

**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: 2/18/2022, 2:00PM

Attendees

- DOC: Caroline Melhuish, Michael Eby, Don Holbrook, Heather Williams,, Lisa Flynn, Bruce Wood , Jeannie Darneille, Eric Jackson, Paige Perkinson, Mike Obenland, Jeff Uttecht, Ramona cravens.
- Anna Ivanov – SCCC Representative
- Elise McKinnon – SFC Co-Secretary
- Felix D’Allesandro – WCC Representative
- Loretta Pedersen - WSP Representative
- Donna Jaramillo – AHCC Representative

Weekly Update

- No old business.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Are incarcerated individuals who work outside of their unit following DOC protocols when they return to their quarantined unit?

Answer

While units are on quarantine those individuals identified to work in essential areas are tested prior to their shift. They are required to adhere to all masking, social distancing, and sanitizing protocols. After the incarcerated individual has completed their shift, they return to their unit cohorting system. When the unit is not on Quarantine status, the work areas are cohorted to minimize contact between units.

Question 2

How are the Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund monies currently being spend during Covid

Answer

Additional expenditures include credits applied to incarcerated individual’s phone and JPay accounts, upcoming arrivals of hygiene kits, Superbowl grab bags, and a \$10 commissary credit. Additional TVs were authorized for purchase to supply individuals in quarantine and medical isolation with entertainment options. These TVs will be cycled into existing TV rental programs when the need in these areas subside. Secretary Strange continues to work with staff, families, and incarcerated individuals to identify additional comfort items for future procurement.

Question 3a

How does the Department of Corrections train non-medical staff to complete serial testing?

Answer

Non-medical staff are trained by a “train-the-trainer” model. The Facility Branch Director for Testing Teams is responsible for scheduling and providing training as well as for conducting quality assurance of testing procedures and testing integrity at the local level.

Question 3b

Is there retraining?

Answer

Re-training opportunities and extended training is offered at the statewide level as our testing kit vendors update or change the test technology. All testing team members statewide are required to attend the mandatory training conducted via the TEAMS platform. Testing Team Branch Directors and/or Team Leaders attend a weekly meeting with the HQ Team Leaders where they are reminded to incorporate quality assurance of testing procedures as part of their continuous check ins with Testing Team members.

Question 3c

Who oversees serial testing?

Answer

Serial/Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) for the incarcerated population is overseen by the Infection Prevention Nurse (IPN) and clinical staff.

Additional Questions/Comments

- Question: To be added to the SFC meeting on 2/25/22
 - How do incarcerated individuals who are working on the outside, who have tested negative multiple times become positive? To be added at next week’s meeting.
- Question: Is there a plan for when DOC opens back up again?
 - This is happening every day. Plans cannot be publicized until they are final.
- Question: Can food be ordered now for hot breakfast when DOC opens back up again instead of having to wait weeks to order?
 - Don Holbrook to investigate.
- Question: How is DOC preparing to move on from the pandemic?
 - DOC is preparing every day for the future.
- Question: Can Clinical staff come to this meeting?
 - Jeff Uttecht will work on for next week.
- Comment: Families feel that their suggestions have not been considered.
 - On the ordering of comfort items suggested by families from the IIBF funds, an order was placed, but there was a supply chain issue. The Procurement department is working on rectifying.
- Comment: Regarding the credits that went out, there were people in isolation that were missed. However, there is a solution underway to help so it does not happen next time.

- Question: Will there be compensation for those incarcerated who have not been able to work due to Covid?
 - This will be re-evaluated on the 28th.
- Is the Music equipment being looked at?
 - Decision has been made. However, additional meetings and conversations need to happen before anything further happens.
- Comment: Families do not like having just Union Supply as a vendor to order items.
 - Please work with Emijah Smith for the next SFC Council Bi-monthly meeting.

Closing

Thank you for coming. The next meeting will be Friday, February 25, 2022, at 2:00 pm. Please submit your questions to Ramona Cravens by Wednesday morning, February 23, 2022.