

**Some questions may be 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.**

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## Call Details

**Facility: Statewide Family Council**

**Date and Time: 2/4/2022, 2:00PM**

## Attendees

- DOC: Bruce Wood, Caroline Melhuish, Dawn Taylor, Don Holbrook, Heather Williams, Jeff Uttecht, Lisa Flynn, Ryan Rubalcaba, Ramona Cravens.
- Anna Ivanov – SCCC Representative
- Elise McKinnon – SFC Co-Secretary
- Felix D’Allesandro – WCC Representative
- Loretta Pederson - WSP Representative
- Gwen McIlveen – CRCC Representative

## Weekly Update

- No old business.

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question 1

*Families would like to request an update from Mike Obenland on what DOC is doing to communicate needs for changes in excessively burdensome and destructive protocols to DOC clinical and/or DOH/CDC.*

Answer

Mike was not available today. There is conversation all the time. DOC is constantly looking into inefficiencies to maintain schedules and normalcy as each institution has different needs and challenges. DOC and Clinical staff are following CDC/DOH guidelines. If a new variant comes out, it could impact the current guidelines.

### Question 2

*Families would like to know what kind of feedback DOC clinical typically obtains from DOC custody staff on what the negative consequences are of the current protocols, and what DOC clinical does to develop protocols that impose the least hardship and unintended mental health detriments on both prisoners and their families.*

Answer

This question was answered by additional questions that were added during the meeting.

### Question 3

*Families have heard that prisoners at some facilities have been resisting protocols. For example, refusing to take tests or perhaps threatening food strikes. May we receive an account of every type of resistance that has been put up and what DOC is doing not just to force compliance, but to actually work with the incarcerated on what their concerns are?*

Answer

When these concerns arise, staff respond to the areas and engage the Incarcerated Individuals (I/I) in conversation explaining the process. For example: if they refuse to test, compared to if they test. This would be based on how many days a person would have to spend in isolation/quarantine (to include when a test would have to be taken prior to coming off isolation/quarantine if they refuse to test). The conversation also contains the concern and risk associated with not identifying those that are positive to isolate and the spread of the virus to others. Staff explain also if I/I's become symptomatic and are in need of care, it would reset the isolation/quarantine period.

### Additional Questions/Comments

- Comment – Concerns that the mental health effects that have been caused have not been taken seriously, would like a different set of protocols, , and that families do not like to hear “we hear you” and as they do not feel their comments are taken seriously.
  - Response – Covid is extremely taxing on everyone. With each of the outbreaks that have happened, DOC believes that there is something to learn and DOC does take all comments into consideration.
- Question – what can DOC Headquarters do to help facilities (e.g. Stafford Creek: yard time, staff shortages)?
  - Answer – Communication between HQ and the facilities is daily.
- Question – when will this be over?
  - Answer – It is unknown at this time.
- Question – are conversation with CDC/DOH one way? Is DOC communicating with CDC/DOH? Do facilities report back to Headquarters
  - Answer – Yes to all.
- Question - Will the I/I be made aware of the funds that Mike Obenland said were coming (e.g. JPay)? Who is the Superintendent at WCC?
  - Answer - A memo went to all SFC/LFC, a Covid bulletin has gone out as cell stuffers, and message on the Kiosk. Dean Mason is the new WCC Superintendent.
- Question – when people are moved to isolation, specifically WCC, they are taken off the institutions roll/count. Mail is being rejected, they cannot get their packages (Union Supply) delivered, cannot e-mail as it says, “he is not on the account”.
  - Answer – This has been corrected in most of the facilities. Don Holbrook will bring this up with the facility in question.
- Question - Do you go to the living units?
  - Answer – Yes.
- Question - SCCC has 1,700 I/I's, with 1,550 on quarantine for four weeks. If all are ill and kept in separate place, why is the whole place on quarantine because “80” are sick?

- Answer - It is because they came from multiple places in the facility. Until there two negative tests in the entire Unit, the Unit stays on quarantine.
- Question - Why do officers go from one infected Unit to a different un-infected unit.
  - Answer - In an infected Unit, staff are wearing full PPE, social distancing, wearing their mask the way they are supposed to. They *don* and *doff* their PPE when entering and leaving an infected area. Staff are testing twice a week.
- Question – Who at DOC who is brave enough to tell people this cannot go on?
  - Answer - These conversations have started. Cheryl Strange meets with HQ staff and the emergency operations staff to get feedback from them. She then has these conversations at the Governor’s office

## Closing

Don Holbrook thanked Loretta for bringing to his attention about another family member who had never seen her father before, who was coming from out of State. When she arrived, the facility had just closed in-person visits. However, Don was able to make this visit happen. Thank you Loretta!

**Next meeting: Friday, February 11, 2022, at 2:00 pm. Please submit your questions to Ramona Cravens by Wednesday, February 9, 2022.**