

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WCC

Date and Time: 10/01/2020, 1:00pm

Attendees

Dan White - Superintendent
Justin Schlagel- Correctional Program Manager-Facilitator
Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent
Penny Marquart- AA3 to Associate Mason -Recorder
Jennifer Bullard – Community Partnership Program Coordinator
Norm Goodenough- Health Services Manager
Matthias Gyde- Assistant Ombuds
Paige Perkinson – Program Specialist
Portia Linear- Statewide Rep
Kaishanna Saunders- Local Family Counsel Secretary
Keistina Olson
Jasmine Bernardez
Candace Krueger
Jacki Racus
Amy Grubaugh
Wendy Schindler
Emijah Smith
Kayla Shepard

Weekly Update

- 2100 tests administered.
- 11 positive tests.
- 1998 negative tests.
- 2 inconclusive tests.
- 12 inviable tests.
- 77 pending tests.
- 3 in isolation.
- 68 in quarantine.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Bernardez:

1. When visits reopen will they be contact or no contact? Meaning will we be able to hug and kiss our loved ones?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – We are the initial phase. There will be no contact.

2. Does DOC know how the plexi glass or whatever they use be set up? Will it be in between us or on the side of us to protect us from the other visitors?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – There will be a large screen that will separate you from your loved one. And there will be screens on the sides to separate you from other visitors.

3. I know we haven't started regular visits yet, but I would like to know when the EFV paperwork process will begin?

Answer: Program Specialist Perkinson – They are being processed but not finalized. On background checks; we want to make sure that we have the most current information.

Additional question- How often are you running background checks?

Answer: Program Specialist Perkinson – I am not sure, but I will check on that.

Question 2

Krueger:

1. Can you clarify if we are in fact still in DOC phase 1 and if this is true why have we been in phase 1 for months?

Answer: CPM Schlagel - DOC is still in Step 1 of the Safe Start Corrections plan. There is a statewide team currently working on revising the Sage Start Corrections plan since it was developed early on in COVID response, and we realize it's time to revisit some of the prison functions that have been adjusted or suspended due to COVID.

2. Why is there a separate phase for visiting?

Answer: CPM Schlagel –Visitation was removed and placed into its own plan as the department recognizes the need to move forward with restarting our visitation program in a phased response, rather than waiting until the entire state moves into Step 3 of the Sage Start Corrections plan. Since we wanted to prioritize this work, Sage Start Visitation was developed, and information should be on the DOC website soon.

3. Why isn't visit/EFV paperwork being processed, so that it's ready when visits/EFV reopen?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – Visitation applications are still being processed. EFVs will not reopen until Phase 4 of the Safe Start Visitation plan, and therefore regular visitation applications are the priority at this time so that visitors will be approved when the visitation program begins to reopen.

4. Some of our loved ones have been in Receiving for over 6 months and haven't been classified, when is this going to start happening?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – The system as a whole, has slowed down due to COVID. Various facilities aren't taking anyone. Everyone is staged here and we do the initial classification.

Additional answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Many are in the same boat. When space opened up, we can move them. Everyone has pretty much had their initial classification. They will get there 2nd when they move on.

Question 3

Racus: My husband who works in the maintenance shop was told today that his supervisor is being furloughed for 4 days in October and again for 4 days in November, so he and his work partner won't be able to work those days and they won't be paid their per diem and it will also effect all offenders in the maintenance area when their supervisor takes their furlough days. When COVID started, we were told that the offenders would be paid their wages throughout the duration no matter what the situation. Can't another supervisor supervise the offenders that want to work so they can earn their per diem? Has this changed? As family, we have to plan for the loss of wages for our loved ones and it affects everyone differently.

Answer: Superintendent Dan White - I certainly appreciate and empathize with your concerns. Unfortunately, the current state budget crisis is causing significant stress and concern for all of us. The provisions you mentioned below regarding pay regardless of circumstance was ended on July 31. Additionally, the increased gratuity we previously offered was also ended on July 31st. Your husband received advance notification of this and I assume would have passed that along to you. I have attached copies of those memos to this response for your reference.

As for your other question regarding the impending layoffs for our staff and the impacts that will have on our maintenance crews, unfortunately, this is another uncomfortable consequence of the current state budget. Since the maintenance crew supervisors will be laid off over a seven day week period (*2 separate periods – one week in October is 4 days, the second week in November is 3 days*) your husband will also be laid in during those periods without pay.

None of this is anything any of us want to occur and is completely out of our control. We are mandated to take these actions in compliance with the Governors executive order due to the significant budget shortfall we are facing in the wake of COVID-19.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Are visits just an hour?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – yes, 1 hour.

Question 2

I have heard that start limiting how many can be in the day rooms.

Answer: CPM Schlagel- it's always been limited to 10. Due to social distancing, there are markers on the seats to show where they can sit.

Question 3

Does no contact in visiting include holding hands?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – Yes that will include holding hands.

Question 4

Food for visiting?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – No food. Vending machines will also be closed during the initial stages of visiting.

Comments/Closing

Next LFC COVID update teleconference will be Thursday, October 8th.

Next LFC Teleconference will be October 22nd.

Please send any pre-submitted questions for either meeting to Penny.