

## Questions for SFC call 05/22/2020

Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.  
If specific questions about individuals were asked, they were removed.  
If you have specific questions about your loved one, please contact your local facility.

**Please do not share Local Family Council or Statewide Family Council Informational Calls Phone-In Information with others, especially via social media.**

**These are internal DOC communication lines, and are not for public posting.**

### **PRESENT ON CALL:**

SFC DOC Co-Chair: Jeneva Cotton  
SFC Family Co-Chair: Suzanne Cook  
SFC DOC Secretary: Rhonda Roberts  
AHCC: Yoshi Garcia  
CCCC: Leslie Redic  
CRCC: Stephanie Biedman  
MCC: Felix D'Allesandro  
MCCCW: Melody Simle  
SCCC: Susan Cooksey  
WCCW: Jason Rice  
WSP: Wendy Dubinsky  
HQ: Keith DeFlitch, Lisa Flynn, Paige Perkinson, Dawn Taylor  
OCO: Joanna Carns  
JPay: Natasha Samuels and Jessica Lust

### **PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS**

1. Why do some facilities reduce recreational time for the incarcerated in order to "maintain social distancing" while other facilities find ways to maintain social distancing without restricting rec time and keeping the incarcerated locked in their cells?
  - a. This is managed at the facility level. Each facility has different needs and options for how to manage this. Variations can include, but are not limited to, population sizes, number of individuals on medical quarantine and isolation status, and staffing availability.
  
2. What is the visitation reopening plan? Who is responsible for the plan? Is DOC working proactively on creating such plan?
  - a. Please review the memo sent earlier in the week discussing this topic. To review, please visit the dedicated COVID webpage. As more information becomes available, we will continue to share. There are many divisions impacted by visitation reopening and to ensure the health and safety of the incarceration, staff, and families, this effort will continue to be a collaborative agency effort.

3. Will DOC consider reopening EFVs in one of the earlier stages of the State's 4 step reopening plan given that EFVs fall into the 10 people or less category?
  - a. EFVs are part of the visitation program, and plans for how visitation can reopen will include plans for the reopening of the EFV. Again, there are no final plans, but all options are being considered.
4. How do budget cuts impact DOC? Does hiring freeze apply to DOC? Does DOC qualify for an exemption under the "public safety" clause?
  - a. DOC is currently in a hiring freeze as are the majority of state agencies. There are necessary positions, including correctional officers and health services staff, that leadership may request hiring approval to ensure the safety of the incarcerated and the public. The impact of the budget is currently being evaluating by the DOC, which will be creating actions plans for forward movement.
5. It's unclear why including the incarcerated to LFC meetings is such a difficult, overly complicated task. The reason used to be that the incarcerated cannot cross certain prison boundaries. Now that the meetings are over the phone, it seems like it would help the cause. What is the real reason they cannot participate for the benefit of providing information to all LFC members, not just prison officials?
  - a. As LFC meetings resume, the expectation will be for incarcerated individual representatives to attend. The current informational calls are not LFC meetings, they are for facility leadership to communicate information to the families. This question has been previously answered.
6. You said in the last meeting that tier rep meetings are regularly conducted at each facility. If that's the case, can HQ mandate that all facilities promptly provide tier rep meeting minutes to LFC/SFC members?
  - a. This is managed at the local level. Some are holding them weekly, some are holding them daily. We will discuss with superintendents about sharing the notes.
7. Are Headquarters classification reviews for custody reclassification/promotions being done regularly? Or, have they been suspended due to Covid-19? Also, are custody promotions taking place?
  - a. Classification work continues; some facilities are not transferring in or out, so some movement may be delayed.
8. At the MCC Family Council Meeting today, an update on the progress for the Hot Breakfasts was asked for. It appears to have had no progress made since the last time the question was asked, about a year ago. We would like to know, when will the Incarcerated population get their Hot Breakfasts? The Hot Breakfast issue been out there for a long time.

- a. Similar to questions about mattresses, this is not a COVID-19 related issue. The work of CI has been focused on PPE production. Conversations regarding this and other non-COVID related issues will resume once we transition out of the COVID-19 response and into the new normal.
9. I still just have concerns that prisoners are unlikely to report symptoms given the miserable once per week shower access and other punishment-like conditions imposed on those placed into quarantine. Any adjustments from DOC on that?
  - a. This is not accurate. Medical quarantine status does not limit an individual to one shower every seven days, that's only for those on medical isolation. This continues to be the guidance from our infectious control medical experts. Those on isolation are able to take personal property, including televisions. We are providing the ability for phone contacts, as well as game systems and commissary. We will continue to encourage the population to report symptoms, to ensure their safety and the safety of those around them.

## **DISCUSSION:**

- Jessica and Natasha from JPay provided informational updates regarding JPay services, uploads/ "pushes" coming next week, and answered several questions from SFC members regarding video visits, movies bandwidth, RFP process, and other ongoing issues.
- Jessica stated they would identify a dedicated JPay service rep specifically for SFC reps to reach out. Once that info is provided, Jeneva will share with SFC reps.
- Suzanne asked if facility tier rep minutes could be shared with LFC co-chairs. Jeneva indicated she would pass that request onto facility Superintendents.
- Suzanne asked why SFC informational call notes were not on the DOC website. Jeneva and Paige indicated they are posted, and Paige gave instructions on how to find them.

Next informational call scheduled for Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.