



FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual Skype meeting Date: 1/16/2021 Time: 10:00-12:00 pm

Teleconference details: Virtual Skype Meeting

Meeting Attendees

Department/facility co-chair: Ina McNeese Family co-chair: Joanne Todd

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

Members present: Michele Aceto; Lynn Barker; Karen Cain; Byron Coates; Felix D'Allesandro; Caryl Darby; Angela Hinton; Josephine Johnson; Dianna Knesek; Dana Malaha; Stephanie Meadows, Carrie Montoya; Diane Pasta; Rob Tarver; Joanne Todd; Carol Welch; Danielle White; Jessica Wood.

Non-council member attendees: Karen Haydon; Eric Jackson; Melida Murray; George Turcin; Bill Frantz; Ina McNeese; Kathleen Bechler.

Agenda

Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (Questions)	Next Steps (Responses)
COVID Numbers	Numbers of cases	246 new positive cases in the last 30 days. 315 total confirmed cases to date.
Quarantine & Isolation Information	C/D Units WSR Gym MSU	WSR - C/D units still on quarantine. Since the end of December 25/26th. Per prison health services every time someone in a unit tests positive, they go to the COVID unit and it resets the quarantine date over again. Someone just yesterday from the C/D unit had symptoms and was tested again. 100 beds placed in the gym for asymptomatic positives - extra phones installed, cable & TV's set up, and able to order store. MSU - few on quarantine as a result of MSU porters working in the COVID IMU area. Had on full PPE, but the Chief medical officer wanted to place them on quarantine out of caution. There has been a change in protocol for cleaning.
	Is someone in isolation 14 or 20 days?	Many COVID related questions now have to be sent to HQ first before Cpt. McNeese can respond. Minimum of 14 +1 day, some will be extended to 20 or more days depending on

<p>Post Isolation/COVID Recovered</p>	<p>What happens after their isolation period is over?</p> <p>If someone tested positive and is in the COVID unit, they are being told they have to get tested again. On our weekly call it has been stated they won't be tested again.</p>	<p>symptoms. The plan is that once someone leaves isolation they will move back to their previous housing assignment.</p> <p>COVID positives individuals who have been evaluated and accessed by medical staff are being moved back to the units. As of the meeting, 15 have been reported cleared to move back to C/D units.</p> <p>Once and Individual tests positive, they are not retested.</p> <p>Supt. Jackson reported they are following medical guidelines and can find more information on their website.</p>
<p>Commissary</p>	<p>What happens to a commissary order when someone is moved due to COVID?</p>	<p>Usually the commissary is sent back, We are trying to get it delivered no matter where the incarcerated may have been moved to.</p>
<p>EFV Trailers</p>	<p>Is there anyone from WSR in the trailers?</p>	<p>There is no high risk from WSR in the trailers, but there are still 6 from MSU there.</p>
<p>RCF (Regional Care Facility)</p>	<p>Where & what is it?</p>	<p>Installed at TRU's yard. 1 tent with 4 toilets & 4 showers, 3 tents with 10 beds each. PPE area, hallways between tents, UVC Hepa filter systems. Will house 30 positive symptomatic patients. Nobody is in the tents due to not enough staffing. Don't have the high level of medical staff to cover shifts.</p>
<p>Test Results</p>	<p>How & when are the guys getting their results?</p>	<p>Individuals are starting to get test results. The number of tests that have been taken is in part the result of delayed results. Results do not include DOC #'s, therefore someone has to take the time to looked up each name and add their DOC # and house assignment to the results for distribution. As of the meeting, a qualified person was placed on light duty and will work on getting the numbers on the results and get caught up on the paper copies of the results.</p>
<p>Mail</p>	<p>How do we address mail to our loved ones if they are in IMU due to COVID?</p>	<p>If you know the housing unit your loved one is in during isolation, you can address it to the IMU unit, but if not can still address it to their regular housing unit. The mailroom has a rooster of where individuals have been moved and will get mail to them even if it is delayed. Mailroom staff are working overtime to get 1st class mail bundled, and distributed.</p>
<p>JPay Update</p>	<p>Delayed messages & WiFi issues</p>	<p>As of the meeting there were less than 350 emails waiting to be read between TRU & WSR.</p>

		<p>Wifi has been off on and off throughout the week, Jpay has also had interrupted services this week. CPM Cohn will check on it, message sent to HQ & Jpay regarding issues</p> <p>Was asked if hotspots could be placed in the gym & IMU which then loved ones could communicate with families.</p>

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (Questions)	Next Steps (Information & Responses)
<p>Statewide Update Felix D' Allesandro</p>	<p>IITS</p> <p>Family Services</p> <p>Comfort Items</p> <p>Staff Accountability</p>	<p>Anna Ivanov & Felix are reps on the IITS community. There has been no decision on which vendor for the contract between Jpay (Securus) or IC Solutions. They are looking at the possibility of a 6 year contract when a choice is made. Questions asked - will the 6 year contract be a fixed contract or be able to have yearly reviews?</p> <p>Lisa Flynn of Family Services is looking to hire a manager. Activities they are looking to possibly do is Valentine's Day Projects. Also, working on the virtual weddings. Question asked - Will the new family service manager work for DOC monitor the contract for families?</p> <p>Comfort items - There seems to be a communication breakdown of what comfort items were meant to be. Looking at more info from WSP, as they bought crayons and items that would be used at regular family events. This was not the intent of comfort items.</p> <p>James Donovan reported on staff accountability linking it to the Dept. Strategic Plan to improve the agency's core values. Along with hiring a management analyst. Teamsters were involved in the conversations. Enterprise results - lowest area reported - employees not having a clear information about agency. Also, customer feedback was ok to improve the work process.</p> <p>OBF is now called IIBF</p> <p>Next Statewide meeting - March 20, 2021</p>
<p>Family Services George Turcin</p>	<p>Family Service Update</p>	<p>There was a new chain of command last year and now Family Services are under Lisa Flynn. They have new work assignments, are supposed to show</p>

		<p>present in the visiting room(started before covid)</p> <p>Working on a parenting program, have been doing classes at AHCC which conflicts with MCC Covid Calls.</p> <p>Also, working on new resources for lodging assistance if you travel more than 100 miles to visit. Will have contracts with local hotels and cover up to \$50.00</p> <p>Program Avery - nationwide program for children ages 10-15 to enroll in an online program to learn ways to deal with family members who are incarcerated.</p>
<p>Legislative Updates Col. Bryon Coates</p>	<p>Legislative Information</p>	<p>He will email the Family Council a list of the bills. He has commented on bills and has been asked to testify on 2 bills. Anyone can comment on a bill, with a response of yes or no on whether you support it. Watch email for new bills as they are dropped.</p> <p>Felix added he encourages people to read the proposal for earned release time and support the bill by calling your legislator. Families can assist DOC by testifying to increase the budget.</p>
<p>Television Cable</p>	<p>Information regarding update & voting during roll call.</p> <p>Council has voted Yes on the expenditure</p>	<p>Business Manager Karen Haden gave a report. Step 1 of 2 to improve cabling to get the HD signal. Many complaints about reception & channels. Due to the old cables, it puts a restriction on the channel able to run into the facilities. Pay about \$10,000/month for cable service, incarcerated pay .50/month, difference comes out of the IIBF fund. Will improve reception in EFV trailers also.</p>
<p>Virtual Weddings CPM Cohn</p>	<p>Update regarding Virtual Weddings</p>	<p>Virtual weddings will happen through the zoom platform. The family member has to arrange it with one of the religious coordinators, will have to do a dry run and make sure PPE & social distance can happen in the location at the prison, and the family member starts the zoom.</p> <p>Reported virtual weddings only during pandemic, but statewide discussed it to be ongoing after pandemic. Still being discussed.</p> <p>Was asked why Chaplains can't perform weddings? Why is Reverend Raspberry the only one who can perform these weddings?</p> <p>Col. Coates said to perform weddings, the officiant has to go through the process and get certified.</p>
<p>Family member concerns</p>	<p>Keyboard & headphones</p>	<p>Family member why her loved one at TRU is unable to have his headphones which he had before at a different facility. Captains Frantz & McNeese will check into it.</p>

	Instruments	During the pandemic is it possible for family members to buy their loved ones an instrument through the approved vendor? If incarcerated buys it themselves, families have to put more money on their books due to the deductions taken out.
	Medical Emergency	Family members said Health Services need training to respond to all medical emergencies. All staff and health Services are trained to respond to medical emergencies including mental health medical emergencies. If an incarcerated individual declares an emergency, staff ensure those responding know the nature of the emergency.
	Annual Reviews New CUS on A/B side requesting visitation be accounted for during annual review. Asking if there was any drug/alcohol use before incarcerated when before it was any positive UA's in the last 6 months.	New CUS on A/B side is requesting visitation be accounted for during annual review. Asking if there was any drug/alcohol use before incarcerated when before it was any positive UA's in the last 6 months. McNeese reported back in 2015 when they started work on the Washington One Risk Assessment, no one could have envisioned a pandemic that would stall visiting this long. Visiting is just one of the areas that helps indicate community support and may be an indication of reduced recidivism.
	Heating issues - Reports of TRU being freezing	Capt. France & Capt. McNeese will check into the unit and follow up with the family member. This issue is resolved.
	Many new members joining LFC & COVID calls	Suggested Captain McNeese email new member along with Joanna Todd to be able to touch base and work with new family members. Another suggestion is to have meetings to work with new families to address questions that have been discussed previously. Who hosts the call, rotation of different family members and when to have the meetings to be discussed.
Superintendent Jackson	Jackson's Comments	Superintendent Jackson reports he appreciates being able to sit in on the meetings, and they are very informative. We are doing the best they can to take care of your loved ones. He knows it's not easy for them to leave their house and get moved to the gym or IMU. Even though it was costly they added phones, showers & bathrooms for the guys in the gym and know it's important for them to be comfortable otherwise it leads to frustrations.

Roundtable open discussion

Next meeting location: Skype for Business Date: March 27, 2021 Time: 10:00 to 12:00 pm

Comments: _____

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