

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Details

**Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex**

**Date and Time:** 10/8/2021, 1pm – 2pm

## Attendees

Superintendent Eric Jackson  
Superintendent Jack Warner  
Assoc. Supt. Michele Wood  
Assoc. Supt. Lisa Anderson  
CPM Kari Styles  
CPM Melida Ferrell  
CPM Terry Cohn  
CI Manager Ron Klamert

Family Names Redacted  
Health Services Mgr. Sam Derrick  
CUS Leslie O'Connor  
Correctional Specialist Pete Maxson  
Program Specialist Page Perkinson  
Records Analyst Monica Ritter  
Captain Ina McNeese  
Kathleen Bechler, AA3

## Weekly Update

MCC has had 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our population in the last 30 days, however I'm pleased to report that we do not have any active cases now. MCC has had a total of 567 Incarcerated/Violators with confirmed COVID over the course of the pandemic.

To date, MCC has had a total of 218 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

D Unit B Wing at TRU is currently on quarantine.

## WSR Closure

The work continues with the goal of transferring individuals out. As many of you know, we were provided with transfer manifests this week and began the process of packing individuals.

This was a huge lift and the list of transfers continued to grow. All told, close to 200 individuals were packed up. I am very happy to report that our Property Sergeant Troy Styles coordinated with Correctional Industries to palletize all the property boxes and ship them directly to final destinations in their trucks.

As of today, all property has been received and gaining facilities which include AHCC, CRCC, WSP, WCC and CBCC.

I will do all I can to keep you informed as we continue to move through this.

## Question 1

Could we get an update on the six-inch mattresses at the next LFC meeting or the one after that? I know MCC staff are busy but if you could check with the purchasing agent it would be uplifting for the guys to know that they will be sleeping comfortably soon. Maybe that will cheer them up.

## Answer

Mattresses have been ordered at TRU. Those who most need them the 6-inch mattress are given priority.

I reached out to Correctional Industries and received the following information:

*"I am reaching out due to multiple mattress orders Correctional Industries (CI) has from your facilities. Due to on-going supply chain issues, we are behind on receiving materials to complete our orders. CI has received word that a large supply of raw materials for completing the mattresses will be in the Seattle Port this coming week. Our hope is that it will be delivered later in the week and we can move it on to CRCC and put into production to start getting mattresses out by the end of the month. I apologize for the delays and stresses this puts on everyone. I wanted to get some kind of update out, so you were aware. Thanks!"*

## Question 2

Sometimes items can get lost in transit. Are we as a Family Council able to assist with tracking down property for individuals transferring if they have a problem?

## Answer

Boxes will be transferred separately from the incarcerated. The boxes are palletted and will be delivered to the facilities. Items should be at the facility when they get there, but there will be a lot of property to sort. It must be done systematically so that nothing gets lost. But yes, if something is missing you may try to assist if you would like.

## Question 3

When property is packed up, there is an inventory that goes with the box and it is inventoried again at the receiving facility. I know this is the process, is that being followed?

## Answer

Yes, the items are unpacked using the same list as used. There are two staff, the box is sealed with Inmate's name, DOC# and location.

## Question 4

Are there any local committees or work groups at MCC that our local family council can get involved in?

## Answer

Policy review is done at the Statewide level and members can give input and get involved but I don't know if local input is available to Local Family Councils.

Below is the link to the DOC Subscription request:

[https://wacorrections.formstack.com/forms/subscription\\_request](https://wacorrections.formstack.com/forms/subscription_request)

and the link to DOC draft Policies:

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/information/policies/drafts.htm>

These are two ways in which you can be involved.

#### Comment

For those who call into the Teleconference on Telephone, you can raise and lower your hand by using \*5 to raise hand and \*5 to lower hand.

#### Question 5

Can you give us an update on Fundraisers?

#### Answer

There are fund raisers planned for SOU, TRU and MSU. There will be no fund raisers at WSR due to the transfers and closure. Currently we are in a staffing crisis. Staff are assisting by working outside their regular duties by stepping up and helping with pack-ups, fundraiser etc.

#### Question 6

What is the money from the fund raisers used for?

#### Answer

The population pick the charity and they also land on what food they would like to have. Participants must be qualified to purchase, meaning infraction free, money on the books and they must be here when the fund raiser takes place. Transfer manifests can come in at any time and we don't know when they will transfer. Fund raisers for WSR are not able to happen with the pending closure and not knowing when people will be transferred.

#### Question 7

With all visitors getting a rapid test, when will the incarcerated be able to kiss their loved ones during visiting?

#### Answer

I don't know. This is a directive from Head Quarters. We are waiting for an answer, but no changes yet. I don't know when this will change.

#### Question 8

Some Visiting staff say they will not be in the same position next time. What can we do to make sure we have staff familiar with visiting working the post?

#### Answer

We work to make sure we always have at least one person familiar with visiting working the post. If we don't have enough staff, we will fill it with overtime. We will know more next week.

#### Question 9

I will be coming from New York, is there any special visiting considering the distance?

#### Answer

Send me an email and I will see what I can do for you to make your visit go more smoothly.

#### Question 10

Are there any more back to school backpacks available?

#### Answer

Please send an email and I will forward your question on to the CPPC Kaela Chong.

#### Question 11

There is a lot of concern about counselors and the role of counselors. Can we make a workgroup for understanding the role of counselors to explain how the system works?

#### Answer

Perhaps after the closure and when we are not in a staffing crisis, it may be something the CPM's could look at.

LFC Co-Chair Joanne Todd said she is starting a work group regarding counselors through our members of the LFC if anyone wants to join, they should send Joanne an email.

#### Comment

We all need to be talking and working together with families, staff and the Incarcerated. Thank you, Captain McNeese, for making the family council what it is.

#### Comment

I am coming to Washington State to visit my son. The information and email that was sent to me isn't very informative and it would have me arriving 15 minutes before the visit which would not give enough time for the rapid test. The information isn't clear and should be updated.

#### Answer

I will talk to the visit schedulers to draft an update email to make it clear for people to be able to visit with a better understanding of the process.

#### Question 12

It is difficult to get the hotel stipend for visiting because the application must be 20 days in advance of visit through Headquarters, so it is hard to get the process approved.

#### Answer

If you are having trouble with the process reach out to family services who can assist.

### Comment

Kudos to visiting room staff at TRU. Our visit had to be cancelled and the staff said they would take care of it and they did. We were able to reschedule our visit and when it came time for the visit, my loved one was let out in time for his video visit.

### Comment

I don't know what time I should show up from my EFV. We need to have more information out to assist us to help with following new visiting the rules.

### Answer

This will be addressed when we have the visiting email updated.

### Comments

- I would like to take pictures during visits.
- There was a rumor no one would be moved until January, but that doesn't seem to be true.

### Question 13

I heard the dentist quit, what are you doing about getting a dentist?

### Answer

We do have a dentist starting next week and are working to get a contract dentist to catch up on the backlog.

### Comment

Thank you for all the information and for the time during the family council. This will be my last time on the calls as my son is moving out. I appreciate all the information. It has been helpful.

### Comments/Closing

Thank you everyone. We will talk to you in two weeks.