



FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting Date: September 25, 2021 Time: 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Teleconference details: Virtual Teams Meeting

Meeting Attendees

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

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

Members present: Suzanne Cook; Amanda Corner; Byron Coates; Felix D'Allesandro; Julie Dagnoko; Dianne Durall; Kia Eden; Josephine Johnson; Dana Malaha; Ron O'Neil; Diane Pasta; Joanne Todd; Anne Trepanier; Carol Welch; Danielle White.

Non-council member attendees: Local Business Advisor Mariam Isaac; Regional Business Advisor Karen Haydon; Director of Engagement & Outreach Jeremy Barclay; Correctional Specialist 4, Reentry Division, Family Services George Turcin; Captain Ina McNeese; Kathleen Bechler, AA3.

Agenda

Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
COVID Updates Captain McNeese	Updates on COVID numbers, staff testing and staff vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incarcerated Individuals' positive cases have increased by 5 since the last meeting. Total of 567 since the beginning. - Staff positive cases have increased by 6 since our last meeting on September 10th. Total of 214 staff have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic. - There are 4 I/I on quarantine or isolation due to testing positive. - Staff are now mandated to have the vaccine by October 18th. HR Dept. is compiling a list of vaccinated staff. Staff are still required to be tested twice a week for COVID.
Family Services George Turcin	Updates	<p>Following topics were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Services had shared aspects of the program before but now the lodging assistance has been approved to assist families with a \$50.00 voucher towards a hotel stay if you have traveled more than 150 miles. The resource is listed on the DOC website under the Family Services link. https://www.doc.wa.gov/family/support.htm - The Family Service Guide continues to be updated and is in the final stages of being revised. It also will be posted on the website when completed. - Family Service Specialists have been pulled to assist with other work due to COVID, George is also teaching a parenting class and assisting families.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks to CPM Miller and Cpt McNeese, family services haven't had as many inquiries from MCC as they have from other facilities. - Family Services will expand by adding community partners with facilities to discuss IIBF, planning events, and to have more interesting and rewarding events for the population. - CS3 Bruce Wood was hired from an outside agency as a Correctional Specialist to run the program "Inside Out Parenting Program" in 8-10 facilities. They are still meeting virtually, but not in person.
Business Manager	Introduce new manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC has a new business manager. Karen Hayden was promoted to Regional Business Manager. Mariam Isaac is the Local Business Manager and new contact for financial matters. She can be reached at miisaac@doc1.wa.gov.
Visiting Captain McNeese	Visiting Update - In-person & EFV's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All visitors will be required to do a rapid antigen test prior to any visiting when they arrive on site. - There have been instances of visitation opening late due to visiting staff doing the rapid tests. - There was an inquiry regarding kissing at visitation and why it isn't allowed if DOC is allowing EFV's. McNeese has sent the question to Liz Hainline and Incident Command Center who will pass it on to Headquarters.
Consolidation & Closure Captain McNeese	Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closures will still happen, but there is no set date yet. As long as there are COVID outbreaks in facilities, closures and transfers are delayed. There are a few special transfers happening if needed for medical or mental health reasons. Transport Administer Tim Birley is working on transfers to move I/I out of WCC as all I/I are processed through WCC.

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Statewide Family Council Report Rep Felix D'Allesandro	Highlights from Statewide Meeting held on September 8, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felix is working on a couple projects linked between SFC & OCO - Lisa Flynn is putting out a paper survey to the I/I asking them for suggestions on how to spend the IIBF money. About 6 billion dollars is used for salaries, and possibly 10 million is available to be spent on I/I to help relieve idle time and well being. - Lisa is working with IT to try and get an application set up to be able to regularly send out surveys to the population to help with decision making of the IIBF money. - Felix & Anna are working with a team to schedule meetings with local businesses in Monroe and Coyote Ridge to help with the walkthrough of the spending of the IIBF money and request of how to spend the money. - Working with Tracy Sneider to finalize and process, then coordinate with OCO. Draft timeline should be on the OCO website by September 30th. - Secretary Strange is very aware of emails being sent out separately, regarding the SFC meeting agenda. Many people are disappointed with how the agenda decision making happens. Last SFC was more presentation and not a lot of time for families to discuss issues. Sec. Strange wants families to email or call with items of concerns to be added to the agenda. Also, the meeting chat was closed, members were unable to add comments. The chat feature will be turned back on from now on, but DOC will try to

		<p>figure out how to make the chat comments part of the permanent record. Sec. Strange comes with intentions and the interest for family inclusion to improve as questions are put out but no response or conversation if followed up. SFC is a family meeting not a DOC meeting for presentations only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight was Dr. Adrian Thompson spoke about the issues of inclusion & exclusion, equality, and the concerns of POC (people of color) on the calls and involved in the local & state family councils. - Lisa Flynn is adding an additional officer to the SFC board. There will be a co-chair elect who will study under the co-chair and be able to take on the role of co-chair after being the co-chair elect for a year. Loren Taylor will continue her role as co-chair for the next year.
Agenda Topics Captain McNeese	Clarification	The MCC LFC agenda is driven by the families. A request for agenda items is sent out well in advance. Questions and concerns are sent in. MCC's family council is a cohesive group who work together. I/I have been involved previously in the LFC COVID Informational meetings on Fridays. We have had different tier reps attend, but due to staffing issues they have been unable to participate recently. Possible discussion in the future of holding the meetings inside the facilities so I/I can be involved in person. There haven't been tours of the facilities due to COVID.
Property Transfers	Concern from LFC Member	Due to closures DOC will not charge I/I to transfer extra property to other facilities as they normally would. This will happen with the help of CI's trucks. CPM Ferrell is working on this process, but doesn't have full details yet.
Patients in the COVID Unit at IMU	Concern from LFC Member	I/I going to isolation are not allowed to take authorized items to IMU when on Disciplinary segregation. If patient is going to IMU for isolation/quarantine due to COVID, they are allowed some personal items from their housing and their hand held games, puzzles and store items they can order. If someone needs power supply due to medical equipment, it will be supplied or they may be housed in the hospital medical unit. The previous cables & wires that were installed had to be removed due to a violator suicide.
Staffing Issues Captain McNeese	Concern from LFC Member	MCC is in a staffing crisis. When the first memo was sent out regarding the closures in May, many staff started looking for other work. Then when the requirement for vaccinations came out, another wave of staff started leaving. To assist with the overtime and staff, a request went out for staff who are no longer uniform staff to work in other areas of MCC to help cover the shortage of uniformed staff.
Captain McNeese	Elections for Statewide Family Council (SFC) Representative MCC LFC Co-Chair LFC Family Secretary	<p>Elections for MCC LFC officers were held with 14 voting members present.</p> <p>Nominations for SFC Rep included Suzanne Cook and Danielle White. By Majority Suzanne Cook was elected as MCC's Statewide Family Council (SFC) Representative.</p> <p>LFC Co-Chair - Joanne Todd was elected for another year.</p> <p>LFC Co-Secretary - Josephine Johnson was elected and agreed to be our MCC LFC Co-Secretary for another year.</p>
Family Questions/Comments	SFC agenda comment	<p>Question regarding SFC - LFC Reps having a conversation at the end of the meeting to decide what to put on the next agenda. Possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1/3 time for DOC agenda - 1/3 time for Family agenda

		- 1/3 time for open discussion.
	IIBF Survey	IIBF survey should also be sent to families, not only I/I. Families contribute to the fund as well.
	SFC Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trying to get HQ to open up to do things differently at the SFC meeting. - Building a portal dedicated to SFC & LFC to get information by subscribing through the portal. Will take some time to build, not sure it takes so long as it is important to all of us. - MCC LFC operations is doing well, but many other LFC's are having struggles.
	Loved One's transfer & LFC	A suggestion was made to allow MCC families who have a loved one transferred to a different facility to stay on with MCC LFC for 30 days. This will give them continued support as they move through the transition. Was discussed with Lisa Flynn and was approved if any LFC members wish to remain on the MCC LFC for up to 30 days post transfer.
	Property Transfers	<p>Concerns were brought up that were sent to HQ regarding issues of the receipt of property when transferred to a new facility. Each facility handles property differently, ex: cost of property that needs removed, refusal of previously allowed property at the new location, damaged property. HQ is paying attention to this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charlotte Headley is working on a new property policy, Captain McNeese will forward the suggestion of having SFC/LFC input.
	Visiting & EFV's	<p>Some visiting times have opened late due to the visiting staff doing the rapid testing. Working on plans so this doesn't continue to happen.</p> <p>EFV's - even though there is a shortage of staff and having to take each family to the trailers separately, things went smoothly.</p> <p>One family member expressed concerns about the EFV trailers cleaning supplies not being refilled between each use, and no regular cleaning crew to clean mid-week when not in use.</p> <p>Captain McNeese provided that there are cleaning crews and she will look into ensuring adequate supplies are available.</p>
	Jpay	<p>Concern about pictures that were approved before, but no longer meet the requirement. I/I attempted to delete photos but they continue to re-appear and he was eventually infractioned for possession of the photos that he could not delete. Has filed appeals, but no response after 2 months. Was told that I/I has to follow the 15 day response policy but DOC doesn't have to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Captain McNeese will reach out to her JPay contact at HQ to discuss.
	Fundraiser	<p>Is it possible to have a fundraiser to help moral, especially with the stress of not knowing when and where transfers will happen?</p> <p>Captain McNeese has been thinking of perhaps a one time incentive purchase but it would have to be approved by leadership.</p>
	Health Concern	Health concerns regarding the crowding and doubling up of A/B cells and the droplets from toilets with no seat to put down.

Roundtable open discussion:

Next meeting location: Virtual Teams Meeting

Date: Saturday December 4, 2021

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Comments: _____

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