

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 9/11/20, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Byron Coates
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Diane Durall
- Angela Hinton
- Josephine Johnson
- Rob Tarver
- Joanne Todd
- Carol Welch
- Danielle White
- Ina McNeese
- Kathleen Bechler
- Eric Jackson
- Jack Warner
- Mike Obenland
- Kari Styles
- Bill Frantz
- Karen Haydon
- Rick Geer
- Matthias Gyde

Weekly Update

Since we started to test staff we have done 7400 COVID tests on Staff.

There are 2 individuals on Isolation and one on quarantine.

There are 5 violators on isolation.

Captain McNeese is on a Statewide Committee for Safe Start. There will be more information to come.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Why are some porters paid the maximum amount while others paid only for the hours worked?

Answer

The Crew Supervisor reports the hours worked. Per Policy, workers are to be paid only for the hours worked.

Some crew supervisors may feel that everyone should get the maximum pay. The pay scale has not increased in 20 years workers are paid 42 cents per hour. I will look into your concern if you send me specifics on your loved one.

Additional Questions

Question 1

What can we do to add incentives to the incentive program?

Answer

Unfortunately facilitating Incentive Committee activities requires time and staffing. Due to the COVID crisis, we all have been tasked with additional duties, coupled with numerous staff being either assigned to telecommuting, or prohibited from returning to work there are not sufficient resources. We are working on getting back to visiting and getting programs running. The good news is, despite these shortages, our Correctional Program Managers have managed to continue to provide quarterly fund raisers.

Question 2

Can we get an update on the ice cream fund raiser?

Answer

We didn't receive all the ice cream in one shipment and gave out what we had. When the rest of the order is received it will be distributed.

Question 3

What is going on with hot breakfasts and recreation?

Answer

CI got the authorizations to hire more staff for breakfast but didn't get qualified applicants. Once they hire staff they have to get them through the academy in which class size is reduced due to social distancing. When hot breakfasts do get going, we will lose the extra hour in the morning for recreation. We are committed to keeping you up to date with any progress made in this direction.

Question 4

Can Incarcerated individuals on indigent status use their money in mandatory savings for personal use?

Answer

Policy doesn't allow for the funds to be used for personal store purchases.

Question 5

Legal papers are sent out they are not received in a timely manner. Shouldn't mail be processed in 24 hours?

Answer

Mail is processed through our Mail Room daily (excluding weekends). If you send me the specifics on email I will look into your concern.

Question 6

Disability checks are sent out on time but don't get on the books for 5 to 7 days. Do you know why?

Answer

Local Business Advisor Karen Haydon said checks are posted when they are received.

Question 7

Our Statewide Family Council Representative asked that the Local Family Council members please be patient when it comes to the Safe Start Corrections. Headquarters staff are working on the details and will let us know what is going on next week.

Answer

Thank you. Yes, there has been a committee formed at Headquarters to assess the previously published phases of Safe Start Corrections, and it is hoped that we can move forward with additional programming opportunities, including Visiting, in the near future. We are doing our best. Captain McNeese has been assigned as Co-Chair for this committee.

Question 8

Is the smoke in the area affecting the yard schedule?

Answer

At the time of the conference call: Not so far. The smoke in the area is better than other areas.

Note: The smoke in the area later got worse and changes were made to the schedule to keep the population safe.

Question 9

Can we have an update to our Saturday LFC Meeting Skype meeting?

Answer

Yes, we have not finalized the date, but an email will be sent out to the Family Council early next week.

Note, as a reminder, the October meeting will also be the date the LFC must nominate and vote on LFC Co-Chair, LFC Co-Secretary and Statewide Family Council Representative.

Question 10

There are no alcohol sanitizer stations available on the living units. Why?

Answer

We tried to have alcohol sanitizer on the units, but unfortunately we had some that drank the sanitizer which is dangerous, so we had to limit the alcohol to places that it can be supervised. Unit officers are mobile and can't stand and watch the stations. There is foaming sanitizer available and there is soap and water in the cells. There is alcohol sanitizer in areas where there is no running water and can be supervised.

Question 11

When will flu shots be offered to the population?

Answer

The Health Care Manager has ordered the vaccine and will set up a vaccination schedule when the vaccine arrives.

Question 12

Comment: Only the Statewide Representatives were asked for feedback for Safe Start. To start the conversation, and create a foundational structure of what Visiting may look like if opened sooner than previously published in Safe Start Corrections, it was necessary to start with a smaller group.

Question 13

The food grown on grounds is split by half to the food bank and half to the kitchens. If the kitchen doesn't use the food it is destroyed, why can't it be donated to the foodbank?

Answer

There was a glitch in the kitchen with the vegetables grown in the garden and this problem has been resolved. The kitchen will be using the food from the gardens. Once food is taken to the kitchen it can't be donated to the food bank, by law. 3600 pounds of food has been grown in the gardens this year.

Comments/Closing

Superintendent Eric Jackson was promoted to Superintendent A and will have oversight of MSU, TRU and WSR. Superintendent Jack Warner was promoted to Superintendent A and will oversee SOU and IMU. Superintendent Obenland was promoted to Deputy Director to Command A out of Tumwater, Deputy Director Obenland remains in our chain of command. Congratulations to them. Superintendent Jackson says he doesn't plan any changes at this time and looks forward to continuing working with all of you on the MCC Family Council.

Thank you everyone. Have a safe and happy weekend.