

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** Stafford Creek Corrections Center

**Date and Time:** 4-21-21 3:00pm

## Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Superintendent Ron Haynes, Associate Superintendent Gina Penrose, CPM Gary Bohon, CPM Rob Schreiber, IT5 Keaton Bradley, Facility Secretary – AA3 Katy Tatro, CPM Secretary Denise Meyers & CPM Secretary Ally Collecchi
- Other DOC staff – Family Services - Caroline Melhuish, DOC HQ - Paige Perkinson; OCO – Matthias Gyde
- LFC Officers: State Rep Susan Cooksey; Co-Chair Miriam Fry, Secretary Vanessa Lewis
- Family members – Diane Sifres, Jeannette Revay, Kat & David Kaiser & Starr Garden

## Weekly Updates:

- **JPay video machines** – We've had some issues brought to our attention regarding the JPay video machines. A JPay repair person came into the facility and was able to work on one of the machines but has to come back again to work on others. They are aware and will return, so we ask for your patience until the issues can be resolved.
- **Unit announcements** – As requested previously for unit announcements not being made over the intercom, an email was sent to the CUS's to ask staff to use the intercom for making the unit-wide announcements.
- **RECREATION:** On 4-19-21 recreation gym reopened at 50% capacity with recreation periods separated by unit pods. REC schedule posted in units.  
**Hobby shop** - to reopen on 4-27-21 limited to 50% capacity, separated by unit cohorts. Quarterly fee will be \$7.00 & will not be prorated due to shortened quarter. All 2020 fees paid were reimbursed.  
**Weight decks** – Will reopen 5-3-21 at 50% capacity & quarterly fee of \$7.00 will be required; will not be prorated due to shortened quarter. All 2020 fees paid were reimbursed.  
**Barber shop** – Will reopen 5-3-21 with a maximum of 4 barbershop appointments each REC period. Sign-up sheets will be available in REC gym on 4-26-21.
- **GRAB & GO FOOD CONTAINERS (CLAMSHELLS):**  
On 4-20-21 Food Services made some minor adjustments to the new Reusable Grab & Go Food Container service due to increasing efficiency at meal pick up and sanitization process of meal trays. Mainline process continues as is with lunch boats being distributed at breakfast mainline. It will enter dining hall with dirty tray, separate lid from container, empty waste, place lid back onto container and place on conveyor system, go to serving window to pick up meal, then it exits. This process will be tweaked until we reach the best practice for our facility.
- **SAFE START VISITATION:** DOC is moving forward with Visitation with first sessions anticipated in early May. DOC is currently training staff on operational system for scheduling visits, which includes online scheduling for visitors being available for use soon. More information will be forthcoming in 1st week of May.

## Questions for this week's meeting

### Question 1

I understand the new food trays have arrived and it is the responsibility of each incarcerated individual to return a clean tray or they will not receive their next meal. Would you clarify, please? Does this mean an empty tray or a washed tray? If washed, how are they to clean the trays? Bathroom, sink, shower? I cannot imagine the food residue that will accumulate in the bathrooms if this is the case. Please confirm that the trays will be sterilized in the kitchen upon return and before being reused.

#### Answer

Trays need to be empty/not cleaned. It is the honor system; they will get their meal. Trays are placed in a sanitizing tub and then cleaned with the same process as normally done.

### Question 2

I have been told that three cable channels have been eliminated and not replaced. Why were these eliminated? Is this a cost saving measure for Stafford? What is the process of elimination and replacement of channels?

#### Answer

We are currently working with Comcast and Engineering on channel issues to see if we have the ability to restore original channels or if they need to be replaced. As information is received, the population will be notified.

### Question 3

Educational classes have been reduced to two days per week. These days are not consecutive. Trade education is different than academic education. While it may be beneficial for academic education to have a day between classes for homework and study, it is NOT beneficial for someone studying a trade. Their classes need to be consecutive for the learning and practice required. Academic and trade classes are in different buildings. How can this be changed?

#### Answer

This won't be changed at this time. Grays Harbor College and SCCC management worked together to establish the cohorts currently being used.

### Question 4

Wearing masks outside during hot weather makes breathing difficult. As more incarcerated and staff are being vaccinated, how can we have this evaluated again? Who will make this decision?

#### Answer

This is a statewide decision. Health Services & Prison Management will update these directives ongoing.

### Question 5

How is the vaccine program going at Stafford? With two days' notice, can we get a count by Wednesday on how many incarcerated and how many staff have received the vaccine?

#### Answer

We will not be providing any counts of how many have been affected. HQ will publish numbers if they feel it is appropriate on iDOC.

## Participant Questions –

### Question 1

Per Diane Sifres – Regarding hobby shop, you said there's only 50% allowed in there. Of that 50%, how many would that be I was wondering if you had some crafts that were started but had to be put on hold, would those get priority to finish?

#### Answer

Per Associate Penrose – We can only have one pod per unit in Recreation at one time, but all IIs who pay should be able to participate and finish up their projects. I don't have a number count to provide though.

### Question 2

Per Susan Cooksey – You partially answered the question about education, but there's academic & trade education. Regarding trade education, even on a cohort schedule, you're sending them in cohorts every other day. I've been told it's more beneficial to go 2 days in a row because of what they're leaning and what they have to practice. Could it be changed to 2 days in a row to accommodate this?

#### Answer

Per Associate Penrose – I will bring this up to our team, but the cohort is facility-wide. So, if they change the trade classes, they change everything to include job cohorting education of regular classes and all movement. I would have to find out if it's even feasible for the whole facility but will bring it forth as a point of discussion and follow up.

### Question 3

Per Susan Cooksey – Regarding the stimulus cards, have those been changed to checks and resent as I understand all were sent back to the IRS and not accepted as cards?

#### Answer

Per Associate Penrose – We received formal communication today that all the incentive cards were to be returned with the checks coming in and being put into the IIs' accounts. This is a process across the State per an agreement with the IRS. We cannot deposit money from a card into our banking system, so they're switching them all over to checks. This means that any II who received a card will receive a letter notifying them that the card was returned & received, a check will be forthcoming.

### Question 4

Per Diane Sifres – If the money goes into an inmate's account and they have a percentage taken out, will that be taken out of that check?

### Answer

Per Associate Penrose – Yes, the letter speaks about the first stimulus check having percentages removed, the second did not, but the third one does have them removed again.

### Question 5

Per Starr Garden – When the upper & lower tiers of the unit pods go to yard & programming, how is there no mingling going on between them? They are around each other on the breezeway and outdoor movement with 3 or 4 units at a time for programming.

### Answer

Per Associate Penrose – When we do tier separation in the pods, it's not a cohort. The whole idea is to have less people in a small confined area because we can only allow 2 people to a table in the dayrooms as they are too crowded to socially distance. We keep it small so that there aren't so many people mingling together. When they are out in the yard, they are out in the open and can stay 6 feet apart. When the II's are in the dayroom, it's too crowded and confined, so it's hard to socially distance and that's why we split the group into 2.

**Comments/Closing** – Thank you all for participating in this COVID call. Our next meeting will be the first week in May. Stay safe and we'll talk again soon.