

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

May 7, 2020

1:00 p.m.

**Facilitators:** Dan White- Superintendent, Justin Schlagel- Correctional Program Manager.

**Attendance:** Naomi Samson (meeting notes), Penny Marquart (meeting notes).

**Attendance via phone:** Mike Eby- Community Correctional Specialist, Matthias Gyde-Assistant Ombuds, Joanna Carns-Ombuds Director, Paige Perkinson-Program Specialist, Kathleen Carlson- Health Services Manager. Kaishanna Sounders-LFC member, Jasmine Bernardez-LFC member, Candace Krueger-LFC member, Jacki Racus- LFC member, Amy Grubaugh-LFC member.

**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:** 13:00

### **Roll Call**

#### **Dan White opened:**

Things going well, beautiful day out. People are in excellent spirits.

1. 1 ISO 18 Quarantine
2. 58 Tests given 5 pending only 1 positive from last week.
3. 100% face covering for all staff and II
4. Sustainable practices Lab is staffed with II making face coverings. Today we will issue a 2<sup>nd</sup> mask per II to make a total of 4 per II to allow for laundering and drying.
5. I visited the Sustainable Practices Lab several times then this week and Secretary Sinclair visited also. He was highly impressed as am I. The Pride and ownership of this process is just amazing to watch and has really made a positive impact on the population being able to contribute.
6. The II created 1,000 adult face coverings, 250 children face coverings and donated to a Hospital organization that was in dire needs in Spokane. These went out yesterday.
7. Face coverings are also being produced at CI warehouse. They have 3-4 work stations operating. Very impressive to watch. I thank them every time I see them.
8. Social Distancing is still a priority and all areas have signs. These signs were created by II and are very professional.
9. Phone separations shields are on all phones to include: yards, gyms, and units.
10. FYI: We have Intake separation Units created. We did this by emptying out a unit and all incoming II stay there for 14 days before introducing them into the healthy population. They get temperature checks daily and are monitored closely.
11. Staff go through screening every day to include temperature checks and a series of questions as part of our screening process.
12. You may have heard or seen communications or news releases regarding Regional care facilities here at WCC. Three other facilities are doing this as well Airway Heights, Monroe, and Gig Harbor. We are using the Chapel area here at WCC. As we speak we are installing 20 hospital beds donated by the military. This is for preparedness only in the event of the COVID-19 spreading to care for more severe cases.
13. We continue to support religious opportunities
14. Mandatory Savings access forms continue to come in- I processed 50 in just the last few days. We are continuing to support this.
15. Back log of physicals will be caught up on Friday.

## Justin Schlagel spoke to RR

- a) Rapid Re-entry Strike Team has here is working with HQ and Community Corrections. Some 130 II released or transferred so far for this process. Classification and Custody staff working overtime to expedite this process. If your loved one is on this list please be patient.

### Round Table Questions:

1. **Question Sounders-** On JPAY issues any updates?
  - a. **Answer:** We hear about this every day and I promise you we communicate with HQ regularly and are working with the vendor to create a better product. That is the best answer I can give you at this time.
2. **Question-Kreuger-** When mailing out stuff for Rec, Why is staff scheduling other things during this time?
  - a. **Answer:** The Tier Rep brought this up and we are working this out currently.
3. **Question-Racus-** on the Regional Care Facility- Since there is other programs in the same building what are they doing to address the air concerns?
  - a. **Answer:** Our Health care professionals have assured us there is no concern.
4. **Question-Grubah-**Will the people in the Regional Care Facility such as Officers and nursing and such be going back and forth between facility and Regional Care Facility?
  - a. **Answer:** Yes. There is a chance. We have asked for extra staff to support this as attempt to avoid this. So, we will ensure anyone in the department will be wearing PPE and will have the appropriate stations to support this practice. Anything related to any illness will be supported.
5. **Question-Grubah:** JPAY video visits 1 of 10 go well enough to see or hear. Why is there no visiting during the day on weekends?
  - a. **Answer:** There is, so we will look into this.
6. **Question-Grubah:** Are you going to be following the Governor ruling for the phases if so it will be like 12 weeks before we can visit?
  - a. **Answer:** We will not know what phase visiting will be opened to, that was a HQ decision. We will probably have to do things differently than before so start thinking about that now.
7. **Question- Joanna-** How many people are on the floor?
  - a. **Answer:** 20
8. **Question Mija-** Clarify floor sleepers are II for staff?
  - a. **Answer:** II
9. **Question-** Mija-The cases of Reynolds Work Release Infected II coming in. What is the process of positive cases coming inside the facility?
  - a. **Answer:** They go directly to Isolation Unit.
10. **Question-** Amy: Why does JPAY only allows video visits to be scheduled 8:00- 9:00 am and 5:00-7:00pm on weekends.
  - a. **Answer:** We will forward that question on to JPAY.

Meeting ends: 13:46