

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Date and Time: 2-3-21

Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Supt. Haynes, CPM Schreiber, CPM Bohon, Dr. Herrington, D. Matthews – Plant Mgr., IT5 Bradley, K. Tatro, AA3, Sec. Sen. Myers & Collecchi
- Other DOC Staff – C. Melhuish - Family Services, P. Perkinson – HQ; OCO – M. Gyde
- LFC Officers: State Rep S. Cooksey; Co-Chair M. Fry & Secy. V. Lewis
- Family members – D. Sifres, J. Revay, V. Westman, B. Duschene, H. Heard, V. Clark, J. Griggs, E. McKinnon, Kat & David Kaiser, C. Carl, S. Acker & T. Young, T. Goddard, J. Triggs, S. Garden

Questions for this week's meeting –

Question 1

Which units are now receiving yard time? Please list info for A & B sides individually.

Answer

Per today's (2-3-21) schedule:

H1 A & B pods – baseball yard

H2 A & B pods – big yard

H3 B pod

H5 A & B pods

H6 B pod

G A & B pods

**Also, new to this schedule is that Pods will be going to the Baseball Yard at the same time block as those going to Big Yard.

Question 2

If not all of units are receiving yard time, what is the reason they are not? What is the estimated time until they will receive yard time?

Answer

Those pods by unit that are not "clear pods" will not receive yard at this time. We continue to identify "clear pods" per our clinical experts for exercise and air. It's are cleared per our clinical team per II testing data and are cleared by pod, not by individual.

Question 3

What is the number of incarcerated in the gym, visiting room & anywhere else the quarantined incarcerated are being housed? (per location) How many days do they have to stay (Gym, Visiting Room, etc.,) before they are moved back to their unit?

Answer

Total housed in the Gym covid unit is currently 25 as of 0930 Wed. Total housed in Visit room covid unit is currently 51 as of 0930 Wed. The number of days spent in a quarantine unit varies based on several factors that Medical is more qualified to answer.

UPDATE FROM PAIGE PERKINSON RE: free JPay video visits. Per our 1-27-21 LFC COVID-19 teleconference notes, there was some confusion as to why the two (2) free video visits weren't being provided to our family members by JPay as being scheduled out so far in advance. P. Perkinson stated she would follow up with Keith DeFlicht, HQ's JPay liaison, and provide a response. In summary, the family member qualifies for two (2) free video visits per week, which are to be used during that specific week. If not used, they do not accumulate and cannot exceed the two (2). One is used, then another is provided.

Participant Questions –

Question 1

Per B. Duschene - I was receiving the 2 free video visits per week until Thanksgiving and my husband going to H1. I've been paying for them since, which is hard, but I was told we got 2 free visits per week. We had visits scheduled, then they were cancelled, and now booked a month out. How do we utilize the free visits when they are scheduled out so far?

Answer

Per P. Perkinson - There is nothing we can do as the visits were reduced for the II's safety until moved to a clear unit. It isn't the answer you wanted to hear, but it is not being done to hurt or burden anyone. Hopefully your husband can get to a cleared unit so that he has more access. But until that happens, this is just how it's going to have to be for now and I'm truly sorry as there is nothing more we can do. If you are having troubles getting your free visit, contact JPay as they are the ones who would issue that credit to the family member once they have scheduled the visit.

Question 2

Per E. McKinnon - So just to clarify, once our loved ones have more access, will JPay reinstate those visits?

Answer

Per P. Perkinson - No. Two (2) free video visits are allotted per week and do not accumulate. If you are having issues, please contact JPay.

Question 3

Per V. Westman - I heard that the II's couldn't go to Medical if they didn't have the virus. I don't know if the II had an anxiety attack or a possible seizure, but I wanted to make sure that the II's can receive medical care if they need it.

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - We do see patients for sick call in our clinic for COVID recovered II's. If they are not COVID recovered, they are seen in their living unit or alternate housing area. Our providers and mental health staff are sent out to the living areas on a daily basis to see our patients. So the II's still have access to their providers. It's just the location has to be different because of the pandemic.

Question 4

Per V. Westman - How long does it take the providers to get out to these units? I know where the units are as I've been to EFV's, but wondered about the length of time for them to get to our loved ones.

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - Some units are right across the walkway from the clinic while others are on the other side of the facility. So, worst case scenario, it's maybe a 10 minute walk to get anywhere in the facility. And then after arriving at the unit or alternate housing area, our providers need to make contact with the II. We do deploy our providers to all living areas so that our incarcerated are receiving the medical care they need.

Question 5

Per V. Westman – What about medical emergencies? How are they being handled by Medical?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - We still see our patients for emergencies just as we did before the pandemic. If we need to call an ambulance, then we do so. If we need to house the patient in our IPU, we do so. We ensure that our medical staff use the appropriate protective equipment and assess our patients accordingly. Though we are in the middle of a pandemic, we continue handling medical emergencies as we did previously.

Question 6

Per V. Westman – So if someone did have a seizure, they would be taken out of the area they were housed in and receive medical care?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - Yes, we would first complete an assessment. There is, for example, a difference between a patient who has a history of seizures and a patient who is having his first seizure. We will assess each patient and place them in the proper location for the care we feel is the most appropriate for that situation.

Question 7

Per Family Co-Char M. Fry - Regarding the quarterly packages, do you anticipate any issues with the II's or the families ordering these? We have until March 1st.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I don't believe so and have not heard of any delays. We will continue to try to find ways to get those for our population and will let everyone know right away if we hear anything so that the families aren't spending money on the packages. ****Spoke with CI Manager Aliff and all is on track for the next quarterly package****

Question 8

Per Family Co-Char M. Fry – I have a few concerns about the JPay emails. They are taking longer now when they are very short. Has something changed?

Answer

Per CPM Bohon – It depends on staff availability and how many messages are coming through. It's is going to vary.

Question 9

Per Family Co-Char M. Fry – The question about the kiosks not being cleaned frequently has come up previously and I was informed that it is okay for our loved ones to clean the kiosks before and after usage as there is cleaner and rags available to them, rather than waiting on the porters to do the cleaning. I wanted the new family members to be informed of this.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber - This has been our practice from the beginning. We encourage the II's to clean the kiosks and phones before and after usage as cleaner/rags is available to them. Please let the other family members know that their loved ones are encouraged to clean these themselves and don't have to rely on the porters to get the job done.

Question 10

Per V. Lewis – When an II comes out of the gym or another location for isolation, are they retested again before they are moved back to their unit?

Answer

Per Dr. Herrington - So that is a very good question. What we are really concerned about is whether they are infectious or not, not necessarily if they are positive for the virus, as we know they have tested positive already. After a period of time, we know they are no longer infectious. So, per protocol, we wait a period of time, what we call the medical isolation period, and then upon assessing the patient, clear them from medical isolation. After that period of time, the II's are considered to be no longer infectious. Retesting doesn't help us with decision making at that point. Receiving an additional positive test result may confuse medical staff and unnecessarily require the individual to be placed back onto medical isolation status to complete another restricted movement time frame.

Question 11

Per State Rep S. Cooksey – The question I have is a two (2) part question. I understand that a number of previously positive II's that are now recovered from the gym are back into H4 B pod and those that tested negative are now moved out. Are you trying to put those recovered II's together? I hear that those that are negative in quarantine feel punished as they are not infected, but can only get out of their cell for 45 minutes per day. Can the negatives all go out together to yard?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber - We are currently working on what we can do to consolidate the II's and are making some moves now. I've gone to the units and heard the population's concerns of not getting out and feeling punished. We are working on getting the recovered II's together so they can potentially get more time out rather than being stuck in a cohort and not receiving yard time.

Question 12

Per State Rep S. Cooksey – The last time I did the calculation, you had over 62% of your population tested positive and it's probably greater than that now. So you've got a smaller group that are negative and they are going to stay negative. You can't wait for another year to let them have some

yard time. So putting them together and letting them have that yard time together would go a long way for their mental health.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Yes we are. Every day we are looking to see what we can do to allow more time out for yard. We cannot guarantee individuals will remain negative, so we have to continue to follow COVID-19 protocols and cohorting models.

Question 13

Per B. Duschene – Over the past few weeks I've been asking about there being no way to look up policy and getting the policy books back into the units. That doesn't seem to be something that's going to happen. So, I tried emailing the policy on JPay, but it hasn't gone through and I haven't got a rejection either. So, I am wondering if it's going to go through and if it can be confirmed. It cost me 13 stamps to send it, so it wasn't a cheap process.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I don't know how to answer that because of the size of it and because you haven't gotten a rejection. ****A response will be given when received****

Question 14

Per B. Duschene – Regarding the video visits in the positive units, we were told the reason for visit to be on the hour instead of the half hour was so that the porter would have time to clean them and yes my loved one has been cleaning it was well. But this isn't happening and they have been positive and in H1 for a long time. So we are at a point where we can go back to visits on the hour and the half hour. Are we going to stay with the limited schedule?

Answer

Per CPM Bohon – No, there's always going to be an issue if count goes long and runs into it, whether we are in a pandemic or not. So 7:00am & 8:00am are typically a good time, so that's why we've allowed it. We could look at switching half the pods over to the bottom of the hour to improve the quality of the video visits so we aren't using as much bandwidth, but that's not a for sure thing. I'm working with Jpay to see what we can do right now. So there's no plans on expanding or going back to the all day long visits like we did previous to the pandemic.

Question 15

Per B. Duschene –Do you have any updates on the TV's in H1? Most of them are broken and they are working, but you can barely see the screen. Is this being looked into?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Yes, I spoke to the CUS and have a full accounting of the TV's in their unit. I will contact Maintenance and work with our finance manager to get some purchased.

Per Plant Mgr. Matthews – it is my understanding that some of the II's who had both a personal and state TV would be agreeable to give the state TV back so that we could distribute those for at least one in every cell. I will follow up with the CUS tomorrow and see where he is at with this and if there needs to be additional orders placed. Part of the problem is that our technician we use to rebuild the TV's is currently not available to come to work and we are short staffed so, I don't have anyone to replace him at this time. The plan is to purchase new TV's as they break.

Question 16

Per B. Duschene – So is it better for me to buy my loved one a TV?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I will check with Property for an estimate. ****Union Supply Group currently carries TV's and catalogs are at C/O's station for II's to check out. Prices are listed in the catalog****

Question 17

Per B. Duschene – It's posted that the State Library is willing to donate pre-scanned books, but it doesn't say how to request it or who to reach out to.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I know that Mr. Van Ogle had sent some to the units, but I don't know if they have to be requested. I will look into this and provide the answer for next week's meeting. ****One large box of books will be sent to the unit today****

Question 18

Per H. Heard – Can I order property for my loved one and it won't take a long time to receive his items?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Yes, you can order from Union Supply Group. I do know that property is working and staff are doing exchanges, so I don't anticipate any delays. ****Spoke with Property Sergeant and all property is caught up at this time and there is no delay in getting it out to the Incarcerated population****

Question 19

Per C. Carl – My loved one said they took the meat sticks off of store and wondered if they would be bringing those back.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Typically when they take something away, they add something in its place. This is standard across the State. I will check with CI Commissary and provide the response. ****Waiting on CI response concerning the return of meat sticks or similar type item****

Question 20

Per S. Garden – My son is in H4 and there have been issues with the phones hanging up in the middle of our call and reports from others in the unit that some of the phones are broken. What is the status on fixing the phones in H4?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I haven't heard anything about this, but will check in with the unit CUS to have the phones inspected and that they are operational. If not, we will report this to I & I, who handle the phones for the incarcerated. ****As of 2/5/2021 only one phone is non-operational. The CUS was notified as of this morning that it was non-operational****

Question 21

Per J. Triggs – My son is in H4 and has tested negative for the last six consecutive weeks. With the II testing, there have been a lot of moves in and out of the unit for those that are negative and those that

are positive. He called me to say he was told to pack up his stuff as he was moving, but not given any results or told where. I know originally we were told that the positives were going to the gym, but now I'm curious to know are all the negatives being gathered up and being put into a unit together? So what about communication, communication, communication and transparency, transparency, transparency? So the II's that have tested negative have all worn their masks, have socially distanced and followed the protocols. They feel like they are being punished for being negative. As a suggestion, can the II's receive communication before they are moved so that they know what the plan is and are aware? It's all about communication and transparency.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I appreciate those negative II's following the protocols and putting forth the effort. But there are several II's I've had to tell to switch their cloth masks to the surgical masks or tell them to pull up their masks as they are not following the PPE protocol. So, we are looking at how we can separate those II's to keep more positives from happening. I will speak tomorrow at the team meeting and see what we can do to provide more communication to the population. ****Met with ICP staff and will continue to work on getting communication out to the incarcerated population in a manner that will explain what next steps will be****

Question 22

Per S. Hitchcock – When will the tax forms go out? The II's have to file taxes in order to receive the stimulus pay. This is the only way they can receive the EIP money.

Answer

Per CPM Bohon – All II's who are eligible have been provided with communication that is ongoing. We WILL NOT hand out the tax forms to every incarcerated individual.

Comments/Closing – I would like to thank everyone for attending the teleconference today and we will talk again next week. Our next teleconference will be on February 10th at 3:00pm.