

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 6/4/21/2021, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

WSRU Tier Rep. Anthony Wright

Lynn Barker

Felix D'Allesandro

Julie Dagnoko

Caryl Darby

Laynara Ferriera

Joanne Glant

Melody Grandaw

Rebecca Heredia

Angela Hinton

Josephine Johnson

Cait Moore

Diane Pasta

Joanne Todd

Emma Westerman

Kaela Chong

Teresa Cohn

Matthias Gyde

Dennis Speck

Rachael Symon

Kari Styles

Monica Ritter

Page Perkinson

John Padilla

Ina McNeese

Kathleen Bechler

Weekly Update

MCC has 1 confirmed case of COVID-19, that individual is a Violator from the community. MCC has had a total of 554 Incarcerated/Violators with confirmed COVID.

To date, MCC has had 156 confirmed staff cases, an increase of 1 since our last meeting on 5/22/21.

Cable Television

Since the addition of the all-digital movie channel MCC's "normal" cable has been "fuzzy". This has led to constant complaints and repeated and escalating grievances.

As part of the work to correct cable reception the ET's unhooked the movie channel equipment which did improve cable quality across the hill.

We planned on leaving it unhooked until we fully correct the cable problems. Having basic cable to all subscribers seemed more important than a movie channel. Plan was to revisit the movie channel at the "end" of the cable improvement work.

Our ET's have been installing the new equipment and this week they once again found the system in disarray and later discovered that someone got into the secure area and had reinstalled - reattached the movie equipment. This was not a maintenance person.

This reinstallation of the movie equipment again corrupted the cable TV reception across the hill. Since our techs did not suspect the movie channel was again active we lost a couple of days trying to figure out where the interference was coming from.

Proposed Facility Closure

Since the letter received from Headquarters dated May 25, 2021 there has been no further communication or guidance regarding the proposed closures at WSRU, TRU and MSU.

I recognize that you and your loved ones who are incarcerated here have many questions that I am unable to answer at this time.

WSRU Tier Rep update

Tier Representative Anthony Wright gave a brief update on matters involving the general population.

- Most of the population feel that the Movie Channel can go away if it would mean having clear cable reception.
- Safe Start phases with DOC is not keeping up with the Community, which is frustrating for us.
- We want to have the EFV trailers cleared out in preparation of being able to have visits with our families.
- The population is getting tired of wearing their masks and feel that they should go away as an incentive for those who have received their vaccination.
- Too many infractions are being written for not wearing their masks while heating food, etc. It feels like there is a double jeopardy with on-site correction and getting a general infraction. The general infractions are being treated as a warning.
- We would like to get more sports back, like basketball.
- The pending Transfers and closures are causing concern. We want the prison to stay open. Monroe is closer to our families, has many volunteers and Programs. They have the University Behind Bars which assists in reentry. We have those who have earned their AA and Bachelor's degrees. This keeps us busy with studying and working on bettering ourselves.
- We have fundraisers coming up including Chicken and Ice Cream.
- The tier reps talked about the Mail Policy needs to be rewritten to be in line with the times. Screen shots should be allowed as that is how people are taking pictures these days.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Why does it seem that your staff are writing more infractions? At WSR it feels like the incarcerated are being punished more and more with less privileges?

Answer

To help answer this question, I went into OMNI and ran some reports. I will include the graphs generated by the reports at the end of these notes. I drew from two specific periods seeking information on both General and Serious Infractions at both WSR and TRU so that you can see a side-by-side comparison.

I can say that when I first arrived at WSR in late 2019, I found that General Infractions at WSR were either not being submitted, or if submitted, not being heard. This responsibility falls to the Unit Sergeants, under the supervision of the CUS(s).

Side by side comparison with TRU and WSRU;

1 January 2021 – 3 June 2021

<u>TRU</u>	<u>WSR</u>
General 311	General 147
Serious 571	Serious 249

1 January 2020 – 3 June 2020

<u>TRU</u>	<u>WSR</u>
General 156	General 57
Serious 368	Serious 261

(Note: Please see the charts at the end of these minutes.)

Question 2

Apparently JPAY free video visits are coming to an end June 30, 2021.

Our question is when in person visitation is not opening up to full contact visits as they were occurring in January 2020 (Julie Martin Memo May 3, 2021), why are not the free video visits continuing?

Answer

I have not received any information regarding in-person, full contact Visiting. I have followed up with the question, including the JPay free video visiting and will share the information as soon as I get it.

Additional Questions

Comment

I am dismayed about the proposed closure. This will be a real hardship for many families being far away from loved ones.

Question 1

Do you have an update on the DOC Phase movement? When will we be getting notification of the next phase?

Answer

I don't have an answer but will share information when I have it.

Question 2

Do you have the stats on the no-contact visit usage? Can we stay longer if the next time slot is not being used.

Answer

I don't have the stats, but I do know it is underutilized. It is not recommended that we allow some to stay longer due to equity of access and being fair to everyone.

Question 3

The turnaround time of JPay messages is far too long, it can take up to a week to get messages.

Answer

JPay compliance is to get the messages out in 7 business days. This is in compliance with the constancy of timing.

Comment

[Statewide Family Council \(SFC\) rep Felix D'Allesandro gave updates from SFC](#)

- On Wednesday there will be a meeting to review the IIBF budget.
- On Friday there will be a meeting to discuss the Sentencing Task Force.
- In the minutes from the SFC the Graduated Reentry Expansion (GRE) project will be transferring money for prisons to Reentry Division.

Question 4

On a video visit with love one, I could see the phone was wired backward and he had to hold the phone upside-down. Are you aware of the problems and has it been fixed?

Answer

I received emails about this problem and I requested that they put in a help ticket to resolve the issue. I don't know if it has been fixed yet.

Update: During the teleconference the Jpay Kiosk was checked on and although JPay had been on grounds, the issues was not resolved.

Question 5

I tried to get a video visit on JPay and I couldn't get logged in because of technical issues. I am hoping I didn't lose my free visit.

Answer

I suggest you put in a work ticket with JPay and ask about the status of your free visit.

Comment

I am angry and disappointed with DOC and I plan to write to DOC Headquarters, Legislators, Mayor of Monroe and anyone I can think of. I suggest we all pitch in and write to anyone we can and fight back. Having our loved ones moved will be a hardship on families, with increased cost to travel, hotels etc.

Another LFC Comment

I am also worried

Question 5

How many volunteers does MCC have?

Answer

Kaela Chong said there were 800 volunteers pre-COVID, but currently there are about 600 Volunteers.

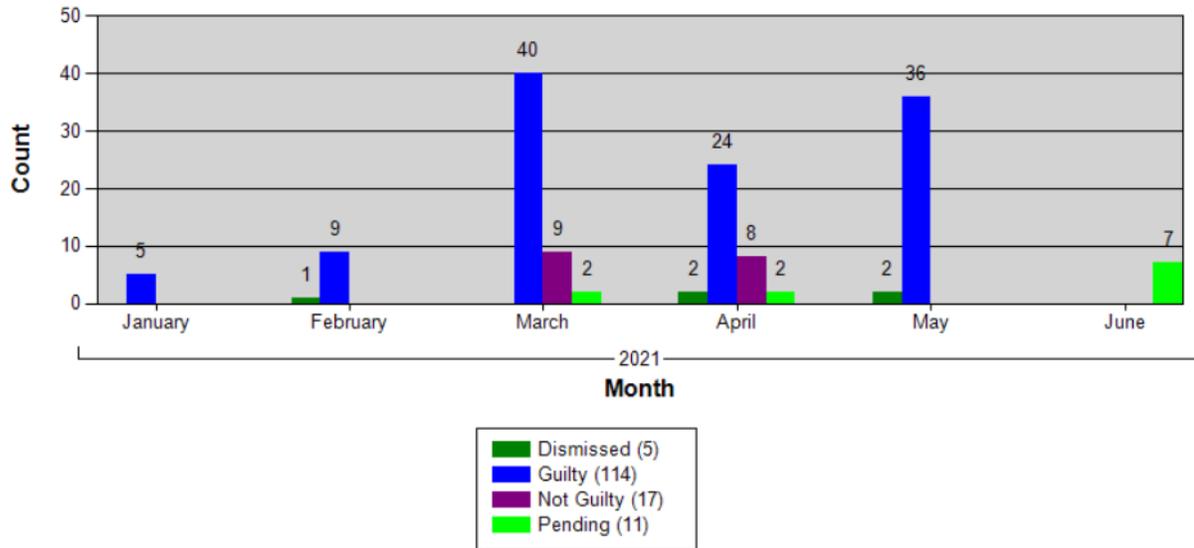
Comments/Closing

OCO Matthias Gyde commented that it was nice to have a Representative present on the teleconference.

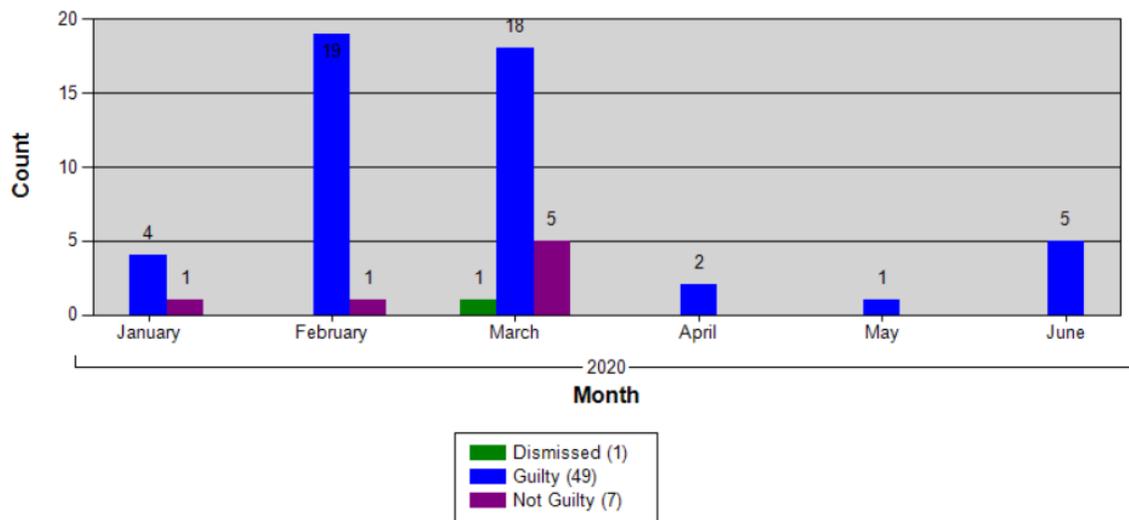
Thanks everyone. Have a safe weekend see you in two weeks.

(Note: See Infraction Charts below)

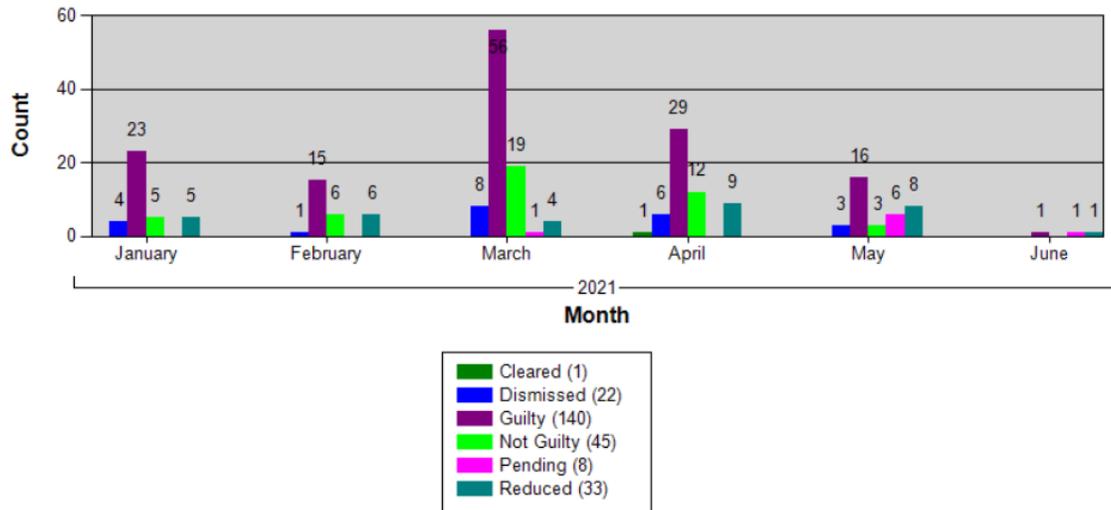
(Count: 147)



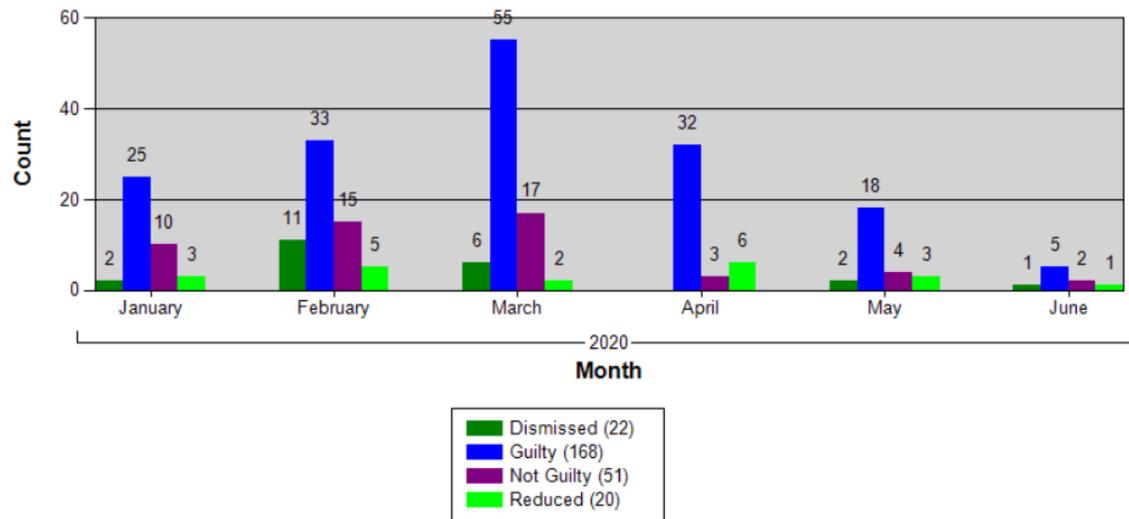
(Count: 57)



(Count: 249)



(Count: 261)



Facility: MCC-Twin Rivers Unit

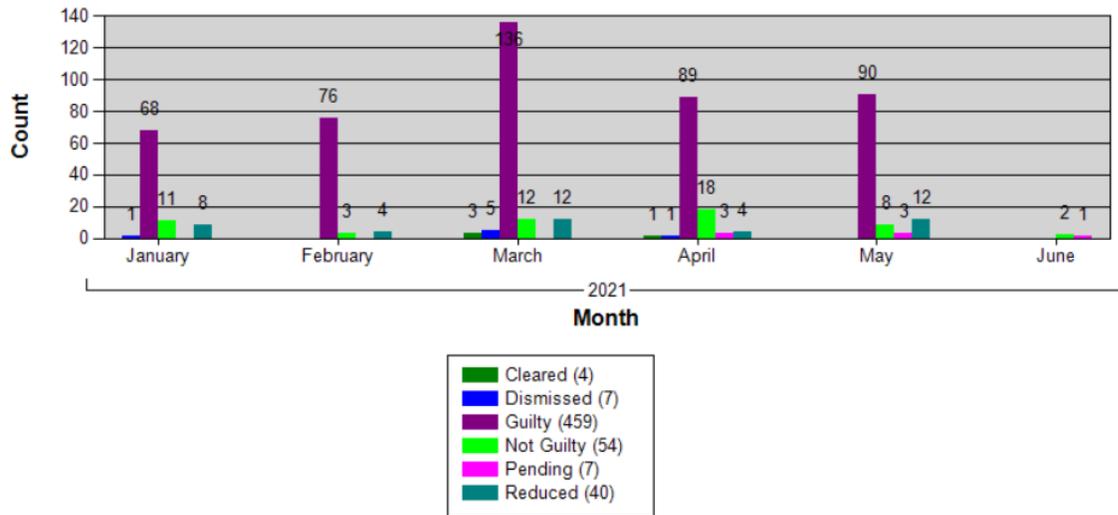
Hearings Officer: <All>

Infraction Data Indicator: Serious

From Date: 1/1/2021

To Date: 6/3/2021

(Count: 571)



Hearing Outcomes by Incident Facility Column Chart

DOC\iamcneese

6/3/2021 10:47:29 AM

Facility: MCC-Twin Rivers Unit

Hearings Officer: <All>

Infraction Data Indicator: General

From Date: 1/1/2021

To Date: 6/3/2021

(Count: 311)

