

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

April 02, 2020

1pm

Facilitators: Dean Mason- Associate Superintendent, Norman Goodenough- Health Care Manager, Justin Schlagel-Correctional Program Manager, Gerald Bailey-Correctional Unit Supervisor

Attendees:

Daniel W. White- Superintendent

Naomi Samson /Recorder

Amy Grubaugh- Family Council Member

Candace Krueger- Family Council Member

Mike Eby- DOC Family Services Unit

Jasmine Caldwell- Family Council Member

Kaishanna Grace- Family Council Member

Portia Linear- Family Council Member

Michael Green- Associate

Candice Curtis, OCS

Jaycie Grisso- Family Council Member

Joanna Carns- Office of OMBUDS

Matthias Gyde- Office of OMBUDS

Jackie Racus- Family Council Member

Paige Perkinson- Program Specialist 4

Rebecca Cabadas- Family Council Member

Emijah Smith- Family Member (Guest)

Karin Arnold-CPM

Hathaway

Paige Stillwater

Purpose – to provide information to family and friends of our incarcerated population related to management of the COVID 19 outbreak. Specifically, what steps the Washington Corrections Center and the Department of Corrections as a whole are taking to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

Note from Superintendent Daniel W. White-

We appreciate the care and concern you have for your incarcerated loved one. We take great pride in all of the hard work being done to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of everyone living and working at the Washington Corrections Center. We take all of the concerns of the population very seriously and will continue to meet with them to hear their concerns going forward. Our staff have regularly been out in the facility on walkabout. Our sanitations are on point.

Agenda Items:

Sanitation – Sanitation measures have increased. At WCC, we have increased cleaning protocols to hourly cleanings in populated areas. All units are being provided a germicidal cleaner that is approved by the Health Department as effective for the COVID-19 virus. All incarcerated individuals are also encouraged to keep their cells and areas clean and wipe them down more frequently and wash their hands often. Common areas are being cleaned multiple times a day. We have hired 11 new cleaning positions to clean and deep clean high traffic areas such as the showers, phones, equipment and dayrooms in between uses. Additionally, extra porters (janitors) have been hired to conduct deep cleaning on First Shift (late night/early morning). Posters and information regarding handwashing and COVID 19 protocols are hung up all over the facility and the incarcerated population is encouraged to follow these protocols.

Testing: *Here at WCC we have had our first positive for COVID 19 at WCC. We have done the mapping and notifications per HQ directives. There were three staff members sent home in connection with this.*

Social Distancing: Social Distancing is a primary focus and is regularly being encouraged and reminded. Dayrooms have been limited to 10 individuals at a time. All education classrooms, medical areas, etc., have been limited to smaller groups at a time and expansion of extra sessions for those areas will be added as necessary. Work areas are being restructured to ensure proper spacing is achieved. Meals are being served in-unit to both achieve social distancing and to increase recreation opportunities for the population. The incarcerated population are encouraging importance of social distancing and they are educating each other of the importance of it. **Visual aids are in all areas to assist with this.**

Extra Unit and Recreational Activities: We have set up numerous extra activities in the units to help with the anxiety that many are feeling at this time. There are many new ideas and changes happening every day. Some of the opportunities include:

- ✓ Popcorn machines in TC units on a schedule that provides this treat three to four days a week on a rotating basis.
- ✓ Dayroom time in the reception units.
- ✓ Extra playing cards in all units.
- ✓ Printable Crosswords/Sudoku/Word Search for all incarcerated individuals.
- ✓ Organized pickle ball tournament
- ✓ Creating a plan to open the unit mounds for the TC population.
- ✓ Eligible TC individuals have been issued their incentive gardens.
- ✓ Started night yards early.
- ✓ Movies will be made available on a rotating basis

Some of these activities are just ramping up and will expand as possible. As stated, we will continue to explore other new opportunities for recreation and activities.

Screening: No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff must complete an enhanced screening process, including temperature checks, prior to the start of their shifts. Due to this process, a significant number of staff are being sent home and cannot return until they are

cleared by a medical screening team that is separate from WCC. Our number one priority is to keeping staff and the population safe.

If any of the Incarcerated Individuals show signs of having symptoms, they are screened by medical staff using the following protocol:

Quarantine and Isolation - Incarcerated individuals (patients) will be placed on isolation status when they are presenting influenza or COVID-19 like illness symptoms. Patients who have been exposed (i.e., cellmate of a patient who has influenza-like symptoms) will be placed on quarantine status. Universal precautions will be in effect for all patients. Special housing arrangements will be made for patients on quarantine and isolation status. Droplet precautions will also be in effect, and information will be posted on the red flu supply carts located in R5 and IMU.

All potentially exposed cells are sanitized, and the individuals are provided clean linens. Individuals who do not have their own hygiene items, or run out, will be provided some at no cost. Finally, medical callouts have been increased to every half hour to reduce the number of people in medical.

Transports: All individuals are being temperature checked when picked up from other DOC facilities. All individuals arriving at and departing from WCC are temperature checked at Receiving. Anyone with a temperature receives a secondary evaluation by medical and the isolation/quarantine protocol is followed as necessary.

Round Table Questions:

1. Do we have a Pandemic Plan?
 - a. Answer: Yes.
2. How many incarcerated individuals have been tested?
 - a. Answer: 24 total- 20 are negative and 4 are still pending test results.
3. What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?
 - a. Answer:
4. Are you seeing a decline in numbers coming in to help with the social distancing since there was already an overcrowding problem?
 - a. Answer: No. We are required to pick people up from county within so many days. We have to follow the law. RCW 70.4800
5. If you had a positive case what would you do, do you have an area for them to go?
 - a. Answer: Yes. We have a unit designated for this purpose. We would do the mapping and then isolate them pending test results.
6. Would it be possible for Incarcerated Individual do a blood drive in R5, then a suggestion was made to add other Units to this request?
 - a. Answer: We will forward that on.
7. Is there a contract award date for JPay?
 - a. Answer: Not at this time, Due to recent events it has surely been pushed back.
8. Do all incarcerated individuals have access to phones even if they lost them due to infractions?
 - a. Answer: Yes. We have removed phone restrictions as an option for infractions. We understand communication is crucial right now.

9. Has every Incarcerated individual received their 2 bars of soap?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes. If they need more they can go to the booth. There will be a story coming out soon featuring our emergency shipment of soap.
10. Will the workers get paid even though they can't show up to work, as it is being done on the outside?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes. Update - HQ has approved pay in these cases. The conditions and limits will be made available to the population soon.
 - b. WCC does and will not let anyone go without pay or lose their job in self-quarantine situations. No one will lose their job. If they have concerns they should go to their unit leader. We understand there is concerns. We are providing PPE to assist with this.
11. Is there a shortage of cleaning supplies? We are hearing people are having to use torn up shirts as rags.
 - a. **Answer:** No. We were using them temporarily.
12. Will there be games in the Units?
 - b. Yes, We are working on it.

Schedule for next call-in- We will schedule it and let you know when it will be. If you have suggestions on when will work, please email Dean Mason or Jenn Bullard.