

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Details

**Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex**

**Date and Time:** 11/19/2021, 1pm – 2pm

## Attendees

Joanne Todd	CPM Kari Styles
David Bullard	CPM Terry Cohn
Jody Bullard	Health Services Mgr. Rachael Symon
Caryl Darby	Corrections Specialist Kaela Chong
Dianne Durall	Local Business Advisor Mariam Isaac
Melody Grandaw	Regional Business Advisor Karen Haydon
Diana Knesek	Correctional Industries Mgr. Ron Klamert
Cait Moore	Correctional Specialist Pete Maxson
Ron O'Neil	Program Specialist Page Perkinson
Diane Pasta	Records Analyst Monica Ritter
Ryan Swanek	Captain Dan Allen
Tier Representative Jason Reeley	Captain Ina McNeese
Superintendent Jack Warner	Kathleen Bechler, AA3

## Informational Call Update

MCC has had 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our population in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 569, an increase of 2 since our last meeting.

To date, MCC has had a total of 230 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic. This is an increase of 4 since our last meeting.

## WSR Closure

Our population number at WSRU is now 206 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.

## Thanksgiving Meal Menu

THURSDAY	FRUIT	1 EACH	FRUIT MANDARINE	1 EACH	FRUIT	1 EACH
	OATMEAL	1 CUP	SALAD & DRESSING	1 CUP	TURKEY HAM & CHEESE	1 EACH
	TRI-TATORS	2 EACH	TURKEY & CRANBERRY SAUCE(#30)	6 OZ	HAMBURGER BUN	1 EACH
	APPLE PIE BURRITO	1 EACH	MASH POTATOES(8OZ)&GRAVY	4 OZ	CHIPS	1 BAG
	BOILED EGGS	2 EACH	STUFFING	4OZ	FRESH VEGGIES	1/2 CUP
	SUGAR	2 PKTS	GREEN BEANS	1 CUP	COOKIE	1 PACK
	MILK	1 CUP	FORTIFIED DRINK	1 EACH	MUSTARD AND MAYO PC	1 EACH
	MARGARINE	1 PAT	MARGARINE & W/G ROLL	1EA	FORTIFIED DRINK	1 EACH
	19 FORTIFIED DRINK	1 EACH	PIE IND.	1 EA		

## Cable Television

I'm very grateful to report that our reception has been cleared up!

### Pre-submitted Questions

#### Question 1

I have heard that there is a relationship between a married guard and one of the other guards he supervises. Is there policy about this sort of thing? If so, is accountability in process or is this situation not known by admin (or untrue)?

#### Answer

DOC Policy 810.800 Recruitment, Selection and Promotion prohibits the family member of an applicant for recruitment, selection and promotion for any position from sitting on an interview panel or having oversight of an assignment or promotion.

DOC is no exception from any large employer of having relatives work within our industry.

#### Question 2

Families think that counsellors use their power to make them do certain things. Could you tell us who the counsellors report to and how to deal with this kind of issue?

#### Answer

Classification Counselors work under the supervision of Correctional Unit Supervisor, who in turn report to facility Correctional Program Managers (CPMs).

Much of their work is governed by DOC 300.000 Continuous Case Management and DOC 300.380 Classification and Custody Facility Plan Review.

#### Question 3

I understand that the stagnant water in WSR Unit B toilets is breeding mosquitos. Can staff be assigned to put a little bleach in the toilets to solve that problem? It is less staff-time consuming than repeatedly flushing.

#### Answer

We have received no reports of standing water on any of our empty units. We are having staff and approved porters go through each of these units twice a day to flush toilets, run tap water and open/close doors to keep the unit in a warm close and able to operate when needed.

#### Question 4

Can you say anything about the problems with the SFC?

## Answer

Many of you have been recipients of several emails regarding MCC's SFC Representative. Having heard no objections to our LFC Co-Chair Joanna Todd temporarily filling in at the next SFC meeting, I hope to have received your nominees for the final vote on 12/11/21.

## Question 5

Can we discuss raising the Commissary spending ceiling up to 135.00?

## Answer

This subject came up during the summer. DOC 200.210 Prison Commissary 200.210, Section III C states with chief of security approval, the Superintendent/designee may establish order limits on maximum dollar amounts, frequency, and quantify.

Superintendent Warner recently assumed command of the entirety of MCC. I have forwarded this request for his consideration.

## Comments

### **MCC LFC Co-Chair Joanne Todd**

Tomorrow I will be filling in for MCC Statewide Family Council (SFC) Rep as it is now a vacant position. Many are upset that the SFC is not following policy and has a Vice Co-Chair that doesn't need to be an elected SFC Rep. It is my understanding that MCC LFC wants to say no to these changes. An email came out from Deputy Secretary Sean Murphy that the SFC elections tomorrow have been postponed. My perception is that SFC I not focusing on our incarcerated loved ones. I would like advice on what to say tomorrow.

Captain McNeese read policy. A person who is an approved visitor at a facility can run for an elected office and doesn't have to be an active member of the family Council. The Vice Co-Chair of the SFC doesn't have to be a SFC Rep from a facility.

### **Tier Rep from MSU**

MSU Tier Rep Jason Reeley introduced himself. He said this is his first time doing this and is listening to the process and is a little nervous about talking to the group.

Mr. Reeley said they are filling up the top bunks and it doesn't seem like they are keeping within social distancing protocol and the populations isn't very happy about it. The maximum is 10 in the day room and 40 on the patio. We only get yard twice a day and there are not many places to go to get away. A suggestion was to rotate access.

CPM COHN said the COVID Capacity for minimum security units ended August 31<sup>st</sup>. Now there are more that are coming to the Camp with our first big chain which arrived on 11/15 with a second chain coming. We have had 130 beds closed and the bunk beds are filling up.

### Question 1

Are the closures due to staffing?

### Answer

Unit closures (Statewide) are the result of lower population numbers across the state of Washington. At WSRU, the consolidation of units prior to closure was partly due to staffing. MSU was directed to close 1 unit. The MSU beds were not filling up due to more individuals qualifying for Graduated ReEntry Program (GRE), and work release. DOC 300.380 Classification and Custody Facility Plan Review changed requirements to go to Minimum facilities (previously 4 years prior to release, expanded to 6 years) so now we have more incarcerated individuals eligible to transfer in.

### Question 2

Question directed to the Tier Rep: Where are you permitted to not wear your mask?

### Answer

Only when on my bunk. I have to wear my mask even with a go to the restroom.

### Question 3

Is there a guidebook outlining when they must wear masks?

### Answer

There are signs posted in areas where masks are required. Also there is a PPE matrix related to COVID which talks about wearing masks and it is several pages long. <https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/docs/ppe-matrix.pdf>. If you have specific questions, you can send me an email and I will get you an answer through our Incident Command.

### Comment

Thank you to Tier Rep Reeley for talking with us.

### Comment

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lt. Col. Coates will be on a virtual meeting with DOC to work on a draft of the Incarcerated Veteran's policy. He will report back after the meeting. Thank you for Superintendent Warner, Associate Superintendent Padilla and Captain McNeese for keeping good communication going.

### Question 4

Was Correctional Specialist Kaela Chong able to get the backpack for us?

### Answer

Yes, I received your email and I am working on the postage for the backpack.

### Question 5

Does MCC have a dentist and if so, are they seeing any patients?

#### Answer

Yes, the Dentist is seeing patients by priority. It may take a while to get to everyone.

#### Question 6

With Safe Start, there should be some religious programs going on? Can you give us an update?

#### Answer

Right now, MCC has one chaplain for the whole hill. The Religious programs must follow safe start with social distancing. There are lot of criteria, including areas to meet that are big enough. We must make sure we do not cross contaminate, which includes no eating, no hugging, no touching. With only one chaplain, we are waiting until we can get our volunteers back.

#### Question 7

My loved one is going to have a medical procedure. How can I keep in touch and find out how he is doing?

#### Answer

Make sure you have a Release of Medical information on file before the procedure, this will allow our Clinical staff to provide you with updates.

#### Comment

Starting on December 1st, visits will be extended from 1 visit per month to 3 visits per month. You can start to request more visits now. More information will be coming.

#### Comments/Closing

Thank you everyone. We will talk to you at our LFC meeting on Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>.