically, and tested if they are symptomatic. All incarcerated and staff are expected to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Question 5

Guys at WSR are getting written up for not wearing a mask when out of their houses. Why are they getting written up, but officers can still go around and not wear their mask? I have had several people report this to me.

Answer

Staff are also held accountable through corrective action, progressively if necessary.

Question 6

I have also heard that an inspector came in and shut down the RCF and the 3A unit. Is this true, if so what is the plan now for the guys who are in the COVID Unit before they are sent back to CRCC?

Answer

The Fire Marshall did walk through the RCF and found that additional backup generators were required before we could house individuals in that location. As a result, we moved the Violators from 3A into lower block III, and began housing recovered CRCC/AHCC COVID patients in 3A. You are partially correct, however 3A has not been shut down and is appropriate for housing.

Question 7

Family members have heard that staff are not being screened before they come in to work? if that's true, why not?

Answer

We began screening all persons who enter MCC grounds back in March. This remains in effect. If any person refused screening, they are not allowed on grounds.

Question 8

How is education starting with in the DOC Safe Start Phases stated in Phase 1 & 2 Programing including education is suspended, and in phase 3 education may resume with state guidance? If DOC can deviate from the phases for education, why are they unable to do the same for visitation and hold visits outside?

Answer

Unfortunately when the Safe Start Chart was published, it was in error regarding Education. Headquarters will be responsible for updating the chart. The approved Education process is not an exception.

Question 9

Is CI Optical up and running so glasses can be ordered?

Answer

Yes, CI Optical is up and running and orders will be processed.

Question 10

There has been movement into the 4th tier of D Unit in cells that had been moved from 2 person to single cells. Please update on what the future holds for single vs double occupancy cells

Answer

We began receiving transfers within the last two weeks. We also expect to get another 51 individuals from WCC next week because they are full and have Individuals sleeping on the floor.

Additional Questions

Comment

CCS George Turcin knows all the Family Services Resources available and you can contact him for information on services.

Question 1

Are you aware of the 1500 COVID cases at San Quentin prison?

Answer

Headquarters is scanning information worldwide to make informed decisions. We have protocols in place and we are taking temperatures, screening, testing, practicing Social Distancing and wearing masks to help reduce risk.

Question 2

Will the chain coming from CRCC be housed in general population?

Answer

The CRCC individuals have tested positive for COVID and they are in Isolation until they have recovered. The individuals from WCC coming in on the chain will be housed in general population. They are screened and have temperatures taken when they leave WCC and also when they first arrive at MCC. They are being moved because WCC is overcrowded, double bunked and have some sleeping on the floor. We will be double bunking the 4th floor tier and exercising safety protocols for housing.

Question 3

Will the incarcerated individuals arriving from Shelton be quarantined when they arrive?

Answer

We will forward the question to Incident Command. There is no active COVID at WCC and they have had only one case in total so the risk is minimal.

Question 4

My loved one would like to be able to always eat in his cell due to his age and health but this has been denied. Why can't they have the option to eat in their cells all the time?

Answer

If someone is at risk for their health, they should see a medical provider and get an HSR. If you want to discuss specifics, send me an email.

Question 5

What about promotional transfers to MSU?

Answer

Promotional transfers to MSU are currently not open. Only those who are require movement due to treatment plans are currently being transferred.

Question 6

How do you keep everyone healthy and keep at risk separated?

Answer

There is a whole policy and protocols that address COVID concerns including screening, masks social distancing.

Question 7

What about testing at the Camp? Do we have the results back yet?

Answer

This is currently in work.

Question 8

The level of suicide is up. How are you dealing with stress and depression?

Answer

We have increased Mental Health staff getting out and talking to the population.

Question 9

When will we be getting Superintendent Obenland back?

Answer

I hope he will be back soon.

Question 10

Can you give us an update on the Movie Channel?

Answer

I don't have an update. I will find out and give you an answer next week.

Question 11

Governor Inslee said masks have to be worn at all times. What about when exercising?

Answer

We don't pester those who are not wearing a mask in the big yard if they are working out or on the running track as long as they are practicing social distancing.

Comments/Closing

The additional compensation for porters is extended until July 31st, but will end after that due to budget shortfall.

Thank you everyone.