

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 11/5/2021, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd

David Bullard

Jody Bullard

Caryl Darby

Dianne Durall

Melody Grandaw

Angela Hinton

Diana Knesek

Stephanie Meadows

Diane Pasta

Rob Tarver

Annie Trepanier

Tier Representative Noah Thomas

Superintendent Eric Jackson

Superintendent Jack Warner

CPM Kari Styles

CPM Melida Ferrell

CPM Terry Cohn

Kristi Webb, AA4

Health Services Mgr. Rachael Symon

Health Services Mgr. Sam Derrick

CUS Leslie O'Connor

Local Business Advisor Mariam Isaac

Regional Business Advisor Karen Haydon

Correctional Industries Mgr. Ron Klamert

Correctional Specialist Pete Maxson

Program Specialist Page Perkinson

Director-Engagement & Outreach Jeremy Barclay

Records Analyst Monica Ritter

Captain Dan Allen

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Ina McNeese

Kathleen Bechler, AA3

Weekly Update

MCC has 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the population including Violators from the community in the last 30 days with no active cases. MCC has had a total of 567, which is the same number we provided October 22nd of Incarcerated/Violators with confirmed COVID over the course of the pandemic.

To date, MCC has had 226 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic. This is an increase of 5 since our last meeting.

WSR Closure

Our population number at WSRU is now 219 Incarcerated Individuals.

Headquarters Classification Unit continues to work through the process of identifying transfer locations or final determinations for the remainder of Individuals transferred.

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

Statewide Family Council Representative (SFC Rep)

Since our SFC Rep has resigned, the Family Council elected to have Suzanne Cook assume the role immediately as has been elected as our SFC Rep for 2022.

Tier Representative

Captain Bill Frantz had Tier Rep Noah Thomas in his office at Twin Rivers Unit (TRU) to join the meeting. Mr. Thomas lives at TRU and gave the opinion of many of the General Population residing at TRU.

Pre-submitted Questions

Question 1

I'm very concerned about the drug overdoses at TRU and what is being done to address the situation. How are activities, programming, and mental health interventions being handled and improved to prevent further crisis? Have there been any deaths? Are staff investigations being conducted?

Answer

Captain Frantz reported that TRU has had several medical emergencies due to the introduction of synthetic drugs. Staff fear they will not be able to respond in time and the epidemic is taxing on the population and staff. Two staff have been injured through exposure when responding with life-saving measures. The drug is on what looks like normal paper and consumed. The consumption of this synthetic material puts the user or those exposed in extreme respiratory distress. It has been billed as a synthetic form of marijuana but it's use and outcomes are not remotely similar to marijuana products.

To help mediate, we have opened up communication and met with Tier Reps. This is much more dangerous than synthetic Marijuana. There have been no deaths due partially to the bravery and speed of officers and medical staff. It's a very small part of the population causing the problem and driving the workload. We are seeing the need to copy mail. We have extra staff doing health and wellness checks on the tiers and we are trying to educate everyone on the danger.

Tier Rep Noah Thomas said, "...staff are doing a good job at keeping them safe. We don't want it here and I have had neighbors affected, dealing with demons we can't see. We hope everyone learns from the incidents we have seen. One incident I witnessed, staff waited it out (rather than use force) and handled it well. The outcome was good. It took a long time, but it was a compassionate resolution, and no one got hurt."

MCC staff appreciate the support of those who came to visit during our emergency responses related to the drug overdoses.

Questions

Question 1

Headquarters will give you information on where loved ones are going, but the local classification staff won't tell you. Why?

Answer

When a Transfer Order is built in OMNI there are three stages; In-Screening, Approved, and Final. are screened and mapped out where they will go. Locally, we can't tell where they are going until it is finalized as there may be changes. We will tell incarcerated individuals where they are going once the Transfer Order has been finalized.

Question 2

I hear that the EFV Trailers are not being cleaned. I don't know if it is hearsay. Is it true?

Answer

I did hear about one coffee pot not being cleaned. The beds are pretty new. There was a broken sofa replaced. We have 3 individuals who clean the trailers, but I will check into it.

Comment

Thank you to the tier rep for talking to us. We are grateful to hear what you have to say. Thank you for what you do to communicate and to assist with shutting the drug problems down.

Question 3

When we send mail, what can we do to make things easier to check mail?

Answer

Tier Rep Thomas said JPAY is cheaper than stamps for First Class mail and it's easier to send an email and it is sent and received right away.

The form of the drug and chemical formats keep changing to make it harder to trace. Don't put any perfume on your mail. A drop of coffee could make it suspect and prevent our ability to forward the item to your loved ones.

Question 4

When I print out pictures and mail them to my loved one, should I staple them?

Answer

It is better if you don't staple them.

Comments/Closing

Superintendent Jackson said that the contraband is coming in the mail at TRU and we are doing our best to keep it out of the facility.

Mr. Jackson is taking an interim Deputy Secretary position at Headquarters so this will be the last MCC LFC Meeting he will be on. Superintendent Warner will assume to the duties of Superintendent for all units at MCC.

Thank you, Superintendent Jackson, for all you have done and your support of MCC's Local Family Council. We wish you all the best in your new position.

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