

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** WCC Shelton

**Date and Time:** 07-01-2021 1pm

## Attendees

Dan White- Superintendent

Dean Mason – Assoc. Superintendent

Justin Schlagel – Correctional Program Manager – RC

Matthias Gyde – Assistant Ombuds

Domenica Campbell – Early Resolution Ombuds OCO

Casey Carlson – Health Services Manager

Danna Lundberg – CUS R6

Monica Ritter – Forms/Records HQ

Jennifer Allmendinger – AA3 to CPM's

Jackie Racus

Jasmine Bernardez

Candace Krueger

Amy Miller

Wendy Schindler

Emijah Smith

Helen Russell

## Weekly Update at the time of the call.

- 983 Total Cases to date
- 0 Positive Cases within the last 30 days

## Pre-Submitted Questions

1. With Washington fully opened what is DOC's plan for us and our loved ones? When COVID first hit, DOC wasted no time to close so why isn't the same energy given when we reopen?

**Answer:** Justin Schlagel – CPM

This has caused questions with the population and staff. The Governor has put out the latest memo regarding the reopening of Washington. There is always the footnote with areas where people congregate are not part of opening, such as hospitals and health care living facilities. Headquarters is looking for guidance and will send out information when it is received. It is with an abundance of caution that we open safely and slowly. We are trying to open areas such as recreation and other areas as we can.

2. Why hasn't the needle moved in the safe start plan? We've been stuck in phase 1 for over a year now.

**Answer:** Justin Schlagel – CPM

Safe Start Corrections was created and put in place in the very beginning of Covid. We quickly found out that reopening areas all at once was not safe. Safe Start directions have been put to the side. We have instead been opening up specific areas once it is deemed safe to do so. We have opened up recreation, some programming options, barber shop services, visiting, and increased cohort sizes so far.

3. Our loved one's drink water daily that isn't safe and full of lead. Why isn't bottled/jugs of water offered to our loved ones on store or packages? Is this something that can be looked into?

Answer: Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent

The water is safe and not full of lead. Our plant manager works with the Department of Health. There are strict guidelines. We test continually. Some tests are done twice daily. Our plant manager has experience working in water treatment. The aquafer is the same one used by Squaxins. The tests are posted quarterly and are put up in the units for the population to read.

4. When DOC is making all these decisions regarding visitations why aren't the families feelings taken into consideration especially with us being fully reopened? DOC is always saying how they want to keep families together; however, it doesn't seem that way from the outside looking in.

Answer: Justin Schlagel – CPM

When decisions are made, they are usually discussed at the Statewide Family Council meetings. Again, we ask for volunteers to be our statewide representative. Your voice can be heard there. You may feel like we don't take your feelings into consideration, but we do.

## Additional Questions

1. Statewide Family Council meet monthly or bi-monthly. They are not taking new input. So, when they say everything is open, everything really isn't open. What plans are there if another heatwave? Is anything going to be done? Set in place and be proactive.

Answer: Dan White – Superintendent

Want to let you know that you are singing to the choir. We all would like to go back to normal. We have to follow L&I protocols for mask wearing until we are directed otherwise. We are making every effort to mitigate the heat in our facility.

2. If you are going to make everyone wear masks, give them more visiting.

Answer: Dan White – Superintendent

I understand. We are going by L&I guidelines. We have to follow the mandates. This place was built in 1964 and there was no thought about air conditioning. We are offering water, cooling towels, popsicles and even turned on the sprinklers in the yard for them to cool down with. During the peak day we had to shelter in place and try to keep cool. We would love to have this place updated. We do not ignore anybody.

3. Why aren't there any big industrial fans? In a previous meeting, it was mentioned that the temperature can't be over 80 degrees. They boiled. Fans were blowing hot air.

Answer: Dean Mason – Assoc. Superintendent

There are fans. Maybe not enough for all the day rooms.

Purchase more then.

Dan White – My priority is the health and wellness for everyone in the facility, including your loved ones. We are looking into all options to mitigate the heat.

4. You're not separating by cohorts, but by unit?

Answer: Justin Schlagel – CPM

Yes, we have moved to whole unit cohorts. We are keeping the Recreation schedule at half the unit so that more will be able to utilize the phones. We did open the foyers.

5. This is more of a request. Can they get more Black TV channels? I know they have BET music. Can you call and request channels?

Answer: Dan White – Superintendent and Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent

White - We currently have a contract with Hood Canal. I believe it's been over a year since the last contact. I will look into that myself and look at the contract.

Mason - We can only get the basic cable lineup. BET Soul is a premium channel.

6. When will visiting change? Experienced it myself and it echoed. You can hear everyone talking. I can only explain it as "Interesting".

Answer: Justin Schlagel – CPM

Any changes to visiting processes will come from HQ. Everyone wants visiting to go back to normal. Once we receive updated directions, we will implement the changes.

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## Comments/Closing:

If interested in being a SFC, Secretary or Co-Chair, please e-mail CPM's or Jennifer Allmendinger. The next meeting will be July 15<sup>th</sup>.

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