

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 4/09/2021, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Lynn barker
Karen Cain
Felix D'Allesandro
Caryl Darby
Kim Day
Diane Durall
Laynara Ferriera
Bruce Glant
Melody Grandshaw
Angela Hinton
Josephine Johnson
Diana Knesek
Cait Moore
Ron O'Neil
Diane Pasta
Joanne Todd
Carol Welch
Rachael Symon
Kari Styles
Karen Haydon
Kaela Chong
George Gilbert
Ina McNeese
Kathleen Bechler

Weekly Update

TRU has a vaccination clinic scheduled for 4/16/21. Approximately 293 individuals have signed up. TRU has given 247 and 53 with second doses.

MSU has their next vaccination clinic on 4/20 with approximately 45 individuals signed up. 88 first doses given with 7 to who got their booster. The majority of MSU population who want the vaccine have received it.

WSR – has a vaccination booster clinic today. 112 First Doses and second dose today. Sign-up sheet for the next dose will be coming.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

I would like to discuss the process that Individuals housed by DOC are notified that their Release of Information (ROI) has expired. In all of my 40 years of work with clients we always notified the individual when their ROI was expired and gave them the opportunity to renew it. It appears that DOC does not notify individuals when their ROI is expired.

Answer

As for the ROI and the expiration date, I really get how frustrating that can be. Because our medical files are not electronic, I'm not sure there is an ability to send out notices of pending expirations. Although, I believe either Billy Heinsohn or Elke Jackson told us (LFC) that our Health Services Department had created a spread sheet to track ROI's, if that is true, there may be a way. It is best if your loved one's early release date is on the form to avoid expiration.

Question 2

Since the cohorts were put into place, the 3rd shift has been bringing in the Clean Laundry carts in after dinner when before the carts were brought in between 2:30 and 3:00 pm. This late time for the carts being brought in, makes it difficult for individuals to have their laundry bag with dirty laundry, to be taken out, and I imagine other issues as well. CUS Geer is aware of this issue and it appears that the "chain of command" outside of Geer's responsibility is not addressing the issue. Please talk to CUS Geer about this issue and report back to FC.

Answer

Yes, there have been some issues with the carts coming back from the Gate 7 area and making it to the units in a timely matter. Our C/D Unit CUS has already reached out to a couple of the W3 Sgt's to assist with this and the matter seems to have been resolved over the last two weeks. CUS Geer has also been ensuring that the laundry carts make it out of the units in the morning so they may go out to gate 7 for pick up by CI as we had a bit of an issue there as well since the carts were coming back late. Everything thing seems to be running much better the last 10-12 days with no new issues reported. CUS Geer has been making efforts to correct the problem.

Question 3

If someone has a morning call out for medical, clothing or property, per Lt. Bratten they are now not allowed to go out to work till the 12:30 movement. Before they were able to go at the next movement? Can you please explain why the change and if this is supposed to be like this now or should it be as it was before?

Answer

We haven't changed the system. Movement back to assigned work locations may be dependent on what time the appointment is, where we are in our movement schedule, and what is going on with facility operations. Cohorting has compounded the difficulties as all movement is restricted to single unit.

Question 4

It sounds like cleaning is not being done between jpay kiosk uses, phone or just cleaning in general as it has in the past. That porters were hired for cleaning, but they have been pretty relaxed about it and not cleaning like it should be. Can you please check into this?

Answer

We still have porters assigned to all areas for cleaning. If you, or your loved ones are able to pinpoint a specific area, for example, B unit telephones on date/time were not being cleaned between use, it is much easier for me to follow-up on. In the meantime, we consistently remind staff and the incarcerated of their obligations toward cleaning, social distancing and cohorting.

Question 5

I have heard that other facilities are starting to change a few things back to how they were pre-covid as far as movement. I know their layout is different from some of the facilities at MCC. Are there any updates on changing schedules or movement and cohorting for MCC?

Answer

All facilities are conducting business as directed by Prisons/Health Services Unified Command. As applied, these directions may look different at the facility level due to facility footprint, design, population and available programming areas. I am certainly open to suggestions, as we have tried very hard to think outside the box to find creative solutions. Work is being done to get Visiting back open and we expect any day to hear the opening date. Weight Decks are also preparing for opening and as I understand it, the fee will be waived due to decreased access resulting from our cohort recreation schedule.

Question 6

Is there an end in sight to cohorting?

Answer

Unfortunately, not at this time.

Question 7

Is there a possible beginning to in person visiting?

Answer

Yes! Headquarters is busily trying to complete the addition to the DOC website. This is a program you will be able to log into to request a visit. When seeking to schedule a visit, you will enter 3 visit dates. The system is set up to offer only dates that are available to the individual based upon his or her cohort. Once you complete the visit request the system will auto generate a notice to the individual's facility schedulers. The scheduler will check availability. If you are approved to visit you will get a letter to print and bring with you. There will be more information coming. I met with VR staff today and they are on a mission to get visiting going. The visit hours and days will remain very close to the previous hours, with breaks in between for cleaning after each visit session. Visiting will be limited to one hour and visitors must be 16 and older.

Question 8

Does JPay have two free computer visits per week?

Answer

Yes, this continues through April. I've not been informed if it will continue into May.

Question 9

When will the Tablet upgrades to include phone calling be available?

Answer

Although we are still negotiating a new contract, according to our IIU Chief Gilbert this is definitely on the table. SecurUs has not been selected as the new incarcerated individual technology vendor but the Department is in negotiations with them. They would like to complete a site survey prior to the contract being finalized in order to determine need. They will be at MCC on April 26th. I see this as progress toward resolution.

Question 10

What is happening with the Mattress distribution completion on unit C at WSR?

Answer

I have reached out for an answer, and will have to follow up.

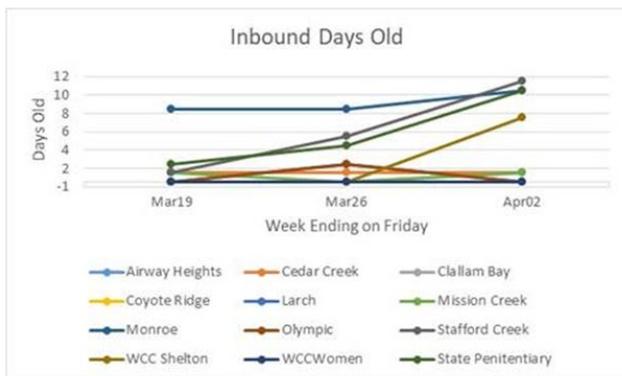
Question 11

Now that DOC is posting Jpay mailing turn-around times, what is MCC plan to handle the increased in volume in the future without more delays?

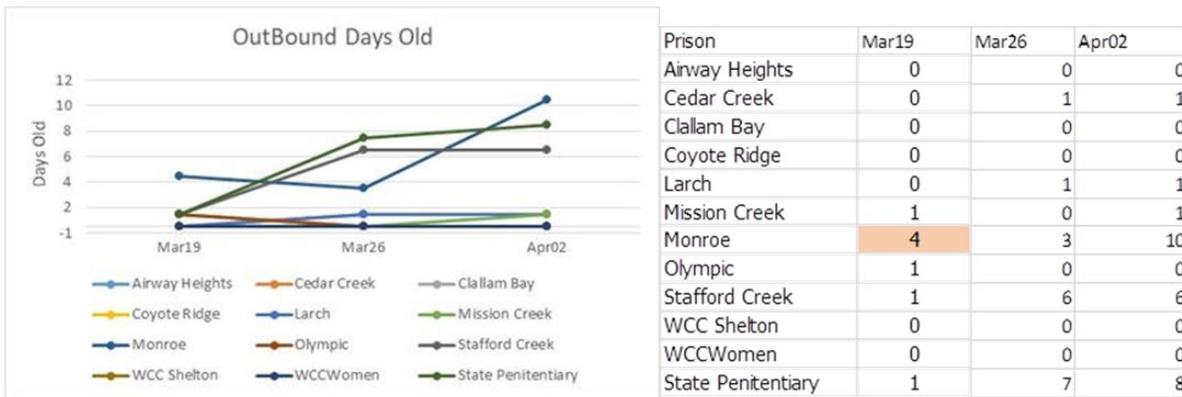
Answer

Overtime is authorized to get e-mails out in a timely manner. We are still in contract negotiations with the new system and believe it will likely result in an increase of volume. We don't know what it will look like until we have the new vendor. The amount of mail is expected to increase.

Below are the charts of inbound and outbound mail as posted on the Webpage.



Prison	Mar19	Mar26	Apr02
Airway Heights	0	0	0
Cedar Creek	1	1	1
Clallam Bay	0	0	1
Coyote Ridge	0	0	0
Larch	0	2	0
Mission Creek	1	0	1
Monroe	8	8	10
Olympic	0	2	0
Stafford Creek	1	5	11
WCC Shelton	0	0	7
WCCWomen	0	0	0
State Penitentiary	2	4	10



Additional Questions

Question 1

I'm frustrated and I don't understand why there is only 1 hour visit per month. Why is that?

Answer

I understand the frustration. The population of WSRU is about 650 and we must ensure everyone has an opportunity to visit. The visit areas must be thoroughly cleaned between visits so there is a 30-minute break between visits. We must conduct visits by cohorts and although we don't want to have any visit vacancies, we will have to see how this rolls out. This is also new to DOC and it is possible there may be changes if it turns out that there are vacancies or other unanticipated wrinkles to iron out. We hope to get back to regular visits soon.

Question 2

Are there any changes in dental to be able to have teeth cleaned.

Answer

Dental is moving toward getting antigen testing prior to any procedures that causes spray. When more dental procedures are authorized there is a long list of patients waiting to get their appointments.

Question 3

What is the state of the rapid Deployment Care Facility? (RDCF) at TRU?

Answer

It has been moved out of the recreation yard. The yard is not open yet, but we are working toward it opening.

Question 4

Are the individuals getting the vaccine cards stating they had the vaccine?

Answer

Yes, they are.

Question 5

Has the TV Cable system project been complete?

Answer

No, not yet, but it is in the works.

Question 6

Visiting getting one visit per month with up to 2 visitors. Can another person on the visit list see when you are visiting and contact you to be able to visit at the same time?

Answer

For 2 people to visit, the person scheduling the visit would have to schedule the visit for both at the same time. There is no ability to “replace” one of the scheduled Visitors after the scheduled visit has been approved.

Question 7

Are the COVID Vulnerable individuals still in the EFV’s?

Answer

Yes, there are 5 and we don’t know when they will return to MSU.

Question 8

I heard the showers on A and B units have black mold at WSRU.

Answer

I have not been made aware, but I will follow-up. Thank you.

Question 9

I am worried my son will need help signing up for the visit. Will there be someone able to help him?

Answer

It would be the visitor who will be signing up for the visit. There will be help available if needed.

Question 10

Is it possible to get pictures of visiting rooms so we can see what visiting will look like?

Answer

I might be able to get some pictures of the visiting rooms.

Question 10

How will visits take into consideration on long distance and international visits?

Answer

I don't know the answer but will keep you informed when I know.

Question 11

It would be nice if the new vendor contract took into consideration the "down time" if a tablet is broken. It takes a long time to purchase a new tablet.

Answer

My understanding is that facilities will have a store of back-up tablets. Certainly there will be more to come as this rolls out.

Question 12

The box with the Release of Information forms is empty and needs to be refilled.

Answer

You loved one should notify the unit staff to get replacements. On that note I have sent an email to all MCC CUS's (Correctional Unit Supervisor(s) to check their stock.

Question 13

Are the minutes of the LFC Meetings given to the tier reps?

Answer

Yes, we are but we are a little behind in getting them out.

Question 14

Will there be training available for scheduling the visits?

Answer

I don't believe there will be training, but there will be directions available to walk you through the process.

Comments/Closing

We do a roll call during the teleconference but the Council has become so large, this becomes very time consuming. I don't want to waste your time. I would like to ask; do you want to keep the roll call or not. Please send an email to Captain McNeese or Kathleen Bechler letting us know your preference.

We are now doing the meetings biweekly. Our next teleconference is April 23rd, but I will be on vacation. I may ask another captain to chair the meeting for me.

Thanks everyone. Have a safe weekend see you in two weeks.