

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

May 28, 2020

1pm

Facilitators: Dan White Superintendent, Dean Mason- Associate Superintendent, Justin Schlagel- Correctional Program Manager Michael Green Assoc. Super. Of Custody and Operations.

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

Attendance via phone: Mike Eby- Community Correctional Specialist, Matthias Gyde-Assistant Ombuds, Paige Perkinson- Program Specialist, Casey Carlson-Health Services Mgr.,Kaishanna Sounders, Jasmine Bernardez, 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.

Face Coverings (Masks) – On April 17th, every incarcerated individual was issued a kit that included two bandanas with materials and instructions for making a mask. On April 20th 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: 13:07

Roll Call

Dan White opened:

1. Overall things are going well here, I did a facility walk through today, there were lot of guys in the yard today enjoying the nice weather getting some vitamin D.
2. Facility is looking amazing and looking very clean. Family members are doing a great job keeping things clean around here.
3. Testing- 65 tested 64 negative no pending 1 positive still the transfer in 6 ISO 14 quarantine (We had to put a 13 passenger van on quarantine as a precaution due to one individual stating he was experiencing COVID like symptoms.
4. You all have probably heard from your loved ones about our RCF. We are still working on this being a care facility. We have no occupants at this time. We hope not to use this, but have it for COVID positive cases should it become necessary.
5. We have recently revised our recreation schedule in order to add longer yard times.
6. We have initiated the process to have a model building program and it is to be managed by the programs department.
7. Dean spoke to: RCF- Our chapel has been used for this and we moved our religious services to the staff dining area. This service area is for general population only. The religious coordinator is visiting the individual units personally. He delivers materials and meets with II 1 on 1. This is an increase in services most notably to the R units. They traditionally have not had this option.

Round Table Questions:

1. **Question Racus** - Has Olympia given any indications on when there will be visits or courtesy moves?
 - a. **Answer:** Dan stated "No", that our state DOC will be following governor's protocol of the phased in approach. Secretary Sinclair sent an in depth letter voicing his frustration with this and the importance of family access. Please be patient. Dan reiterated again that how visitations will look when they do begin again will be very different.
2. **Question Racus** - Earlier in the week in "Cedar Unit" my loved one said a CO was going to infract them if they did not wear masks. Can this happen?
 - a. **Answer:** Dan White replied he is going to send out an all staff notification addressing this. Wearing of face coverings is an ongoing issue to give reminders every day all day to both staff and II. I will remind both staff and II to be patient.
3. **Question Grubaugh** - My statement was the same as Racus. This is very concerning.
4. **Question Grubaugh** - You mentioned you were going to add more yard time and my son misses out because he works. Will these yard times accommodate workers?
 - a. **Answer: Justin Schlagel-** We know that those that work do miss out and we are working on this.

A1 **Dan-** We are working our way through the leisure areas issues to asset with this concern.
5. **Question Grubaugh** - In Cedar hall C unit they have only 3 phones and 1 is down and has been for some time. Do you know when the 1 phone will be fixed?
 - a. **Answer Dan** stated we were not aware of this. Justin Schlagel will address this issue.

6. **Question Smith**- Thank you regarding the extended visit times. To follow up on the infractions concern, how do you get those out if they are in the file?
 - a. **Answer:** He needs to follow the appeal process.
7. **Question Smith** - TV channels, can you extend the options for the black folks for more options like BET.
 - a. **Answer:** Dan White, We have attempted to address this with Hood Canal in the past and it was not an option for BET. I will check again on the BET channel, it has been about a year since our last inquiry.
8. **Question Smith**- With regards to reopening visits, has there been any progress preparing the visiting room for the kids and teens while things have been shut down?
 - a. **Answer: Dan** - yes. We are continually making improvements and we have one of the nicest visiting areas around the state.

Call ends: 1335