

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Date and Time: 1-27-21

Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Supt. Haynes, Assoc. Penrose, CPM Bohon, Dr. Herrington, D. Matthews – Plant Mgr., IT5 Bradley; K. Tatro, AA3, Sec. Sen. Myers
- Other DOC Staff – C. Melhuish - Family Services; P. Perkinson – HQ; OCO – M. Gyde & LaQuesha Turner
- LFC Officers: State Rep S. Cooksey; Co-Chair M. Fry & Secy. V. Lewis
- Family members – D. Sifres, H. Dockery, J. Revay, S. Wade, H. Heard, J. Griggs, E. Broussard, J. Triggs, T. Goddard, S. Garden, B. Duschene

Weekly Updates

1. **Safe Start Visitation** – On 1-20-21 our incarcerated population received a memo from HQ stating that Safe Start Visitation has been postponed until 3-16-21 due to the significant rise in COVID-19 positive cases at a number of prisons facilities in Washington State.
2. **Class III Compensation Increase** – On 1-25-21 Superintendent Haynes sent a memo to the population about Class III compensation increase not to exceed \$70.00. Requests can only be submitted by the supervisor for the increased compensation and will be reviewed and approved on a case by case decision by the Superintendent. II's will receive notification from their supervisor if approved and notified that the increase is temporary and can be ended if there is a change in job status or by recommendation of the area manager.
3. **Bandwidth improvement/CI Commissary** – The bandwidth has been improved statewide, which should improve video visit quality. CI Commissary has fixed the issues in the gym with our II store orders to include delivery there. Orders can be placed on the phones in the gym as the system now will recognize the gym as a designated housing area. Orders from this housing area were not being recognized previously.
4. **Yard** – We have opened up multiple unit pods for movement to the yards which have been deemed as “cleared pods” by medical. The facility is continuously evaluating the population to determine cleared living unit pods to allow access to outdoor recreation. The schedule will be updated as we progress through the pandemic.

Questions for this week's meeting –

Question 1

Phones in the gym are not working correctly. Handsets appear to be bad. Please have them repaired as this is the only form of communication we have in the gym.

Answer

Per the gym's acting CUS, there has not been any current issues he is aware of. About two (2) weeks ago, there was an issue but it was only temporary. It was verified on 1-25-21 and again today that all

three (3) of the phones had individuals talking on them. If/when we experience issues, those will be reported to I & I, who in turn provide support.

Question 2

My son called today and was wondering if anyone has heard when the Veterans are going to be moved back to H5A. As they have been out of Isolation for over 30 days and they would like to be back in their units for several reasons which it's much quieter, have access to the phones more frequently and amongst their military brothers.

Answer

We are currently in the process of moving the veterans and skill building individuals back to H5. Our first priority for II movement is mission housing and we are in the process of doing this now.

Participant Questions –

Question 1

Per D. Sifres, how many positives do we have today at the facility?

Answer

I cannot disclose this information as the numbers change so frequently that I will give you numbers that won't match the website. The website is updated regularly and everyone is advised that this is where they should look for case data.

COMMENTS FROM M. FRY, FAMILY CO-CHAIR: I would like to thank everyone for resolving the glitch with commissary being ordered and received in the gym. I also would like to thank everyone for the yard time as it is greatly appreciated, especially now that it is open to more and more of the pods. This is great news.

Question 2

Per S. Cooksey, State Rep – What is Mr. Matthew's job title?

Answer

He is our Plant Manager.

Question 3

Per V. Lewis, Family Secretary – I'd like to thank you for the work that is being done at the facility and know that SCCC is doing their best dealing with the pandemic. Can you share how many II's that are currently in the hospital?

Answer

No, I am unable to provide those numbers.

Question 4

Per V. Lewis, Family Secretary - how does Mental Health reach the population in alternative housing areas?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington – Mental Health has protocols they follow that include providing follow up to all II's that are symptomatic or are in an Isolation setting. We have Mental Health staff available on site to include our facility Psychiatrist. We do visit the II's in the units and intervene as appropriate.

Question 5

Per V. Lewis, Family Secretary - for those II's in alternative housing areas, what happens to them if they have a mental health crisis? Are they moved out of the alternative housing and placed somewhere specific?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - Mental Health staff will assess and deem necessary if that II should be moved out of the dorm style setting if necessary. This is clinically based, not operationally.

Question 6

Per B Duschene – previously I asked about policy books being provided to our loved ones. Is there one available in the units?

Answer

As there is no access to the Law Library at this time, a policy binder has been created and updated to include an index. If an II wants to view the binder, that II will need to request this from either the CUS or one of the Counselors. Then the policy binder owner will check it out and make it available to that II.

Question 7

Per B Duschene – when will routine medical appointments be available again?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - currently, our focus has been COVID related and acute medical developments of our incarcerated. We are working on restarting chronic/maintenance healthcare issues and are doing INRs as we just ordered one. We don't have a timeline for this as the virus will let us know when. I can assure everyone that acute issues are being screened & responded to appropriately.

Question 8

Per B. Duschene - my loved one put in a request for Mental Health as he needed his Mental Health medication increased and asked to speak to the Psychiatrist. He was told no at this time. Is this considered a routine appointment outside of mental health?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - Mental Health has their own processes to assess. If the II's medical issue is acute in nature, it is being assessed & followed upon. As stated previously, we are getting back into maintenance mental health care. If the mental health of an II is not so acute, it is triaged and handled down the road. I know this is not the answer you want to hear, but we are doing the best we can to provide medical care during the COVID pandemic. If your loved one isn't being managed as you think he should be, the provider likely reviewed the situation clinically and deemed it appropriate to wait a bit longer until the facility isn't so overwhelmed with COVID related emergencies.

Question 9

Per B. Duschene – what is the Chaplain's role these days? He doesn't seem as available as he once was and I did not receive a response when I emailed him. Is he at SCCC? Can he physically go to the units to check in with our loved ones and their mental health?

Answer

Chaplain Wakeman is assisting with staff testing efforts and has been given extra duties at this time. In addition, our Sustainability liaison and CPPC have been involved with the II serial testing efforts in the units and alternate housing areas. The Chaplain has been offering up some materials for the religious programs and has been answering kiosk messages and kites. Yes, the Chaplain does walk through the units and alternate housing areas to check in with our incarcerated.

Question 10

Per S. Wade – are there no running services or video? How often are the units being visited by the Chaplain?

Answer

I cannot answer that right now; the Chaplain is still performing his job duties along with additional duties as needed during the pandemic. Once daily.

Question 11

Per S. Wade – thank you for getting the clear pods outside for yard and fresh air. I also want to thank you for the bandwidth expansion. Can we have an update on the laundry bags?

Answer

All units are currently receiving 500 bags each.

Question 12

Per S. Wade – I heard the Facility Medical Director say he wasn't "in tune" with Mental Health's protocols? Is this the case?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - I did not mean it to sound like I wasn't "in tune" with Mental Health & their protocols. We collaborate and work routinely with Mental Health. Mental Health staff go to the units and respond to emergencies. Mental Health collaborate with the providers so that our patient's best interests are kept in mind.

Question 13

Per S. Wade – Who oversees Mental Health?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington – SCCC's Health Services authority is Keith Parris. Both Dr. Cryder, our senior Psych staff, and Dr. Furst, our Psychiatrist, have clinical supervisors in Tumwater.

Question 14

Per S. Wade - my husband has gout and a lower bunk HSR, but it is only for two (2) weeks. He was seen by Medical and told he should not be jumping from an upper bunk.

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington – he should send a kite to his provider.

Question 15

Per E. Broussard – my loved one received his laundry bag today. What is the plan to get our loved ones back to their original units? The C/O told him to get unpacked & that he wasn't moving back to his unit.

Answer

We are trying to accommodate our incarcerated, but not all will necessarily be able to go back to their original units. Our focus right now is to get those II's back to the mission unit.

Question 16

Per E. Broussard – will H1 go to yard soon? They need to go outside.

Answer

Yes, at some point Medical will clear the unit and they will receive yard as well.

Question 17

Per H. Dockery – when is the outside schedule posted and when will dining hall resume?

Answer

Yard schedule is sent out in the morning. We are working on a plan for a grab and go from the dining hall. The food will be better quality and will be hotter. The population will need to remember to focus on social distancing, hand washing and proper masking.

Question 18

Per J. Triggs – Who is the contact for ROI (release of information)? I have the passcode but need instructions.

Answer

Call SCCC's main number, ask for Health Services and let them know you have a code.

Per C. Melhuish, Family Services – If you go to the contact information under the facility, there will be a directory you can refer to

Question 19

Per S. Garden – when the II's are given their envelopes back, the C/O's can tell them if they are positive. Is this information they know?

Answer

Yes, the units are notified so that staff can separate those infected II's and move them accordingly. We will secure the cell and have those affected II's moved before they can spread the virus to others. I believe the PA has to sign off on the testing results, which are sent to the units/alternate housing areas. Is this correct Dr. Herrington?

Per Dr. Herrington – yes, this is correct.

Question 20

Per S. Wade – Prior to COVID, did upper management walk through the units? What about HQ?

Answer

Yes, we always have and still do. This includes Superintendent Haynes, myself, Associate Van Ogle and the CPMs. Regarding HQ, sometimes quality assurance teams come to the facility for a walk through as well.

Question 21

Per S. Wade – are the Tier Rep meetings still taking place?

Answer

Not since the outbreak, but they were occurring the first six (6) months. CUS's are still meeting with the Tier Reps and our office is the contact for such. Tier Reps also reach out through the KIOSK to my office.

Question 22

Per S. Wade – are the quirky word searches and packets still being given out to our loved ones?

Answer

Yes, our CPPC Branwyn Mansford, and my Admin. Asst. Katy Tatro print out the packets and see they are delivered to all housing areas. These are prepared by our CPPC, as well as HQ and we also receive electronic copies of word searches, Sudoku, crosswords, etc. from the Regional Libraries.

Question 23

Per S. Wade – what about the fundraisers? Are these being done?

Answer

It is not feasible at this time due to being unable to mix the units or bring in outside folk. In addition, staff are doing above and beyond their normal job duties and working a lot of overtime, which makes this difficult to accomplish. We also cannot have II volunteers assisting due to pandemic conditions either.

Question 24

Per S. Wade – what about fundraiser refunds?

Answer

Please send a message to our office to include name and DOC number and we will forward to the appropriate staff member.

Question 25

Per B. Duschene – The last four weeks we haven't been getting the free visits because we have to schedule so far in advance. Does DOC pay for these?

Answer

Per HQ staff, Paige Perkinson – Everyone gets the two (2) free visits. JPay works with DOC and bills DOC for the free visits used. For resolution, you will need to go through JPay to apply those credits.

Question 26

Per B. Duschene – can this be looked into? These visits are very important to the family members and our loved ones alike.

Answer

Per HQ staff, Paige Perkinson – I will be happy to take your concerns to Keith DeFlicht, HQ's JPay Liaison. When received, I will get the information to Gina hopefully next week.

Question 27

Per S. Hitchcock – Are the IRS forms being passed out to the II's?

Answer

We will be receiving statewide clarification on how this will be handled in the future. When received, we will share this information with all of you.

Question 28

Per S. Wade – who is the CPPC?

Answer

Branwyn Mansford.

Comments/Closing – I would like to thank everyone for being on the call today. Please stay safe and take care of yourselves. Our next teleconference will be on February 3rd at 3:00pm.