

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 11/13/20, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Karen Cain
- Byron Coates
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Shealyn Downey-Hester
- Diane Durall
- Angela Hinton
- Josephine Johnson
- Christine Mathison
- Stephanie Meadows
- Diane Pasta
- Rob Tarver
- Joanne Todd
- Carol Welch
- Danielle White
- Ina McNeese
- Terry Cohn
- Kari Styles
- Jack Warner
- Bill Frantz
- Terry Cohn
- Heather Trenk
- Matthias Gyde
- Eric Jackson

Weekly Update

So far we have done 14,085 tests on staff and contractors. As of our last call, during the period of 10/30 thru 11/13 we have had 5 staff test positive.

COVID Unit - We have 23 on isolation, 11 Individuals from Work Release, 9 Violators, 1 TRU, 1 SOU and 1 WSRU
We have 2 on Quarantine, 1 from TRU and 1 pending out of state pending transfer.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Law Library - WSRU

LEGAL COPIES

From what I understand the Law Library is open 6 days a week (open 6 hours some days 3 hours the other days)

Ms Kastle works 6 of the hours and the rest are being filled by a recently hired assistant.

The new assistant has been instructed by Kastle to not make copies of legal documents. Why is this?

RESOLVE: **-Allow Incarcerated individuals to be able to make copies as has been the practice for some time.**
 -With a possible future quarantine/lockdown one idea from the c/d side is a liaison could be appointed to make copies for Incarcerated individuals (possibly a CUS or counselor)

DOCUMENTS NOT ON COMPUTERS

When the computer server went down in the last month or so ago. When the server was fixed the access to DOC Policies, Court Procedures, operational Memorandums ...that were previously on the server are no longer available. The Law Library is the only place for inmates to access these documents since the state library has been closed since March,2020.

Resolve: get the documents that were previously accessible on the computers put back on the server.
Until that occurs DOC should print policies out so that inmates have access to the various documents previously accessible.

Answer

Any copies being made in the law library have to be legal material. Unfortunately when we have new staff we have individuals who ask for copies of things that turn out not to be of a legal nature or are asking for more copies than our policy allows for. Ms. Kastle is working with the new staff this week to train her on what is considered legal material and what the limits are per policy. Hopefully by next week she can begin making copies. We will not be using anyone on the unit to make copies. If a unit goes on quarantine individuals need copies can contact the unit CUS and arrangements will be made to get the copying completed.

At this time we will not be making copies of the policies. In all likelihood we will have the policies back on the computers before we can finish printing hundreds of pages of policies for three law libraries. If there is a particular policy an individual needs to review that person can request the policy from the Law Librarian who will print it for the individual to review while they are in the Law Library. We are working on getting the policies back on the computers in the very near future.

Question 2

There are on-going concerns regarding intermittent heating failures.

Answer

Our Maintenance Department responds to intermittent failures. Heaters are old and they need a lot of maintenance, so it is full steam ahead on getting the heat working.

Question 3

A question for the next Covid topic - status of MCC's plan for handling of scheduling visits - telephonic, text, web site?

Answer

Captain McNeese has been on vacation and is catching up on emails. There will be more information to come.

Question 4

Starting to see number going up for staff and for the population for cases. Will there be units in quarantine that aren't in the COVID unit?

Answer

Right now there are not any, but we work to keep everyone safe and healthy and will do what needs to be done for the good of the population.

Question 5

We are hearing there may not be fundraiser to do banking department not wanting to deal with it due to the furloughs and working remote. I am hoping this is not true, it's one of the things the population look forward to.

Answer

I don't believe that is true. There are a lot of people off due to furloughs so it is clear that we could do a fundraiser, but it may not be at the scheduled time with holidays and furloughs, but the fund raiser will count as a fund raiser for 2020.

Question 6

What will be included in the state holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas? Rumors are they may not have them this year.

Answer

We will continue to provide holiday meals. CI sent me a copy of the menu for Thanksgiving.

FRUIT MANDRINE	1 EACH	2 EACH
SALAD AND DRESSING	1 CUP	1 CUP
TURKEY & CRANBERRY SAUCE(#30)	6 oz	
MASH POTATO(8OZ) & GRAVY(4OZ)	1 EACH	
STUFFING	4OZ	
GREEN BEANS	1 CUP	
FORTIFIED DRINK	1 EACH	
MARGARINE & WG ROLL	1 EACH	
PUMPKIN PIE	1 SL	
FRUIT	1 EACH	
LUNCHMEAT AND CHEESE	1 EACH	
HAMBURGER BUN	1EA	
CHIPS	1 BAG	
FRESH VEGGIES	1/2 CUP	
COOKIE	1 EACH	
MUSTARD AND MAYO PACK	1EA	
FORTIFIED DRINK	1 EACH	

Question 7

Any updates on the timeline for visitation? With numbers going up around the state again, will this delay visiting opening?

Answer

I don't know. This is being worked on by headquarters and we will have to see how the numbers go.

Question 8

This month when I made a property order for my son from Union Supply, I was asked whether I was ordering from the old catalog or the new catalog. The Union Supply rep told me that there is a new catalog coming out this week and there is overlap between the old catalog and the new. He said the old catalog expires Nov. 30 and the new catalog will last until May. I asked my son today whether he has received the new catalog yet and he said No. Do you know when the new catalog will be distributed?

Answer

The holiday catalogues have been delivered. The monthly catalogues have not been yet.

Question 9

Is there anyway more phones can be added to the facilities? 2 phones on top tear and 2 phones on bottom tear for 80 people in a pod? It is a money making situation for DOC and the phone company. I do not understand how there are only 4 phones for that many people and less if one breaks down. Families and the incarcerated would be able to talk to their loved ones more especially during COVID. There is always a line at night especially during the week due to most of us working during the day. Can this be brought up please?

Answer

Yes, this can be brought up.

Question 10

There has been a lot of conversations occurring in regard to nominations for Statewide Family Council Chair, and a suggestion to discuss the nominations as a group within the LFC.

Answer

The Statewide Family Council will provide names to our SFC Rep. Felix D'Allesandro, who will share the names and bios with the Council. He would like to have feedback from the Council by Wednesday for input. If you have feedback, please get it to Felix so he will know your wishes to vote for the SFC Co-Chair. Thank you.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Will the enhanced breakfasts begin on 11/30 as planned?

Answer

Yes, they will go ahead as planned.

Question 2

Will there be a Mail backlog with the coming furlough?

Answer

The goal is priority first. The legal mail should go smoothly. We will get as much done as possible, but we didn't have a lot of backlog last time and this furlough is 3 days, not 4 as last time.

Question 3 - Comment

Jpay and phone contract. The new tablets will be able to make calls from Tablets. Once contract is signed, the population will be able to purchase tablets to place calls from their tablets. DOC is looking at the cost. More information to come.

Question 4

November 21st is the next statewide Family Council meeting with the new officers to be announced at that time. When is the next Local Family Council Meeting?

Answer

The next LFC Virtual meeting will be on Saturday December 12th from 10 – 12:00 pm. The calendar for 2021 Family Council meetings schedule was sent out today.

Question 5

Video Visit call. I was not able to get my free call this month.

Answer

Captain McNeese will email CPM Cohn's contact information so this can be discussed further.

Question 6

When is the population locked down for meals and count? What has changed? The phones seems to be always busy.

Answer

Nothing has changed at WSRU. At TRU once count clears the population can come out and use the phones. This is to encourage social distancing.

Question 7

Has the process for Mail changed? It took 3 weeks for a letter to get there?

Answer

I will talk to you about the specifics after the phone call.

Question 8

Will visitation be delayed due to the numbers being up in the State?

Answer

I don't have an answer to that. The start of searches have been suspended and we don't know how other things may be affected.

Question 9

What will happen with the call for the week of Thanksgiving?

Answer

We will have the call on Wednesday November 25th. Kathleen will send out an invitation.

Question 10

Can an email go out to the population on how they can access OCO updates?

Answer

I would have to find out how to do it, but it is something I can look into.

Question 11

Can the minutes go out to the population on Kiosk?

Answer

CPM Styles can have her secretary put the minutes out to the population via Kiosk.

Question 12

With the cost of CI items going up, can the spending ceiling be raised?

Answer

This is something that is decided at the Headquarters level, but I will try to get an answer.

Question 13

WSRU B Unit had to go without laundry for a week. What can we do to make sure they get back on regular rotation?

Answer

CI had a break in service and worked overtime to get caught up. This is something that was beyond our control and did the best to fix it.

Question 14

Can the guys get more action movies? It seems like they are getting feel good movies on the movie channel.

Answer

CUS Murray works to get the most appropriate movies available.

Question 15

When the CI workers are out for a week, can you please give notice to them that they will be out all week instead of them having to look at the call out each day?

Answer

This was something that was beyond our control and we did the best that we could under the circumstance.

Comments/Closing

Have a good weekend everyone!