

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.**

Call Details

Facility:

Date and Time: 8/26/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Lisa Flynn
- Rachel Bisbee
- Monica Ritter
- Loren Taylor
- Susan Cooksey
- Jeremy Barclay
- Gwen McIlveen
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Arminda Miller
- Heather Williams

Weekly Update

- Topic

Pre-Submitted Questions

No Pre-Submitted Questions

Comments/Closing

- We recently discovered a miscommunication regarding the scheduling for visitation. We are working on rectifying this over the weekend. There will be some issues regarding the currently scheduled visit, we are reaching out to the facility visiting staff to work with the visitors
- Continuation of the COVID scheduling for 3-hour visits. One thing that we see is one schedule will be set and then want to change their times. We are redirecting these requests back to the facility visiting schedulers. There is some flexibility regarding the scheduling. If there are questions or problems, be sure to reach out to Lisa.
- We are working on getting volunteers back into the facilities. We are working with the religious programs first, as much of this program is volunteer based. These volunteers are required to be vaccinated. This is a staggered approach, as there are facilities that are in outbreak status and there are some staffing shortages.
- Felix brings up an article from the Seattle times regarding tuberculosis at CBCC. Loren had reached out to Jeri Boe regarding this article. There was an individual that was positive for TB and is being treated

appropriately. There are 2 other individuals that were exposed and are being treated but are not deemed to be infectious.

- Rachel asked a question regarding the testing procedures for staff at facilities. The testing is occurring for 1 day and results can take a few days to get back. If we have the rapid antigen testing available for visitors, why is that testing not being utilized for DOC staff? The rapid testing can only detect if there is an active infection, where the current testing (PCR) delves deeper into infection and can identify the dormant infection.
- Gwen also has questions regarding the rapid testing. If you can be fully vaccinated and still test positive, why are not all visitors being required to complete the antigen testing? This is something that is being discussed.
- With the holidays coming up, there is some discussion about special events. Next week, we will be working with the Health Services team to discuss what protocols are always in place. There is staff reaching out to the incarcerated individuals regarding what events would mean the most to them. Last year we worked hard to have a meaningful Hanukkah event. This year we are trying to get ahead of the holidays to be able to provide those events for the population.
- Overall, the response regarding visiting starting has been positive. There are some concerns from the visitors regarding the amount of time that testing is taking, but overall, the visiting has been going well.
- Loren has a question for Jeremy, we know there is a shortage of mental health providers within the facilities, is there any conversation regarding the trauma that COVID has caused the incarcerated population? Jeremy indicated that there isn't anything regarding this specifically. We have been working towards reintroducing programming and other pro-social activities. Jeremy will take this comment and see if this is something that can be looked at through the mental health programs.
- Mindy is continually concerned with COVID right now. She doesn't know if there is any more that the Department can encourage vaccination. She is reaching out to this group for suggestions. Rachel discusses incentives for completing the vaccinations for the incarcerated population, as this has been successful in the juvenile and county facilities. Gwen brings up the conversation that there isn't any number of incentives that can be offered to do something that I don't want to do. Felix asks the question regarding the vaccination mandate for the staff and the status of these vaccinations. There is some work going into the "myth busters" regarding the vaccination for the population, as we are aware there is some misinformation being passed. Jeremy passed some information regarding a work group he recently had and of the 8 individuals that were not vaccinated they shared that they have no interest in getting the vaccine, that they are aware of the opportunities that were presented to get the vaccine, and just really have interest in DOC giving them their vaccine.

Action Items:

- Jeremy Barclay will follow up regarding the TB article and current health status at CBCC
- Lisa has reached out to clinical regarding testing procedures for staff and if the rapid testing for all visitors there are breakthrough cases
- Please share widely that survey that Lisa sent out regarding the family council. This will ensure that as many voices are heard.