

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 10/30/20

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Karen Cain
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Shealyn Down-Hester
- Angela Hinton
- Josephine Johnson
- Christine Matthison
- Diane Pasta
- Rob Tarver
- Carol Welch
- Ina McNeese
- Sandra Arrietta
- Bill Frantz
- Terry Cohn
- Kathleen Bechler
- LaQuesha Turner
- Eric Jackson

Weekly Update

We are at the end of week 13 for staff testing. So far we have done 12,327 tests on staff and contractors. Unfortunately this week we had one staff test return positive, appropriate contact mapping was completed and no quarantine of incarcerated individuals are necessary as a result.

COVID Unit - We have 10 on isolation (8 are Violators, 1 from TRU and 1 from SOU). We have 1 on Quarantine who is a Violator.

Heat and Hot Water –

The issues with a lack of hot water and heat in the units were brought to our attention on Monday and repaired that same day. There was a failure of a main valve which serviced the entire Twin Rivers Unit. While the issue was being repaired, extra blankets were made available to those who needed/wanted them. Since this repair, we have not heard any issues from the population. Because of recent concerns from loved ones in the community, all the unit liaisons were pulled in today from each unit and asked if there continues to be issues regarding hot water in the units or a lack of heat.

All responded affirming there is heat and hot water, however, there was an issue in one of the units where the water fluctuated between hot and cold. Maintenance staff have been notified and are working on resolving this issue. Unit staff continue to be vigilant on ensuring the heat and hot water remains on in the living units. If issues were to again arise, work orders will immediately be submitted to get the issue remedied. Please know that when these type of issues are brought to our attention, they become our highest priority to get them resolved. I hope this alleviates any concerns you may have.

Update: During the call, Captain Frantz informed the council there were reports of heat failure on one of the wings of TRU B Unit. Maintenance is working on it.

Enhanced Breakfast Boats

Effective 11/30/20 Incarcerated individuals will begin receiving their Breakfast in the morning. In addition to previously prepared breakfast boats, 2 hard-boiled eggs and a carton of fresh milk will be included. Because these items require refrigeration, breakfast must be served in the morning.

Captains have reviewed and consolidated movement schedules, I do not have the schedules for the other MCC units at this time, but in the case of WSRU, while we are losing the 0630 Recreation Period, we will actually gain in total recreation periods for a total of 8. I was able to do this at WSR because there were intermittent periods of down-time in the existing schedule.

This week I received multiple complaints about poor cable reception at WSRU. Plant Manager McCraw was notified and was able to find someone to adjust it yesterday. I have received no further complaints since then.

TV Cable Reception

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Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

A recent message was sent out to both the population and LFC stating that the cost of “debttable” items has been reduced. What are debttable items?

Answer

I obtained the list from our Commissary Manager and sent it out to the LFC this morning.

I asked our Commissary Manager, while there are some limitation on what can be ordered while in restrictive housing, anyone can order these items off the store list, at the price indicated. If individuals have money, it will be deducted. If no money is available, the charge goes toward their debt.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Do you have an update on the movie channel?

Answer

CMHUS Murray is on vacation but we will have her on the call to give updates when she returns after November 4th.

Question 2

Is the heat and hot water at TRU resolved?

Answer

Yes, a heat exchanger was replaced and the heat and hot water issues have been resolved. When the steam heat is first turned on, it takes a while for the heat to get where it's going and often blows cold air at first. The concrete walls at our facilities retain both heat and cold, so when it is cold it takes quite a bit of time to re-heat.

Question 3

Do you have any information on DOC rumor JPAY 2 free weekly video visits being reduced to 2 calls per month, is that true?

Answer

No, that is not true. That is a rumor and there are no changes in the video visits.

Question 4

JPAY only has 3 times available that I can sign up for video conferences and I used to be able to choose from up to 10 time slots per day. Does anyone else have this problem?

Answer

I have not heard that from others having problems. CPM Cohn will to reach out to assist with your problem. If others are having this problems let us know and we will try to resolve the issue.

Question 5 – Comment

The scheduled weekly OCO teleconference will have a call next Thursday to discuss on-going Mail Room concerns, this week there was a long discussion regarding JPay negotiations that was reported to have been impactful. The calls have a lot of good information if you get a chance to join the calls.

Question 6

Thank you for getting the TV reception fixed so quickly. It is better than it has been since 2010. I look forward to hearing about the movie channel.

Question 7

Can you please give us an update on flu shots for the incarcerated?

Answer

Flu shots were given at TRU this week, and next week they will be given at SOU. I will try to get a vaccine schedule out to the family council for WSRU and MSU.

Question 7

With heat issues, are the population being offered Long Johns?

Answer

We will have to research this to find if they are even in stock. Some years ago, long johns were removed from the general population clothing lists.

Comments/Closing

Captain McNeese will be on vacation next week and will be back on November 12th. Two weeks ago Headquarters said we could have our teleconferences every two weeks instead of weekly. We have sent an email out to our Council to provide concerns/feedback/suggestions.

Happy Friday everyone. Enjoy your weekend.