



FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: MCC Skype Meeting Date: October 17, 2020 Time: 10:00-12:00

Teleconference details: MCC Local Family Council (LFC) via Skype for Business

Meeting Attendees

Department/facility co-chair: Ina McNeese Family co-chair: Mariyah Wafford (Excused)

Facility/council secretary: Kathleen Bechler Family secretary, if applicable: Josephine Johnson

Members present: Lynn Barker, David Bullard, Jody Bullard, Karen Cain, Byron Coates, Felix D'allesandro, Caryl Darby, Amanda DeLay, Dianne Durall, Angela Hinton, Josephine Johnson, Christine Mathison, Stephanie Meadows, Dianne, Pasta, Rob Tarver, Joanne Todd, Carol Welch, and Danielle White.

Non-council member attendees: Ian McNeese, Kathleen Bechler, Heather Trenk.

Agenda

Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
COVID -19	<p>Staff tests</p> <p>Incarcerated tests</p>	<p>So far MCC has done 11, 231 staff tests. 2 staff tested positive this week.</p> <p>We have 5 on isolation, 1 from WSRU and 1 from SOU with 3 violators on isolation.</p> <p>1 Violator is on Quarantine.</p>
Safe Start (Visiting)	<p>When will Visiting Starting?</p> <p>Are barriers from OBF fund and will they be permanent?</p> <p>What is the process to schedule a visit?</p>	<p>We are hoping to start visiting by at least Thanksgiving. We are waiting for barriers to be built and installed.</p> <p>No, barriers are not being paid out of the OBF. I'm unsure how the state is paying for them. Barriers won't be permanent, only for phases 2 & 3.</p> <p>The process for scheduling visits is still being worked on. An email will sent to LFC and message to the population with the procedure. Reservations for visitation will be confirmed through emails, print and bring to confirm you have a reserved spot.</p>

	<p>What will it look like when arriving to visit?</p> <p>Will traveling from a previous COVID hotspot affect the option to visit?</p>	<p>Visitors will wear a personal mask and exchange for a surgical mask, personal mask to be kept with keys. You will get your personal mask & keys back when you leave.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on where you are coming from to visit but you will have to answering screening questions.</p>
Safe Start (searches)	What is happening with searches?	<p>Most pat searches and cell searches were suspended due to COVID. Starting November 9th, we will slowly start rolling out searches again in high traffic areas. Searches will be 50% of the policy requirement based on custody level, with increased PPE requirement.</p>
Safe Start (yard time & weight decks)	When will yard times & weight deck go back to normal?	<p>This has not been discussed as part of the new Safe Start update yet. Deputy Director Jeneva Cotton is working with medical staff regarding weight decks and recreation areas. Captain McNeese feels the weight deck could be used, along with more of the population being able to go to the rec yards due to their size once cleaning protocols are in place, however MCC must abide by the limitations as directed by headquarters. There will be more to come.</p>
COVID Conference calls	Are COVID conference calls notes still being posted in the living units?	<p>Notes are sent weekly to the CUS/CMHUS and Superintendents. The CUS & CMHUS should be posting them.</p>
Mailroom	<p>Questions were asked related to sending and receiving legal mail, crayons, colored pencils, colored envelopes, copies of envelopes given to the population. Books & magazines getting denied.</p>	<p>Lisa Flynn & Tracy Snider were on the OCO call responding to questions and issues related to the mailroom. There will be another meeting in 2 weeks. CPM Cohn continues to work with Lisa Flynn on mail room operations. If something was denied, there is an appeal process in place to ensure the denial was not in error.</p>
Cable	Are there any updates regarding cable service at MSU?	<p>CPM Miller reports cable feeds are being changed in the units at MSU, hoping it will be completed soon and that should help with the service.</p>

Jpay Kiosk	Issues still with Jpay stating they are not being able to assign certain kiosk machines to those with mobility limitations.	We understand the frustration. We will continue to work with Jpay to seek resolution. SFC Rep D'allesandro to bring it up at the statewide meeting.
Smell at WSR	There seems to be a septic smell through the facility. Are they are working on it and will it be completed next week?	The smell isn't septic, but due to the building being so old and has very old pipes in spots. C/D units are the worst. After addressing the issue, the smell pops up again. Maintenance continues to attempt resolution. We will follow up and report when we learn more.
Dental	Is there a date for when dental procedures will start?	Will invite Health Services to our next meeting. There are some Dental appointments being conducted.
SWANK Movie Channel	Movies that are playing are not ones people would watch. Is there an option for the population to vote on which movies?	Danielle White submitted a list of movies. CMHUS Murray oversees the movie channel, and will be invited to next week's teleconference to answer questions.

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Furloughs	When and who will furloughs and mandatory temporary lay-off be affecting?	<p>At this time officers/sergeants/lieutenants will not be affect by lay-offs or furloughs.</p> <p>Mail room - there will be an officer and Sergeant working the mail room, but other non-uniform staff will be effected. Legal mail will be processed first and other mail will still be processed but slower.</p> <p>Business office – Some in the Business Office will be furloughed resulting in delays of processing of money orders.</p> <p>Correctional Industries – Laundry and Food Services will not be affected.</p> <p>Temporary layoffs will affect representative staff - including administrative and office assistants, classification, and other non-uniformed staff.</p> <p>Health Services staff will not be affected but their support staff will.</p>

Fundraising & Incentives	Can there be an increase in fundraising and incentives for the population?	<p>Statewide Rep Felix reported there is talk at the statewide level of increasing fundraising.</p> <p>Fundraising at MCC is done quarterly. TRU & MSU have recently ordered Costco Pizza. WSR's population would like Costco Pizza as well.</p> <p>Captain McNeese would like to find a way to do more incentives for the population, but due to COVID and added duties, it was put on the back burner.</p> <p>Incentives to focus on the positive behaviors instead of punishments. As custody level changes should have more incentives.</p> <p>Could there be a statewide incentive program?</p>
Stimulus Checks	<p>Will DOC take LFO's out of stimulus check from the population?</p> <p>Questions about what happens if child support takes it?</p>	<p>Captain McNeese didn't know the answer but is waiting for an answer from the business office. Comment from Colonel Coates stating the law firm is still working on the class action suit, so even if guys fill out the form, send it in and receive the money, there could be a chance they have to send it back.</p> <p>Update: Our business office confirmed they have approval to deposit funds received into individual's trust account.</p>
Legislative Call		Colonel Coates reported that on the legislative call there has been discussion of prison standards and how they are run across the board.
Visiting Room at TRU	It was reported the TRU visit room is being painted and new floors are being installed? Will the VR be ready to install barriers to be ready to open for visitation?	The visiting room will be ready to open when a visiting date is released.
LFC Elections	<p>Voting for LFC Co-Chair, Co-Secretary & statewide reps.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the option of having 2 state reps as MCC has several facilities, not just 1.</p>	<p>Joanne Todd was elected as Co-chair.</p> <p>No nominations for co-secretary, but Josephine Johnson said she is willing to continue.</p>

	Along with discussion of having 2 family councils.	Felix D'Allesandro & Danielle White were nominated as SFC Representatives. Many Council members would like to vote for both. Captain McNeese will check into this if it's an option. Based upon votes collected, Felix D'Allesandro was elected.
Statewide Meeting	Next Statewide meeting is November 21, 10 am to 3pm.	Topics: proposals for Securus and another company (Centurylink) competing with JPay; Tracy Snider on mailroom issues; James Donavon on staff accountability; Daniel Johnson from health services; Melena Thompson policy & legislative updates. Statewide Elections - Co-chair & secretary (comments from LFC stating the LFC state reps need to get input regarding who to vote for at statewide elections, and use the majority of the votes.)

Roundtable open discussion: Discussion about the perspective of how the LFC collaborate and work together as a team. Feelings of even though there are disagreements in email threads, that it shows struggles related to different experiences.

Next meeting location: Virtual Skype for Business Date: 12/12/20 Time: 1000 - 1200

Comments: _____

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