

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 7/23/20, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Byron Coates
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Diane Durall
- Angela Hinton
- Josephine Johnson
- Christine Mathison
- Diane Pasta
- Jennifer Patterson
- Rob Tarver
- Joanne Todd
- Carol Welch
- Danielle White
- Ina McNeese
- Kathleen Bechler
- Kari Styles
- Karen Haydon
- John Padilla
- Bill Frantz
- Melinda Murray
- Kaela Chong
- George Turcin
- La Quesha Turner

Weekly Update

Numbers of Incarcerated Individuals on Quarantine – SOU F Unit has 1 and MSU has 121 at the time of this conference call.

Current population on isolation at the MCC Covid Unit (IMU) is 58. The breakdown on where they are from is:

MSU – 40

SOU - 3

WSR - 3

TRU - 1

Violators - 2

CRCC - 9

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

I have received a few "complaints" about Swank Channel. One being the audio did not work, or isn't/wasn't working. Secondly. Is it going to be grown men age appropriate movies, or is it going to continue to be cartoon movies like "How to Train your Dragon"?

Answer

Our Electronics Technician prepared a "test" disc which included the cartoon movie "How to Train Your Dragon". Thank you for the feedback on the audio. This week is a test movie to work out all the kinks. Just before we came out to the conference call we checked on the channel and the picture and audio was working perfectly. CMHUS Melinda Murray said will be getting a variety of newer releases that will be running on a loop. The movies will be changed weekly.

Question 2

Two topics came up at the statewide family council meeting on Saturday that I think deserve some time at our Thursday meeting. One is the rule that an extended family visit only can occur with family members defined by legal status. Specifically, there are people who are not legally married to their loved ones who would not qualify for a visit.

Answer

The EFV Policy is developed from Headquarters. We do not have the discretion to deviate from policy.

Question 3

The other issue is the rules of visitation on the video-calls. It was made clear that the rules for visitation are the same for video calls as they are for in person visits. I am sure this is impossible to monitor, but it is alarming. The rules about visitation, for example, say no sleeveless tops, but is wearing a sleeveless a problem on video calls? Which part of the rules will be rigidly enforced and which are merely to protect other people in the visiting room, which would not apply in this case? How much discretion is there and who implements that?

Answer

Video visits are monitored. Meaning we review the visit videos after they occur. We try to stick to policy. If there is a demonstrated violation of the visiting rules, a report is generated for review. In MCC's case, Associate Superintendent Padilla determines if a warning or suspension is warranted.

Question 4

Are we still getting guys from CRCC?

Answer

We did not receive any new arrivals from CRCC this week.

Question 5

How many staff have been tested at MCC? Is it going to be reported which facility staff who test positive are from, since on the DOC website it just lists MCC and not each facility?

Answer

As of COB yesterday we had tested over 900 employees. Our total assigned staffing is currently at 1,292. Staff testing is confidential is on a need to know basis for contact mapping. We only get numbers and don't get the names or the units in which they work unless doing the mapping.

Question 6

Have all the guys at MSU been tested twice? How many are still pending?

Answer

Everyone has been tested twice and all results have come back. All individuals have been quarantined by tier. Due to recent developments there will be some tiers that may have to test a 3rd time. This information is developing. The good news is that some tiers may be able to come off quarantine, but again, this is live and evolving information that the ICP is working on as we speak.

Question 7

Is it possible for any of the legislative representatives to join the weekly conference call?

Answer

We would certainly not deny a request for participation, however that request would likely be routed through the office of Secretary Sinclair.

Question 8

What is the update regarding hot breakfast at MCC?

Answer

CI has been authorized to hire staff for implementation in the Fall of 2020. With the impacts of COVID 19 to our daily operations, I have no further updates. However when the hot breakfasts begin we will lose the 0630 to 0730 yard recreation time.

Question 9

Yet, again guys are not getting let out for video visits. Could the time that Place safety Muster happens be blocked out so families can't schedule a visit during that time so this doesn't continue to happen?

Answer

I will work with CPM Cohn to see if that can be accomplished and perhaps reach out to other facilities to see if that can happen.

Question 10

Are EFV applications being processed even though no EFV's are happening right now?

Answer

Headquarters visiting has not indicated a work stoppage in relation to visiting and EFV applications.

Update:

Since the call we have learned that Headquarters will process the EFV applications closer to the time we know that EFV's can resume.

Question 11

Why is it only D Unit at MSU is being prohibited from opening the patio door to allow cross ventilation into the unit as well as having pretty much free access to the patio? All other units are not being restricted from this and without working AC it feels like a sauna in there.

Answer

All the units have access to the outside patio area and the doors are authorized to be left open for allowing additional ventilation on that particular tier. If rule violations are occurring such as no social distancing, no mask wearing, the unit supervisor has the authority to close the patio areas and explain why the closure. The door would then be opened at next movement.

Question 12

Legal Mail Distribution – new procedure has not been instituted as planned and inmates are unaware of the new procedure. What are the plans to ensure that the process is consistent throughout and that inmates are informed of the process.

Answer

At WSRU it has been determined unsafe to deliver Legal Mail on the tier 3 landing. In order to create a barrier between staff and the mail recipient, we thought it best to distribute the mail through the grill gate at the end of the tier. This would allow for staff to safely search the mail in full view of the recipient. It was recently suggested that we distribute the mail at cell front just after count, as this would still allow for both safety and compliance with delivery standards. I am working with CPM Styles to ensure appropriate messaging to the population and staff occurs.

Question 13

LFC Meeting minutes not being distributed. What are the plans to make that continue to occur?

Answer

We got the meeting minutes sent out yesterday to the populations and the council. I apologize for the delay, but we have been extremely busy. The minutes are sent out to the CUS's and asked they be posted and given to the tier reps, minus the names of the participants.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Have you followed up on the Microwave on TRU D unit? I heard it had not been replaced.

Answer

I will follow up with this.

Question 2

Is Superintendent Obenland back?

Answer

Yes, we are happy he is back.

Question 3

If the inmates are on Quarantine and there is a positive and have to be tested a 3rd time, will they keep getting tested until all are negative?

Answer

There are no plans to keep testing. The current trend is the numbers are going down. We are working to get more recreation time while keeping those quarantined safe through social distancing.

Question 4

Is there a plan to post the OCO minutes for the population?

Answer

We could post them if we were provided the minutes for distribution.

Question 5

I heard the conditions on the old seg unit are bad without drinking water. How is this being addressed?

Answer

Bottled water is being provided and they are given ice twice per shift. The IK is also sending out ice water in big containers so the water issue is being addressed.

Question 6

With the schedule there is not much time for the population to get out at night. What is being done to get them out?

Answer

There is a movement schedule with evening yard time to include everyone on a rotating basis. If you send me specifics, I would be able to look into it for you.

Comments/Closing

George Turcin said thank you for keeping us informed.

Thank you everyone. I feel we have the best family council. I encourage you to contact me in regard to your loved ones. You can share my email with others, but do it privately, not on social media. Have a great weekend.