

# Washington Corrections Center Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

May 14, 2020, 1:00PM

## **Facilitators**

Dean Mason- Associate Superintendent, Justin Schlagel- Correctional Program Manager.

## **Attendance**

Naomi Samson (note taker), Penny Marquart (note taker).

## **Attendance via phone**

Mike Eby-Community Correctional Specialist, Matthias Gyde-Assistant Ombuds, Joanna Carns-Ombuds Director, Paige Perkinson-Program Specialist, Norm Goodenough- Health Services Manager. Kaishanna Saunders, Candace Krueger, Jacki Racus, Amy Grubaugh, Emijah Smith.

## **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.

### **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**

There have been no changes to these activities.

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.

### **Begin Meeting: 13:00 Roll Call**

#### **Dean Mason opened:**

1. **Sanitation:** We now have one person responsible for tracking all cleaning and making sure all protocols are being met and all II are trained appropriately. His name is Jim Chavez.
2. **Rapid Reentry:** Dean Mason gave update on Rapid Re-entry status and notified the program would be ending as of Midnight Friday if anyone on the list has not been released by that time they will not be releasing.
  - a. Justin Schlagel gave an update on numbers for Rapid Re-entry: 6 going tomorrow 155 will have been transferred out for our facility alone through this process.
3. **Face Covering:** 100% face covering for all staff and II. Really compliant with this practice for all.
4. **Isolation and Testing:** Currently 2 ISO and 5 Quarantine
  - a. 60 tests completed as of today with 0 pending and only 1 positive since the beginning of testing.
5. **Screening:** We have added a new symptom question to our screening process. "Have you recently lost your sense of smell or taste?"
6. **Phones:** Most phones are usable and accessible. Dividers between all the phones are up.
7. **Round Table Questions:**
8. **Question Candace** - I have ordered some books and I have the banned list and those books are not on it and my husband can't have them because it is a banned book and I don't see it on the list. Is there a more current list I can have?
  - a. **Answer:** If you could email me (Mason) I will talk to SGT. Edgington and find out what is going on.
9. **Question Kaishanna** - Some people are being denied packages in R6 as ineligible why?
  - a. **Answer:** Dean Mason replied have them Kiosk me so I can get the packages re-sent. Sometimes there is confusion in having them identified as general population.
10. **Question** - When will my husband be classified? He was supposed to be classified s month ago.
  - a. **Answer:** We are behind, due to Rapid Reentry taking precedence and we should be starting to get caught up next week. We have been short-staffed and have open caseloads. Some staff have been doing double caseloads.
11. **Question-Jackie** - Mounds started to open and then closed back down, when will that happen?
  - a. **Answer:** This was a labor issue we will keep you posted.
  - b. **Question:** JPAY. Keeps freezing. We gave up after 3 mins. Maybe peak period issues?
  - c. **Answer:** we will look into it.
  - d. **Amy added a comment:** We were on it Mother's Day at 9am. I was awful. Who is the internet provider for the facility?
  - e. **Answer:** JPAY is a proprietary system, not a direct internet system.
12. **Question Joanna** - # of floor sleepers?
  - a. **Answer:** 0 at this time. Potential for more in the coming days.

13. **Question Emijah** - Has there been discussion to extend video visit times on the weekends?
  - a. **Answer:** No there has been no discussion about this. We will have to look into this.
  - b. **Question:** - Is WCC a holding facility for people with COVID?
  - c. **Answer:** No, WCC is not a holding facility for people with COVID-19. We do have a Regional Care Facility going into the chapel. This is only in the event we need it. It has not been implemented. We are still in the process of putting it together.
14. **Question:** Is there a way to do a zoom meeting instead of JPAY on a secure computer?
  - a. **Answer:** Paige from HQ answered this- There is a recommendation to our facilities based on security risks we are asking that this is used on a limited basis.
15. **Request made by Dean:** We need a Local Co-Chair and a Statewide Member. Any of you can volunteer. Penny will send out the Policy so everyone can review the expectations of these positions and we will discuss again at the next call.
16. Call ends: 1330