



# FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting Date: December 11, 2021 Time: 10:00-12:00 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; David Bullard, Joanne Bullard, Byron Coates, Dianne Durall, Josephine Johnson; Dana Malaha; Stephanie Meadows, Ron O'Neil, Diane Pasta, Ryan Swanek, Joanne Todd, Kehaulani Walker, Daniel White.

Non-council member attendees: Supt. Jack Warner; CPM Terry Cohn, HCM Lisa Anderson, CPM Melida Ferrell, Assoc. Supt. John Padilla; CPM Kari Styles, RBM Karen Haydon, F/RA Monica Ritter; Captain Ina McNeese; Kathleen Bechler.

<b>Agenda</b>
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Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Captain McNeese Update on COVID	Updates on COVID numbers, staff testing and staff vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incarcerated Individual positive cases have increased by 119 in the last 30 days. Total of 687 since the beginning.</li> <li>- Staff positive cases have increased by 12 in the last 30 days. Total of 239 staff have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic.</li> <li>- Staff were mandated to have the vaccine by October 18<sup>th</sup> and only vaccinated staff/contractors work at the institution. Staff are still being tested every week and are screened daily when they arrive at work.</li> <li>- Captain McNeese will be visiting the COVID quarantine and isolation units, talking with individuals to see how they are doing.</li> </ul>
Lisa Anderson Health Care Manager update.	Temporary assistant MCC Health Care Manager for SOU/IMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lisa Anderson explained how isolation &amp; quarantine is happening for an individual testing positive or having cellmates test positive.</li> <li>- If someone tests positive with no symptoms, they are transferred to the WSR C unit. If someone tests positive with symptoms, they are transferred to the COVID unit at IMU. If someone tests negative, but their cellmate tests positive then the negative individual is transferred to "super quarantine" due to being at a higher risk of testing positive as they were in close contact with their cellmate. They are allowed to take items, jpay tablets, food, etc with them.</li> <li>- WSR B unit was opened as recovery unit for individuals who have completed their quarantine/isolation period.</li> <li>- Cohorts at TRU are becoming smaller as individuals test positive and as room becomes available they are moved to</li> </ul>

		<p>single person cells. Personal items would be packed up before someone is moved into that cell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some recovered individuals may be able to help with commissary, laundry, etc.</li> </ul>
Regional Business Manager Karen Hayden Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund (IIBF)	IIBF Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RBM Karen Hayden was promoted to oversee the region and supervise business managers at different facilities.</li> <li>- DOC would like a standardized report to post on units, DOC website, and be used at LFC meetings.</li> <li>- The IIBF Report was shared with the LFC showing the Budget Template through September 30th which breaks down the IIBF budget annually &amp; quarterly, along with details of the breakdown. Karen explained the allotment, what was used to date and how much was left.</li> <li>- HQ gives an allotment of \$10.00 per I/I at each facility based on the population at that time. That money can be used for different budget items related to barber shop, EFV's, visiting and recreation.</li> <li>- Family friendly budget is not part of the allotment and has a separate budget with community partners.</li> <li>- RBM Hayden would like feedback from families on what they want to see on the budget reports.</li> <li>- Captain McNeese and Kathleen Bechler order items needed in the EFV trailers. A very detailed budget spreadsheets is kept by the business office which hasn't always been shared with the LFC &amp; facilities.</li> </ul>
Captain McNeese Visiting and EFV's.	Visiting Update - In-person & EFV's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All visitors are required to do a rapid antigen test prior to any visiting when they arrive on site.</li> <li>- There have been instances of visitation opening late due to visiting staff doing the rapid testing.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
Family Services George Turcin	Updates	<i>Note: George Turcin was not able to attend the meeting. An update to the Project Avary 2022 was sent to the LFC on 12-13-21.</i>
Kaela Chong	Community Partnership	No update

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Statewide Family Council Joanne Todd	Update From Statewide Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There seems to be a disconnect between LFC's and the SFC, issues that are discussed at the LFC that have state-wide implications should be forwarded to the SFC.</li> <li>- The decision was made by HQ to cancel their intended establishment of a vice co-chair position for the SFC.</li> <li>- SFC is wanting to get other families involved to include a more diverse council involving people of color and younger people.</li> <li>- Reminded the SFC that concerns should be about our loved ones who are incarcerated, not just the personal agenda of SFC members. The best for our loved ones include communication, kiosk, consistency, and not feeling like they are being dismissed.</li> </ul>
Joanne Todd	Commissary Increase	- Joanne has been in contact with Superintendent Jack Warner regarding the increase of commissary due to the

		<p>increased prices. Supt. Warner asked HQ about the increase and received a response stating the commissary spending limit is being looked into Department wide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A memo sent out on December 9<sup>th</sup> stated that due to the COVID outbreak, commissary across the state is being reduced and will be reevaluated again on January 10, 2022.</li> </ul>
Bryon Coates Incarcerated Veterans	Incarcerated Veterans Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DOC 310.140 Incarcerated Veterans is in the process of being revised as of 10/11/21.</li> <li>- Revision is needed as the policy is seven years old and fails to reflect the increasing complexity of the program and players which now include WDVA, the VBA, contract Doctors provided by the VA.</li> <li>- The Veteran Program is not just about housing Veterans in groups but has expanded into enabling access to earned Federal Benefits - education, disability, housing on release, medical care.</li> <li>- Hopefully this updated policy will bring some consistency into what programs are called for and will be retained within each facility. Changes in programming have occurred with changes in personnel. These on again off again programs based on personal biases needs to cease.</li> <li>- Hiring a full time Veteran Services Office is programmed for 2022. Once that position is filled there will be another look at the Veteran Policy.</li> </ul>
Captain McNeese Statewide Family Council (SFC) Representative	Election to replace our SFC Representative	Election for the new Statewide Family Council Representative. There were two nominations, one person withdrew prior to the election. By a unanimous vote Danielle White agreed to become MCC's new SFC Representative.
Family Questions/Comments	IIBF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion to have a committee formed at every facility to have families help build the budget and what events and what the IIBF money will be spent on.</li> <li>- More descriptive details for what the IIBF is being spent on, not just the category.</li> <li>- Why is the quarterly budget not ¼ of the yearly budget?</li> <li>- The budget for the year does not necessary show up as a quarter of the budget because there are times that a bulk of the spending is done to replace bigger items and will show up in the quarter it is spent. Some quarters will have more spending than others.</li> </ul>
	Visit	Family member explained they enjoyed getting an activity bag at visit and being able to sit and color with her son.
	SFC	We have requested SFC meeting notes several times and have not received a response and it has been several weeks. Captain McNeese responded that she and Kathleen have a full plate, especially with being on breakout status, which makes it hard to finalize the LFC notes, but will try to get the LFC notes out quicker.
	Legal Financial Obligation LFO debts.	<p>A family member said it's not fair for the family that DOC takes 95% of monies deposited in the incarcerated individual's account. This practice makes it almost impossible for them to make large purchases, (like televisions).</p> <p>Note; standard mandatory deductions for debt and mandatory savings does not exceed 35% and is broken down by category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% Savings</li> <li>5% Legal Financial Obligations</li> <li>20% Cost of incarceration</li> </ul>

		In the event the individual must pay child support, additional fees may be applied.
	Representation of MCC Family Council to the Statewide Family Council.	<p>Family member asked what our family council wants our SFC Representative duties to be.</p> <p>Responses – bring back to our local council issues that may or may not be discussed from the SFC; to report what the majority wishes of our LFC, to speak on the behalf of the LFC and reach out to find out how the council feels on a subject.</p> <p>Captain McNeese explained she has discussed with Lisa Flynn a platform regarding the model similar to the State &amp; Local Security Advisory Committee (SSAC &amp; LSAC) and how information is entered, followed up and shared.</p> <p>Another family member stated that the idea would be great if all facilities ran the same, but they don't. The LFC policy needs a lot of work. Issues from MCC should be taken to SFC if they can't be fixed at the local level.</p>
	COVID Informational Teleconferences	Weekly COVID calls will resume as TRU is on outbreak status. A family member asked if it was possible to have the call at a different time to offer more families the chance to be on the call. Captain McNeese is willing to move the time. More discussion to come.
	Mattresses	Mattress issue at MSU, still doesn't have the new 6 inch mattress. Response - Can keep the old one in addition to the new one if there are no tears. Due to supply issues, there is no plan yet to pull all the old mattresses and issue new ones across the board.
	Transfers	<p>Rumors that individuals who were moved to WSR due to COVID will not be transferred back to TRU. Response: This is not true. If housing assignment is at TRU, they will be moved back unless there has been a custody demotion or a transfer to another facility.</p> <p>Question - will they be returning to the same cell with the same cellmate as before the COVID outbreak. Response - That is the plan.</p>
	COVID Quarantine	TRU quarantine - limited phone use, but still able to have video visits, due to barriers placed around the jpay kiosk machines.
	Testing	<p>What is testing looking like, are you using rapid or PCR test?</p> <p>Response - Using rapid tests in some situations, but staff and population are getting PCR tests as they are most reliable. If someone has tested positive, then the next 90 days they will use a rapid test because a PCR test that would still show positive even though they are recovered and not contagious. So recovered individuals in WSR B unit will get the rapid test.</p> <p>Question - Why can't staff be rapid tested daily, instead of just PCR test once a week? With the number of staff, this would be cost prohibitive.</p>
	Visiting	<p>If someone who was in IMU or WSR C unit, is now moved to WSR B unit, are they able to have an in person visit?</p> <p>Response - Yes, the new schedule should be up soon with the cohort dates to schedule. They also can have an EFV if one is scheduled.</p>
	EFV	A family member brought up wanting to discuss the EFV process and feels another facility is more efficient. Captain McNeese response is she can contact AHCC and see what their process is and is open to discuss the EFV process.

	LFC Calendar	Dates of 2022 LFC Meetings was shared with the LFC with all meetings are held on Saturdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. Currently they are all Virtual Team Meetings.
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**Roundtable open discussion:**

Next meeting location: Virtual TEAMS Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Date: February 12, 2022  
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 pm

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

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