

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference Notes

Stafford Creek Corrections Center

May 13, 2020 3:00 pm

Facilitator

CPM Rob Schreiber for Gina Penrose, Associate Superintendent of Programs

Attendance

SCCC Staff: CPM Secy. Sr. M. Rehak, CPM Secy. Sr. D. Myers

HQ: P. Perkinson OCO: J. Carns & M. Gyde Family Services - C. Melhuish & Bill Copeland

LFC family officers: Family State Rep S. Cooksey, Family Co-Chair M. Fry, Family Secretary V. Williams

LFC family members: D. Sifres, Health Svc V. Westman, J. Griggs, K. Stuart Stevenson, H. Dockery, S. Hitchcock, J. Revay, B. Duschene, J. Revay & E. Broussard

Purpose

To obtain information related to the COVID 19 outbreak and send to the families to help them understand the steps being taken by DOC to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

Approval of 5-6-20 Minutes

Minutes were approved by LFC officers & family members.

Questions/Answers forwarded for this week's meeting:

1. Q: Can you see when the guys are going to have real lunches again? The sandwiches are extremely gross. And they are not getting their vegetables. This is not meeting the governor's guidelines for healthy eating.

A: The lunches are made and packaged by C.I. and meet all state dietary requirements per Brent Carney, Program Manager - Dietary Services, DOC Health Services - Tumwater. We will go back to a non-boat lunch when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

It was brought forth that HQ's Jeneva Cotton was under the impression that clamshells were being provided to the population, not the lunch boats. CPM Schreiber will follow up on this and provide information at next week's meeting.
2. Q: Also can you ask why the guys aren't allowed to eat in the day room? At coyote ridge they could eat out there just fine, but at Stafford they have to go to their cell to eat. WHY? (This is not just a COVID-19 change).

A: Food is not allowed in the dayrooms per the SCCC Offender Handbook. Food that is purchased from commissary or brought back from mainline must be consumed in the cell. This has been discussed many times at CUS/CPM & other management meetings. At SCCC we continue to use this rule not only due to sanitation reasons, but security reasons as well. However, we will pass this request along to our ICP for answer at next week's meeting.
3. Q: JPay video continues to be a problem. Why is the video so poor quality? What is being done to fix the issues?

A: This has been addressed several times in the daily Tier Rep Mtg. Minutes. The equipment belongs to JPay and DOC does not have the ability to work on their system. It is entirely under JPay's domain and outside of our control. We are in daily contact with Jpay to let them know the issues our population is experiencing.

4. Q: In a motion filed May 6 in United States District Court Western District of Washington, Wendell M Armstead Jr et al. v. Ronald Haynes et al. 3:20-cv-05327-RJB-JRC, there are copies of 37 medical kites requesting testing for Covid-19. Many stated they were symptomatic or had underlying health issues. The form answer is "We are not screening asymptomatic individuals for Corona virus at this time. If you were to develop symptoms, you would be evaluated and treated as needed. Currently we do not have any positive cases of Corona virus in staff or offenders at SCCC." CPM Schreiber stated that 3 inmates have been tested in the teleconference on May 6. Without testing, how can SCCC be sure that they have no Covid-19 infection?

A: Only those incarcerated individuals in isolation or that show symptoms are tested. There is an initial test administered and then a 2nd test 48 hrs. later. We do not have access to enough test kits for our entire population of 1,880 incarcerated individuals.

5. Q: 124 inmates signed the petition to file the above motion. Along with the 37 medical kites, there are 4 complaints, and 9 affidavits related to Covid-19 testing and the institution's non-compliance with DOC's Covid-19 guidelines. How will SCCC move forward in testing and taking full precautions to protect the population?

A: As this case is being investigated, we cannot discuss it until information has been received by the Superintendent that can be shared.

6. Q: CPM Schreiber, on the same call, also stated that SCCC has 3 inmates in isolation and 3 in quarantine. My son is in G Unit and counted 21 occupied cells in the lower tier which has been designated for isolation and quarantine, and he said the medical facility is full. What are the real numbers at SCCC as of today?

A: G unit Isolation: 1; G unit Quarantine: 1; Infirmary: 1. Only those 27 cells in G-unit A-pod lower tier are intended to be used as SCCC isolation and quarantine. There are 41 cells on that lower tier that are still in normal use.

Previous question from 5-6-20 LFC teleconference:

1. Q: Some individuals in H2 are not able to access the JPay movie and e-book library. Is this a facility-wide issue?

A: On 5-1-20 SCCC's population were notified via kiosk that JPay had a server issue on 4-30-20 that caused all of the video visit failures. They expressed that their IT Department worked on the issue and that it should be corrected. Also, JPay stated that a new app package was delivered on 5-1-20 for WA DOC to help fix some of the issues the incarcerated population have been experiencing, such as the issues with movie downloads via Wi-Fi and tablets that cannot connect to Wi-Fi. **Please note that the players must be updated before the new app package can fix these issues.**

UPDATES:

1. **Violence Prevention Field Day Events** - In an attempt to engage the population and provide some positivity, the Violence Prevention group and the Recreation department will be hosting Separating Violence Field Day Events that will have activities in the big yard that will be modified to fit Social Distancing Guidelines. We are planning events for May 27th, May 28th, and May 29th. Unlike past events, these will be much smaller and will provide no BBQ lunch, but the participants will be provided to-go bags upon exiting the event. The event will include the following activities: 1) Tug of war; Frisbee golf; soccer; track event; ADA event; 3 point shot; horseshoes; obstacle course, quarterback challenge & corn hole. Although we are in modified operations at this time, we must find ways to engage the offender population in a safe and healthy way. We will continue to look at new ideas of engaging the population and continue to communicate with all staff on the processes that are put into place. We encourage all staff available to attend the event and assist with supervision.
2. **Violence Trends** – Per Associate Van Ogle, there has been a rapid decline in violence trends at SCCC in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions to include no visitation or EFV's, numerous JPay & phone issues, movement challenges with social distancing and the wearing of face masks. In lieu of the many restrictions, SCCC's population have still been able to curb the violence and have been continually adjusting to these ongoing changes.
3. **Ombuds tour of SCCC** – On 5-12-20 Joanna Carns and Celeste Kump from Office of the Corrections Ombuds toured the facility and attended our daily Tier Rep meeting.
4. **Violence Prevention special "events"**– In an effort to encourage positive family connectivity and promote violence prevention, Ms. Gamroth sent out a kiosk message to the population this week regarding a Father's Day/Male Mentor card art contest. In addition, VP is encouraging all individuals to participate in writing a letter of gratitude to the fathers or male figures in their lives. Specific information as to both "events" are available in the units.

FAMILY SUGGESTIONS:

1. Q: Can ice cream be provided to the population using IIBF (Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund, formerly OBF) monies that might not otherwise get spent?
A: This request will be forwarded for consideration with answer forthcoming.
2. Q: Since the population are prohibited from eating food in the dayrooms, can there be an exception due to current COVID-19 restrictions? The families would like for the population to have a breakfast and/or lunch hour in the dayrooms.
A: This request will be forwarded for consideration with answer forthcoming.
3. Q: Can the family members provide input on how the IIBF funds are distributed for the next fiscal year?
A: This suggestion will be forwarded to the HQ Programs Administrator for response.

CURRENT QUESTIONS:

1. Q: The families would like information regarding 15 minute video connect session.
A: This is the first we have heard about this, but we will pass this along for review and answer at next week's meeting.
2. Q: There have been many issues with the JPay video visits to include audio and connectivity problems and the family members wonder if this is a bandwidth issue? What is being done to correct these issues with the video visits?
A: SCCC is in daily contact with Jpay who state they are working on this. When information is received, it will be disseminated to the population and family members.
3. Q: Do any of the population at SCCC have COVID-19? This was rumored a few days ago via social media.
A: No, this statement is false. SCCC has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 with our incarcerated or staff.
4. Q: With regard to the summer QFP's and COVID-19 restrictions, will the incarcerated receive their packages the same as in the past?
A: This question will be forwarded to CI for review and response will be provided at next week's meeting.
5. Q: The LFC family members have concerns about the IIBF monies that have been allotted for Family Friendly Events and those events that have been cancelled or may be cancelled in June.
A: CPPC Mansford has been invited to speak at next week's LFC teleconference and will provide updates as she is able.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT FROM CPM SCHREIBER:

In regard to incoming transport of incarcerated individuals from camp like settings that have medical concerns, we are automatically placing these individuals under quarantine in our infirmary as an extra precaution in an effort to avoid any possible exposure to the population.