

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WCC Shelton

Date and Time: 12/23/2020 1pm

Attendees

Justin Schlagel – Corrections Program Manager
Karin Arnold – Corrections Program Manager
Jennifer Bullard – Community Partnership Program Coordinator
Penny Marquart – AA3 to Associate Dean Mason
Mike Eby – Community Correctional Specialist
Joanna Carns – Ombuds Director
Domenica Campbell – Early Resolution Ombuds OCO
Paige Perkinson – Program Specialist
Casey Carlson – Health Services Manager
Danna Lundberg – Correctional Unit Supervisor-R6 G & H
Portia Linear – State Wide Representative
Jasmine Bernardez
Candace Krueger
Amy Grubaugh
Wendy Schindler
Emijah Smith
Kayla Shepard

Weekly Update

- 127 Isolation
- 604 positive
- 1140 Quarantine
- 3 Intake separation
- 477 Recovered
- 687 Pending Tests
- 112 Floor Sleepers

We are making progress with getting off isolation and into recovery. Recovery means, they have no symptoms and test negative. We are getting people back to their units and back to work. We are working on getting fully staffed in the laundry and the kitchen. We also have a high number of staff out. It's all areas, not just custody. It's a slow process.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Saunders: I'm just wondering with you all being short staffed in the mail room, is that also causing a major delay for the guys receiving JPAY emails? Normally emails flow throughout the day. But for the past two days now the emails aren't being received on my end or on my LO's end within the day or hours later.

I know they have to be reviewed prior, but even sending a one sentence email isn't being received timely. Are there any WIFI issues happening currently at the facility, any technical issues with JPAY's network, or is this delay just due to short staffing?

It's very difficult trying to communicate while receiving broken emails because of one being received slowly after one another but definitely at a much slower pace. The fact that we already have limited communication is a hardship itself. Any updates on this would be greatly appreciated.

Answer: Sargent Edgington- There has been no delay in reviewing and releasing JPay at the Facility level. JPay is reviewed and released twice a day every day, early in the morning and early afternoon. This does, exclude weekends and holidays. WCC has not been short of Staffing where JPay is concerned. I do know that JPay (not facilities) was experiencing some issues with slowdowns, but that was corrected after a couple of days. Even though Policy allows us 7 days to process JPay messages, WCC Prides itself in the processing of JPay the same day messages are received. If you encounter slow down issues in the future, do not hesitate to contact me directly and we will look into it as soon as possible. Thank you for keeping us aware

Additional answer: CPM Schlagel- We are processing when they are received in a timely manner.

Question 2

Racus: My husband called at (12/18) 8:30pm tonight and the offenders in Cedar F unit still had not received their dinner. Rumor has it that it's because not enough offenders showed up to work in the kitchen today. My husband is fortunate that he has food in his cell that he can eat, but there are many others that depend on receiving their meals from the DOC, not to mention the offenders with health conditions. Why weren't the offenders offered a "boat" as a replacement by 8:30pm? The diabetics received their insulin 2+ hours previous but didn't receive food. From my understanding this can cause major health issues and they were looking for anything to eat to try to stabilize their blood sugar

Answer: CPM Schlagel – As we were transitioning, we were short staffed. There was one day where we didn't get the meals out in a timely fashion and it caused a delay, but it has been corrected and the staff has been increased and it will hopefully decrease this from happening in the future. Our food service is working diligently to assure this doesn't happen again. Boats were not used because they take just as long and we made the decision to hand out meals. We should be back to normal.

Question 3

Grubaugh: My son returned back to Cedar Hall yesterday, they are wondering when they will receive their property back. They have only had the three changes of clothes for 17 days now.

Answer: CPM Schlagel - As they are coming back, we are working to get their property as soon as possible. AS of Today, all of Cedar should have all their property back.

Question 4

Sheppard: Why did Cedar G & H go from three weeks of isolation to quarantine today when they were told they'd be off all things today on Monday? Workers got to go to work for laundry and kitchen yet no one is getting yard or able to set up Jpay video visits. This makes absolutely no sense, please clarify.

Answer CPM Schlagel- : As of right now, everyone in Cedar Hall is in the recovery phase. They are starting to get back to new normal and start work and yard and Jpay

Question 5

Racus: To tag onto Ms. Shepherd's question. The offenders have such bad cabin fever and in need of exercise, they are using the partitions between the toilets in the bathroom to do pullups. Because of this, the bars supporting the partitions are reported to be pulling out of the walls and the partitions will then come down. This is very concerning on many levels.

Also, why are G & H still in quarantine when a kitchen worker in another tier in Cedar that was seen going to the gym last week and returned to Cedar this weekend was allowed to go to work this morning? That isn't the required 14 days yet G & H are now on day 28?

Can we please get some sort of clarification?

Answer: CPM Schlagel -We had staff go and look at the partitions and WO's have been submitted to get them repaired. All Cedar is in recovery status and able to go back to work.

Question 6

Monaghan: I am curious why the 3 individuals that have been in R6 the whole time with all this craziness, and have been negative in all 4 tests, are being moved to Cedar. There is no reason for them to be moved into an area that has cleared out due to positive cases. Looking for answers I believe someone named Arnold was the one doing this. Cory Monaghan was trying to get the counselor so they could get insight but not able to.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – All of the men who had been moved from R6 G/H tier to the alternate living unit had completed their isolation time and needed to be moved back to their assigned cells. The three individuals, including Mr. Monaghan, had not received their final test result back yet and needed to be temporarily moved to another quarantine tier until their quarantine time is completed. Cedar Hall is where we had available beds. Mr. Monaghan's bed in R6 will be held for his return when his quarantine time is completed. All moves that are currently being made are done so out of an abundance of caution and are in the best interest of the incarcerated population for health and safety reasons

Question 7

Monaghan: Thanks for your response. The guys are wanting to know when they can be moved back. When they were moved 3 left and 4 stayed all of which have had 3 tests done and negative. They have had 4 test now and still there. No one seems to know exactly when they still there. Didn't get to bring some of their extra stuff because it was supposed to be a few days and now a week. I and a few of the guys are wondering why they haven't been moved back to R6 after 5 negative tests. Instead they were moved to Evergreen. Rumor has it from R6 that they aren't letting them go back to their old cells. I would like clarification on that as to why. They have lost their cells and jobs then

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – First, there are many rumors being spread and we are doing our best to provide as much information as we can to dispel those rumors. We plan to return everyone that we can to their original units and cells where possible. There are some long range changes that we will need to make to help minimize the impacts of possible future outbreaks. Those changes will mean that some individuals will be moved, but all of our efforts are to ensure that everyone can remain safe and healthy. As an example; no one will lose their job, but their job assignment may dictate where they can live.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Bernardez: How long is it going to take for video visits to get re-instated?

Answer: CPM Schlagel- : No ETA at this time. We are doing the best we can, we are working to get this done.

Question 2

Unknown: Are the guys in Cedar able to get their packages and property?

Answer: CPM Schlagel- They will be getting their property and mail. The only ones that couldn't receive everything were in the gym due to space. If they are back in the unit, they will get their property and mail.

Question 3

Linear: Cedar moved to different tiers and they are wondering if they are going to move again?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – We will try to move them to where they came from, some want to stay and some want to move. It will be an ongoing process to get everyone settled and we will do our best to get everyone where they want to go. We are still making a final plan on where everyone will be and stay. We are focusing on keeping those separated depending on their status. We are trying to keep everyone healthy.

Question 4

Linear: Are you going to house those who work together?

Answer: CPM Schlagel - We may, it is a directive from HQ, and we are not finalized on the plan yet.

Question 5

Linear: Are you transferring to other facilities?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – No, But we are doing releases is their release date.

Comments/Closing:

Next LFC COVID Teleconference will be Wednesday, December 30th at 1pm.