

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Date and Time: 3-17-21 3:00pm

Attendees

- SCCC Staff – CPM Schreiber (directed meeting), Superintendent Haynes, CPM Bohon, Plant Manager Matthews, IT5 Bradley, AA3 Tatro – Facility Secretary, CPM Secretary Myers & Collecchi
- Other DOC staff – Caroline Melhuish - Family Services; HQ - Paige Perkinson; OCO – LaQuesha (Q) Turner & Matthias Gyde
- LFC Officers: State Rep Susan Cooksey; Co-Chair Miriam Fry
- Family members – Diane Sifres, Heather Dockery, Jeannette Revay, Julie Triggs, Sarah Hitchcock, Verna Westman, Bethany Duschene, Jenny Griggs, Susan Wade, Katherine Kaiser, Todd Young, Starr Garden & Michelle Mullins

Weekly Updates:

1. **1-6-21 LFC COVID meeting notes** - During our January 6th LFC meeting, Dr. Herrington responded to many questions by the Local Family Council. The questions and answers came quickly and both the SCCC LFC Secretary and the Family LFC Secretary were unable to capture what he was saying. Our apologies go out to you all, because with that said, we don't have notes to release to all of you from that conversation.
I want to inform all of you that since this incident, we at SCCC have changed our process during the meetings. We now have two or more staff take notes and then we combine those notes into a draft that is reviewed by the Associate, HQ and the LFC family secretary & co-chair. This ensures the most accurate representation of what was dialogued during the meeting. If there are changes, those are made before preparing the first draft. Therefore, since that date all of you that read the meeting notes have noticed that they are two or three times longer when we send them out.
2. **March 17, 2021 Memo to population from IC Van Ogle RE: COVID 19 Final Update**
This memorandum will serve as the final weekly update regarding our response to COVID-19 at SCCC. Our efforts have been successful in getting us off "outbreak status" and to new normal operations at SCCC. The current movement schedules will remain in effect indefinitely or until COVID-19 response protocols warrant the transition to less restrictive levels. Programming in P building will begin next week. The Schedules for the different programs will be published and posted for all to view. The cohorting procedures will warrant limiting use of the building for units to the following days. G, H-1, H-5 and H6 units will have access to P Building on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. H-2, H-3 and H-4 units will have access on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The schedules for the different programs will follow this accordingly. The only exception is SBU Programs will allow H-5 offenders access five days a week and they will be cohorted in the classrooms and monitored bathroom use to keep them separated from other units on these

days. We will continue to meet with the Tier Reps weekly to listen and address concerns. As changes come forward, we will communicate them effectively and thoroughly. Please remember, COVID-19 has not gone away and could once again come back into the facility, so please follow the schedules, wear your masks and social distance. Thank you for your cooperation.

3. Updates from REC Mgr. Graves –

Hobby Craft Pickups- Recreation normally picks up hobby craft mail outs every Tuesday.

Currently the mailroom's mail processing machine is not functioning. Due to space limitations in recreation, property, and the mailroom, we will not be picking up packages until the machine is fixed. This will cause delays in hobby craft mailouts.

Hobby Craft and Music Deliveries- This week recreation will begin placing individuals on the callout to the recreation hobby shop to pick up incoming hobby craft and music items. In prior weeks, recreation delivered items directly to the units. Callouts for hobby craft pick-ups will be scheduled on Sundays and music pick-ups will be scheduled on Wednesdays. These days are subject to change and accommodations will be made for individuals who have mandatory all-day programming on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Shine from the Inside Fundraiser- Shine from the Inside is planning a chicken OR pizza and soda fundraiser that will take place this quarter. The Shine from the Inside fundraiser committee is currently voting on the chicken or pizza option; the decision will be made very soon. Soda will be part of the fundraiser regardless of the chicken and pizza decision. Our plan is to release order forms the first week of April with the funds being deducted on April 15th. A delivery date has not been determined but will likely be in early or mid-May.

Answers to previous LFC teleconference questions:

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****

Answer

Per Bethany Duschene 3-17-21 – Yes, the policy did go through, but it was very hard to read and tiny. I've spoken to other family members as far as what was stated by Gina that the policy book could be checked out from the unit desk and the II would sit at the table and go through them. That has not happened in several units that are having to request them from the CUS in H1 and he sits with them, which makes them feel uncomfortable because he's making comments, so the guys are not choosing to go in that direction.

Per CPM Schreiber – Ok. We will continue to adjust on those types of issues and alter as necessary.

Per Susan Wade – Would there be an issue with each unit getting their own policy book, so they don't have to wait a few days for the H1 CUS to meet with them?

Per CPM Schreiber – I don't think there's an issue; Mr. Bohon do you have an issue with this?

Per CPM Bohon – No, I don't have an issue. It's just a matter of resources and Ms. Brown is the staff member who controls the policies. We're hoping that the Law Library will open soon.

Per Bethany Duschene – I did find out that they can send a kite to Public Disclosure for copies or the families can look up policy on website and print then mail it in.

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****

Answer

Per CI HQ Lon Turner, there was a slight shortage on the Hot Summer Sausage and Halal Beef Summer Sausage. Due to COVID, we had several products we backordered on due to disruptions in the supply chain. Both of these selections are available for order on SCCC's March 1st Commissary list.

Questions for this week's meeting

Question 1

Has there been an influx of BOE's written since the beginning of COVID? Basically, is SCCC writing more per week than prior to COVID?

Answer

Prior to the pandemic, we were working with our staff to make more BOEs. The spikes in June and July 2020 correspond with our efforts to have staff conduct conversations with incarcerated individuals to convince them to wear masks and do social distancing. We steadily declined from August 2020 through January 2021, but the slight uptick in February 2021 was still our 3rd lowest number of BOEs in the previous 2 years.

Question 2

Are there any incarcerated housed in the gym or visiting room at this time?

Answer

There are no incarcerated individuals housed in any of the alternative housing sites. The Gym and Visit Room have both been disinfected, soft-closed and are ready for use if they need to be utilized in the future.

Questions submitted regarding II mask wearing during video visits

1. Q: As of 3/11/21 what is the video visit mask mandate?
 - A) All II's must wear masks during video visits.
 - Effective March 4, 2021, all incarcerated individuals and work release residents are required to wear a surgical mask whenever they are outside their cell/room or leave their assigned bunk in an open dorm setting. This includes Video Visits.
 - Surgical masks must be worn when outdoors or during heavy exercise but should be replaced soon after activity if the mask becomes wet.
 - B) All II's and family members at home must wear masks during video visits.
 - Nobody outside of the Facility is required to wear a mask during video visits.
 - C) II's do not have to wear masks during video visits.
 - Surgical masks must be worn at all times when outside of the individual's assigned cell/room.

Five (5) points from Deputy Secretary Jeneva Cotton:

1. Family members DO NOT need to wear masks during video visits.
2. II's MUST wear their masks when on a video visit. (This has been in effect since 2020 although SCCC did not enforce it)
3. There WILL NOT be a suspension of video visits if a mask is not worn.
4. Suspension of video visits WILL ONLY occur for something egregious, not for masks.
5. There will first be verbal BOE's (Behavior Observation Entries) if II's don't wear masks during video visits. If this continues to happen, there will be a minor infraction given.

Participant Questions –

Question 1

Per Diane Sifres – Now that the State is going to Phase III on the 22nd, has there been any discussion on Visitation?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I don't believe we've gotten anything from the State on this, but I did speak to the population while doing my walk through and this question came up. Mr. Bohon – have you heard anything on this?

Per CPM Bohon – I believe within the next several days HQ are going to revisit this and decide as to whether or not we're moving forward or not.

Per Caroline Melhuish – There is a Visit meeting tomorrow.

Question 2

Per Susan Cooksey – Have there been any II's released due to the Blake decision by the Supreme Court? That's the one for simple possession.

Answer

Per CPM Bohon – I know of three (3) and a Counselor told me that there were two (2) others. All the facilities are looking at that.

Question 3

Per Verna Westman – Will the II's go back to their previous housing assignments or be maintained where they are at?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – The CUS's are working together to move a minimal number of II's per week back to their previous housing assignments because we still need to track where everyone is and which unit they came from. We have one staff member here at our facility that's tracking that due to COVID testing who comes in each morning, updates all tracking efforts and then the CUS's are instructed to move a small amount. We've been doing this for about a week now. It's going to be a lengthy process as there were a lot of II's displaced, but we are diligently working on it.

Question 4

Per Bethany Duschene – Now that chow hall is open, has there been any decision on the II's taking their hats on and off while they go through the line to get their food? They were being threatened with a violation and it seems difficult to take it on and off while you're grabbing everything, then setting it on a table and then we're touching things again.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Prior to COVID, they needed to remove their hats. We will continue with the grab and go for the time being, but I don't think there should be an infraction for that. Let me check in with the Captain and I'll get his response as soon as I can for the meeting notes.

Per Captain Mainio - Sergeants were given notice to use their discretion to not enforce the rule while we conduct Grab and Go mainlines. However, staff reserve the right to request headwear be removed for any other suspicions or concerns. I/Is should always follow staff direction.

Question 5

Per Susan Wade – Can you respond to my email?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Yes, thank you.

Question 6

Per Michelle Mullins – This is my first meeting, so I hope this is the right forum for this question. I've been having issues with getting orders processed through Union Supply to the inmates.

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I am not aware of any issues with Union Supply. I spoke to the Property Sgt. who states there weren't any delays with processing or receiving delivery and that they were all caught up at this time.

Per Susan Wade – You can look online to see if it's backordered.

Question 7

Per Bethany Duschene – What's in P Building?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – Education and the Chapel.

Per Bethany Duschene – When will classes start and will the GHC teachers be back?

Per CPM Schreiber – Yes, the teachers will be back onsite. We had a meeting on Monday and developed a plan to move forward with this. That information was contained in today's Memo from Incident Commander Van Ogle that went out to the population.

Question 8

Per Sarah Hitchcock – I was told that H2 B pod's clothing exchange did not have enough laundry bags to go around. Can they send some extra?

Answer

Per CPM Schreiber – I will speak to Property to see this is taken care of.

Per H2 CUS Wakefield – We have extra laundry bags for all of our II's in H2. The protocol is a one for one exchange. The II's can ask me, a C/O or one of the Counselors at any time for a replacement. As long as the II brings a used bag, then that II will receive a laundry bag in exchange.

Comments/Closing – That concludes the call. Thanks everyone for participating and have a great day.