

Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

**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.**

Date and Time: 10/30/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

AHCC: Yoshi Garcia
CRCC: Stephanie Biedman
LCC: Stephanie Sanderson
MCC: Felix D'Allesandro
MCCCW: Paula Bond
SCCC: Susan Cooksey
WSP: Wendy Dubinsky
HQ: Jeneva Cotton, DOC Co-Chair; Lisa Flynn, Correctional Program Administrator

Pre-Submitted Questions

None

Updates

Safe Start Visitation: Jeneva updated SFC Reps on no-contact barriers being installed statewide by end of November; informed of new process to submit application to reopen services to OFM (DOC did submit plans late October once notification of process announced by OFM); continuing to work on appointment scheduling website; no tentative date for reopening yet established; Also informed that the HQ Visit Unit is processing EFV applications again (not to resume until Phase 4 of SSV)

Marriages: Lisa discussed information sent to all facilities to resume processing for marriage applications; marriages conducted with social distancing and no contact in place.

Stimulus Checks: Lisa informed kiosk message went to the population providing information regarding the IRS extension to November 4 and answered questions from the group

Additional Questions

Question

- A) Are Classification Counselors assisting the incarcerated individuals (I/I) in filling out their tax forms?
- B) What deductions are taken out of the IRS stimulus checks?

Answer

- A) No, by law this is prohibited by counselors, same as things such as providing legal advice. However, there is a lot of information that is being shared with all I/Is regarding instructions and the process.
- B) IRS stimulus checks are subject to standard deductions.

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Question

Are local facilities changing the frequency of their LFC COVID-19 Informational Calls?

Answer

Yes, effective November 1, facilities were given permission to move to bi-weekly COVID-19 informational calls, similar to the SFC calls. However, if a facility were to have an outbreak, they are able to hold weekly calls if they have the resources to do so.

Question

JPay sent information in a response that said DOC had changed to two free video calls a month instead of weekly, and that the calls were reduced to 15 minutes. Is this true?

Answer

Absolutely not. DOC committed to two free video calls a week through December 31st (decision will be revisited at that time). Geneva sent email to DOC JPay Liaison K. DeFlitch, who reached out to JPay. JPay response from Natasha Samuels was sent in email:

We have heard from many of you with questions concerning the free video connect sessions. Here are some helpful hints on Video Connect Credits:

- You will continue to receive two (2) free video connect credits to your JPay account each week through December 31, 2020*
- The two free video sessions will be replenished every Friday, but only if the current free sessions were used (not just scheduled).*
- If you choose to use one free visit, your account will only be replenished with one additional video session the following Friday. For example: If you use only one, you will only receive one. If you use none, you will not receive any credits the following week.*
- If you received credits for failed visits and have at least 2 on your account, additional credits will not be added that week.*
- IMPORTANT: The number of credits available is not displayed on JPay.com. You must go through the scheduling process. When you get to the payment page, the cost will be displayed as \$0.*
- If you have free credits on your account, it will automatically use these credits so the visit will be \$0 cost.*

Question

What is the status of cell searches starting again soon?

Answer

Discussed PPE Matrix and shared it with SFC Reps on call; shared where to locate on DOC.WA.GOV.

UPDATE: 11/09/2020 - Movement to resume searches is temporarily suspended pending further clinical review.

Question

Thank you for having LFC notes posted on the kiosk. Can they print copies to be available in the units?

Answer

After discussion with incident command posts, the decision was made to post on the kiosks at this time for a few reasons: 1) Printing to put into dayrooms means several people will likely handle the document which is not a good idea currently – on kiosk, all have the option to view at their leisure; 2) the cost of printing documents for all LFC & SFC calls, as well as meetings for both in units across the state is high. Family members can send in call notes and meeting minutes to their loved ones if they want; however, we will continue to post via kiosk.

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Question

How will elections work? Can there be a packet sent to incoming LFC Chairs, Secretaries, SFC Reps to include things like the LFC Notes templates, LFC Meetings templates, ground rules, etc?

Answer

Email requesting nominations will go out to all LFCs on November 2, requesting nominations for SFC Family Co-Chair and SFC Family Secretary, with due date of November 10. Nominees will be notified and asked for a statement which will be sent out to voting members. On November 16, email with Voting Form will be sent to current SFC Reps naming all nominees for both positions. Votes must be received by 3:00 PM on November 19 to be counted. Results will be announced at the November 21 SFC Virtual Meeting.

A “welcome packet” is a great idea – Jeneva will ask Rhonda to put something together to share with all incoming LFC/SFC elected members.

Question

Can newly elected SFC Reps join the SFC COVID-19 calls to get familiar with the process?

Answer

Yes, this is approved for SFC Reps that want to invite incoming SFC Reps to the COVID-19 informational calls.

Comments/Closing

- Next SFC Informational Call: 11/13/2020 at 2:00 PM
- Next SFC Virtual Meeting: 11/21/2020 at 10:00 AM