

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

April 30, 2020

1:00 p.m.

**Facilitators:** Dean Mason- Associate Superintendent, Norman Goodenough- Health Care Manager,

**Attendance:** Dan White, Dean Mason, Naomi Samson (meeting minutes) Penny Marquart (meeting minutes).

**Attendance via phone:** Jenn Bullard, Norm Goodnough, Chris Welch, Mathias Gyde, Joanna Carns, Jasmine Bernardez, Kaishanna Sounders, Amy Grubaugh, Kristina Olson, Jacki Racus.

**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. Personally, I feel safer inside of this correctional environment than I do in any other place in society, save for maybe my own home. We will continue to uphold a high standard for humanity and sanitation every day.*

**Agenda Items:**

**Sanitation** – Sanitation measures continue to be implemented and improved. 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 approved 11 new cleaning positions to clean and deep clean high traffic areas such as the showers, phones, equipment and dayrooms in between uses. [This was delayed due to staffing, but is once again being ramped up.] 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. A specific staff is designated to ensure that all new information is widely communicated throughout the facility.

**Rapid Reentry** - Governor Inslee's proclamation regarding emergency commutation was released on April 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by additional Rapid Reentry messaging released by DOC the following day. Since that time, a number of WCC staff have been working every day (including weekends) to process every individual approved for one of these options.

**Face Coverings (Masks)** – On April 17<sup>th</sup>, every incarcerated individual was issued a kit that included two bandanas with materials and instructions for making a mask. On April 20<sup>th</sup> every incarcerated individual was issued a sewn face mask made by the WCC Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL). All incarcerated individuals are required to wear an authorized face covering whenever they come out of their cell.

Staff are required to wear face covering whenever they are in the facility.

**Telephones** - WCC Maintenance is almost completed installing thick plastic (Lexan) screens between telephones in units, yards and gyms to enable access to most available telephones while shielding individuals using the phones from each other. Nearly every telephone that was available prior to social distancing orders is again available.

**Testing:** No incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID 19 at WCC. Two WCC staff did test positive for COVID-19 nearly three weeks ago. All protocols were followed regarding mapping of potential exposure for both staff and the incarcerated population. Both staff were quarantined from work, screened and returned to work after clearance by medical staff. There are currently eight incarcerated individuals on quarantine and nine on isolation for “flu-like symptoms.” Forty-seven (47) incarcerated individuals have been tested for COVI-19 since the beginning of our response to this virus. Five tests are still pending results and all tests have been negative to this point.

**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.

**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:

Currently unavailable due to shortage of product. This will be reinstated when available.

Dayroom time in the reception units.

Extra playing cards in all units.

Printable Crosswords/Sudoku/Word Search for all incarcerated individuals. Packets have been going out prior to each weekend and have been very popular.

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 are currently available to the TC population. The movies are rotated daily based on a list prioritized by the tier representative. The system that we built is limited in function and we are doing the best we can to keep the movies fresh within our current resources. We receive a few complaints from the population, but most are understanding and appreciate the efforts of staff.

These activities will expand whenever 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.

### **Begin Meeting:**

Dan opened with a statement.

*Enhanced Social distancing signs were installed yesterday and I met with Tier reps, conversations were good to include good input with some suggestions. We had our 1<sup>st</sup> positive test in our population on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This is someone that came to us ill and had been for some time from work release and we immediately put them into isolation.*

*We are finished with our commutation list of II. We are currently working on RR 16 out of 120 have been finished. This list changes daily. The criteria for RR is different than commutation. This list of individuals is released in groups based on the availability of transportation and other things that come up.*

### Round Table Questions:

1. Anyone have any questions on positive case? Amy- Yes, Where did they come from?
  - Answer: Reynolds Work Release
2. Testing updates are:
  - Answer: total- There are 12 in isolation and 14 on quarantine.
3. Ramadan, does anyone have any questions around this? No one spoke up
  - Statement from Dan: We are currently honoring this. There was 1 issue and the head of CI addressed this immediately.
4. Jasmine-Last couple visits we have not been able to talk and we are still having issues. We just sit there for 30 minutes and look at stills of each other?
  - Answer: A lot of similar issues were voiced at the Tier rep meeting and Dan has forwarded these issues to headquarters and contacted JPay reps.
5. Christina Olson- Can they have phone calls on their tablets?
  - Answer: Dan, not sure if that is one of the things that will be on our new contract. Joanna Carns spoke to this because she is on the committee and it is a contract issue and right now because JPay is tablets and GTL for phones that is not possible. Maybe in January for the new contract.
6. Amie G- What is going on with the courtesy move right now? Why can't they?

- Answer: As a measure or to enhance minimize the spread of COVID-19. This is state wide. Please be patient while we work through this and when we can re implement this we will. Please be sure to report any bullying so that we can stop this.
7. Kristina Olson- Has there been any visiting conversations?
- Answer: No. That will be based on what the governor or HS have to recommend and the Secretary will communicate that out once we know.
8. Jackie-Phone issue- multiple times in Cedar when an announcement is made a prompt goes to a 2 minute infraction and then they get cut off?
- Answer: Never heard of that before then Dan spoke to contract coming to an end.
9. Jackie-Husband put in for a Courtesy move in February and still no and now with the social distancing it is unsanitary when people hang their feet in there face.
- We have put a stop to this state wide. Please be patient as we work through this I know it is not ideal,
10. Jackie-Are there still plans to open up the mound?
- Yes, to the mounds plan will be in place by May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting end: 1:36 p.m.

**Schedule for next call-in: 1:00 pm on April 30, 2020**  
**Call-in information will be provided in a forthcoming calendar invite.**