



# FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting Date: July 31, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Teleconference details: Virtual Teams Meeting

<b>Meeting Attendees</b>
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Department/facility co-chair: Captain Ina McNeese Family co-chair: Joanne Todd

Facility/council secretary: Kathleen Bechler Family Secretary, Josephine Johnson

Members present: Michele Aceto; Felix D'Allesandro; Julie Dagnoko; Diane Durall; Laynara Ferreira; Bruce Glant; Angela Hinton; Josephine Johnson; Jessica Knypstra; Dana Malaha; Ron O'Neal; Diane Pasta; Joanne Todd; Carol Welch; Emma Westermen; Wendy Wilhelm.

Non-council member attendees: Byron Coates; Jeremy Barclay; John Padilla; Eric Jackson; Rachel Symon; George Turcin; Sam Derrick; Melida Ferrell; Ina McNeese; Kathleen Bechler.

<b>Agenda</b>
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Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Captain McNeese	Updates on COVID numbers, staff testing and staff vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incarcerated Individuals' (I/I) positive cases have not grown in the last 30 days. Total of 555 since the beginning.</li> <li>- Staff positive cases have increased by 6 since our last meeting on July 16th.</li> <li>- No I/I are in quarantine or isolation due to the increase in staff numbers.</li> <li>- Staff are still screened, and temperatures taken when arriving on grounds. The department is following DOH guidelines, and the State does not have the ability to make vaccines a requirement of an employee at this time. Vaccinations aren't mandatory but encouraged. HR Dept is compiling a list of vaccinated staff and starting August 15th staff who are vaccinated will be taken off the mandatory weekly testing cycle.</li> </ul>
Family Services George Turcin	Updates	<p>Following topics are still not finalized but are outline process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lodging assistance has been worked on over the last year, each facility will get \$10,000 to assist families with a \$50.00 voucher towards a hotel stay if you have traveled more than 150 miles. Even though the program isn't finalized families can contact Dawn Taylor at <a href="mailto:dmtaylor@doc1.wa.gov">dmtaylor@doc1.wa.gov</a> for assistance.</li> <li>- Family Service Guide continues to be updated, it's a very comprehensive guide that addresses many things. It will be posted on the website when completed.</li> <li>- Have no new information on the Family Service Policy.</li> <li>- Working with Kaela Chong &amp; Heather Trenk to do the back-to-school backpack event at the end of August.</li> </ul>

Health Care Update	Introduce new Health Service Manager 3 Sam Derrick & update from Health Service Manager 2 Rachel Symon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Services Manager (HSM) Sam Derrick (sam.derrick@doc1.wa.gov) introduced himself, with his background of experience in a variety of settings. HSM Derrick wants to provide top, excellent care for patients, to bring a modern approach of medicine, appropriate access &amp; on time health services along with follow up care whether in or outside the complex.</li> <li>- HSM Derrick makes a commitment to the I/I, family and staff to get the best care and patient satisfaction.</li> <li>- Rachel Symon reported approximately 65% of the population is vaccinated. This does not include anyone who may have transferred into MCC. They are still doing vaccine clinics as needed. If a Loved One (LO) wants to get the vaccine, they can send a kite to the IPN team to get signed up.</li> <li>- Sam states in his 2 weeks he is impressed with the proactive protocols, any access point on the grounds you are screened every time you come onto grounds.</li> <li>- Dental care seems to take a while. DOC is making efforts to increase the number of practitioners who are willing to come in and work to reduce the backlog of cases.</li> <li>- For in-house medical services they use triage protocol, in which the nurse decides when to be seen. There also is sick call which is similar to urgent care.</li> </ul>
Cpt. McNeese	Visiting Update - In-person & EFV's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can start scheduling contact visits on August 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a select group of families from each facility right now beta testing the updated website. Contact visits will start August 15<sup>th</sup>, which will consist of up to 3 visitors, 1 time a month up to 3 hours, with no age limit. You will be able to hug and hold hands, but no food, photos or games. Water bottles will be available as needed. There will be crayon packs &amp; color sheets for the kids. The tables will be about 9 ft apart for social distancing. Each visitor will need to show a vaccine card or do a rapid antigen test before being processed for a visit. We are unsure if it will be 1 processing center or if the test will be completed at each facility. We don't know how many will visit during contact visits vs the non-contact visits. The population and families are very excited. There has been discussion of special visits if traveling from out of state, it will be up to each Superintendent to authorize the approval of special visits.</li> <li>- Kristi Webb, MCC visitation scheduler, will contact incarcerated individuals who previously had an EFV scheduled but canceled, as they will have the opportunity to reschedule first at the previous cost. Applications submitted during COVID and when applications were paused are now being processed. There is a large stack to go through. New applications can now be submitted.</li> </ul>
Cpt McNeese	Consolidation & Closure updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A flyer was sent out regarding a listening session on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm regarding the consolidations &amp; closures at MCC. It's unknown who is facilitating the meeting, but Cpt McNeese is planning on attending the meeting.</li> <li>- As of this meeting, D unit is no longer occupied and there were about 50 I/I left to move to A/B unit from C unit.</li> <li>- They are working on moving phones, kiosk machines and ice machines from C/D units over to A/B units.</li> <li>- Bins were approved to help with storage for the I/I and have been passed out at WSR.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If property kept organized in the cell, we won't say too much if it exceeds the limit.</li> <li>- Lots happening with the variants. We are still enforcing masking mandates &amp; social distancing, which is harder with the consolidation.</li> </ul>
Superintendent Jackson	Updates	<p>We are encouraging the incarcerated to participate in the COVID vaccines particularly in light of contact visiting and volunteer programs returning to our facilities.</p> <p>We recognize that I/I's who had single man cells are now doubled up. We are trying to get people who are camp eligible transferred as soon as possible. In addition to those that have requested transfer.</p> <p>This is a temporary situation; we have not had any new transfers into WSR.</p> <p>I was recently asked if MCC planned on increasing the cap on commissary purchases. I'm happy to consider that, to date, we haven't received complaints or requests from the population regarding the spending limit.</p>

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Statewide Family Council Rep Felix D'Allesandro	Update From Statewide Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secretary Strange introduced herself and the Deputy Secretary Sean Murphy and Assistant Secretary Pat Glebe. She has had a lot of questions related to the consolidations/closures, and will publish answers when she has them.</li> <li>- Tim Thrasher is working with Senator Wilson. He talked about quality of life and access to services of people in IMU &amp; segregation. People are being sent to IMU &amp; Seg longer than needed when issues are being investigated. Lisa Flynn mentioned Admin Seg is used for safety concerns.</li> <li>- Dr. Adrian Thompson spoke about equality, and the concerns of POC (people of color) on the calls and involved in the local &amp; state family councils. Also had a lot of concern with communication with it not moving in the right direction.</li> <li>- Tom Fithian has been reassigned to be over the Eastern prisons, so unsure who is in charge of the Jpay/Securus contract. Anna Ivonoff, the family member working on the contract, has concerns that family input is being blocked. Lots of issues regarding the loaner tablet program, who will have control over the tablets, will CO's make the choice on when can be used or not?</li> <li>- Concerns if for in-person visitation we are required to show a vaccine card or do a rapid test which takes about 15 minutes. Why are staff not subjected to the same requirements each time they enter the prisons?</li> <li>- IIBF live presentation had technical problems with the presentation. The designated State Family Reps are working to find a better way to present the FY22 budget, but there is no date set yet.</li> </ul>
Byron Coates	Input on what he has been working on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to get the commissary spending limit raised across the state to \$135 instead of \$125 due to the rise in cost of commissary. Sent information to Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary to assist with the process</li> <li>- Veteran Benefit Administration adjudicates claims for disability, working with Veterans in rural communities, and monitoring the suicide rate. Attended a meeting with a variety of people on the call to restart the quarterly meeting in the Puget Sound area to support Veterans who are incarcerated</li> </ul>

		- Working with chief of medical to look at the benefits of the Keto diets for PTSD.
Family Questions/Comments	IIBF	Looked at budget numbers for the last 18 months with no family interactions or events. What money was spent on the family friendly events and what activities?
	Jpay/Securus Contract	Anna Ivanoff is concerned about the process that is happening with the negotiations. Secretary Strange and Shawn Murphy have only been in their positions for 8 weeks, they stated they will get involved to have more of an understanding of the contract and an increase of new focuses from leadership on the contract.
	Dental & Vision	When will dental & vision resume? Answer - Both have resumed, appointments are just far out due to the backlog from COVID.
	Vitamins	Are there vitamins such as zinc & vitamin C on commissary that they can buy to help fight COVID? Answer - Yes there are a variety of vitamins on the commissary list for purchase. If a medical issue exists and feels he should be provided with them, he can discuss this with his medical provider.
	Waterpik	Can a Waterpik be added to the commissary list for them to purchase for better dental care? Answer - Cpt. McNeese will forward the suggestion when they have the Statewide Captain/Security Specialist quarterly meeting to review request store items.
	Visiting & Jpay video visits	Could vaccine cards be verified at checkpoints? Answer - at this time visiting staff will verify but we can explore possibilities. Is there a cost for the rapid test? Answer - No Is there a way a note can be added to the online system to show we have the vaccine card? Answer - as of right now no, but will look into it Will the 2 Jpay video visits continue? Answer - Yes, they have been extended through the end of August. When the vending machines are open again, is it possible to have paper plates to put food on instead of the paper towels? Answer - Will check into it and see if that is something that can be purchased through the IIBF funds.
	Concerns about the new tablet contract	Lease program versus owning their own tablet. There could be issues with the cloud service and what about transferring the music that has been purchased.
	Concerns on consolidation & Closure	There are rumors of CUS putting limits on store & food packages. Only allowed 1 box of books, even if in education, or have legal paperwork. Can this be increased.
	A/B units	Are A/B units running as medium or MI3? Answer - they are basically run the same, we are seriously looking into movement schedules and trying to make it less restrictive .

## Roundtable open discussion

Next meeting location: Virtual Teams Meeting Date: September 25, 2021

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 PM

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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