

Family Council – WCCW
Bi-Monthly Meeting
March 24, 2019

Present:

Co-Chairpersons: Deborah Jo Wofford & Janet Moriarty
Co-Secretary: Paula Byrne & Renee Hafzalla
Statewide Family Council Rep: Jason Rice
Visiting Sergeant: Phillip Burkes
Family Services Specialist: Caroline Melhuish
Community Partnership Program Coordinator: Vacant
Local Family Council Members

Call to Order – Introduction of Guests

Secretary's Report – Presented by Renee Hafzalla

Statewide FC Report – Jason Rice reported out the following:

- The minutes from the last SW Family Council meeting are located online.
- The Statewide Family Council meetings have been moved to Correctional Industries in Tumwater. The next one scheduled will be Saturday, May 18, 2019. The information can be found online on iDOC public site.
- The Policy for Facility Council is being updated. He encourages members to read and provide input.
- Family Council is currently developing a handout brochure for families of incarcerated individuals, regarding family council's role and how they can help the families. They hope to promote growth within the Family Council. This brochure will be available to the families on DOC's public website.
- Clela Steelhamer from DOC HQ provided an outline/status of the bills in session.

Standing Issues

Family Events - Changes in CPPC:

- Superintendent shared with LFC members that our current CPPC Chrislee McConnaughey is now the CPPC for Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women. In her absence CPM Vaia Gaines will have oversight, and will be assisted by OA3 Kerry Henderson to continue planning our upcoming Family Events.

Yakima Update - Superintendent Jo Wofford:

- The WCCW incarcerated individuals housed at Yakima County jail have been moved from the old to the new building.
- ASP Felice Davis and Captain Marshall are working with Correctional Industries to set up the opportunity for incarcerated individuals can order from the store. This process should began soon.
- We are currently making outside space for exercise equipment. The equipment has been ordered.
- We are addressing the TC (Therapeutic Community) program issues. DOC is in the process of recruiting and hiring staff to continue the TC program so there would be no down time for offenders in this program. We currently only have one Correctional Counselor 3 at Yakima working with the offenders for re-entry.
- The food issues are ongoing DOC statewide. DOC is meeting the nutritional food standards required. There are statewide issues being addressed at this time.

Cards & Crafts - Sgt. Burkes & Lethaniel:

- They are preparing for the next major holiday event. They are in need of volunteers and seeking a facilitator.

Legislation Updates – Laurie Dawson:

- Laurie provided updated handouts for review and gave an update on the upcoming changes. i.e. Bills regarding, Rehabilitation, Gender Responsive, Death Penalty, addressing the use of informants. She reminded the group to be a voice and contact their local Legislators, and you can also visit Leg.wa.gov to read more on the Bills.

General Discussion

Old Business

1. Body Scanner Update – Superintendent Jo Wofford:
WCCW has finally received the Body Scanner and should be up and running by the end of April 2019. Then we will be training staff on how to use. Policy and Operational Memorandums are being drafted for the use of the Body Scanner, as WCCW is the pilot for DOC.
2. Family Council Policy – Jason Rice shared that it is being updated. The current policy is available on LFC website on the DOC public website. Again he encourages LFC members to provide suggestions.
3. Family Council suggestion box and literature in Public Access & Visitation – LFC members will come in and update the bulletin boards. Superintendent's office will order a new suggestion box to be placed in visitation.

New Business

1. **Tier Representatives** - Incarcerated individuals Jennifer and Karen were invited to attend the LFC meeting. They shared their concerns and updates regarding re-entry programs and existing programs for long time incarcerated individuals. It would be helpful to receive support from the facility to re-build the Women's Village program for lifers. They thanked Superintendent for getting the laundry soap issued resolved, and for the free Tampax. Incarcerated individuals are still having issues with having appropriate footwear available to order. The shoes that are currently available to order are not always specific to offenders work/job needs. This sometimes leads to medical issues with their feet. They would like to see WCCW provide a different supplier. There are still ongoing concerns regarding the food being served at WCCW. Superintendent explained that we are required to follow the guidelines that are provided department wide. WCCW Food Manager does supplement the diets at WCCW by using the produce that we grow at the facility. Incarcerated individuals are still have issues with clothing not fitting properly. There are also concerns shared from the incarcerated individuals regarding medical care, specific to their aging, or geriatric care.

They are requesting separate time with Superintendent Wofford to discuss ongoing concerns facility wide. The Tier Reps shared that Incarcerated Individuals at WCCW do not see enough visibility of Superintendent Wofford or the Associates on the campus. Their absences are noticed and making Incarcerated Individuals at WCCW feel abandoned. Superintendent understands, and it is duly noted.

2. **LFC Facility Tour** – Co-chair Janet Moriarty will reach out to LFC members to set a date for all who would like to participate in the facility tour. She will ask for suggestions on what areas they would like to tour. LFC will decide on when and what areas they would like to tour and send the information to the Superintendent's office.
3. **Collaborative solutions for facility drug problem** – What is WCCW administration doing to resolve this ongoing issue? And how are they coming in? Superintendent shared that we continue to see the contraband enter during the intake process, visits, and outside work crews. When the Body Scanner is up and running it will stop some of the introduction. WCCW Investigations Unit continues to work diligently on the problem, along with having a drug canine at facility events. WCCW intake staff continue with their efforts to stop it, during the initial intake of incarcerated individuals and violators coming in from county jails.
4. **Prison Pet Partnership Program** – Superintendent gave an update of PPPP policy changes. Some of the recent changes were to allow more incarcerated individuals that were serving two years or less to participate, in order for them to gain employable marketable skills from this program. They would learn about grooming, boarding and the training the dogs, to include service dogs. Additionally there was other issues that needed to be addressed in the Policy updates. There had been an exception granted outside the Policy for this program for some time, an example is the criteria for incarcerated individuals who had been working in PPPP for a long period of time. They needed to be participating in other areas of programming, i.e. Education, etc. rather than working PPPP as a full time job. Since the Jayme Biendl bill passed some security issues at facilities statewide needed to be addressed.

At WCCW we were not in compliance with PPPP. We no longer allow offenders in PPPP to escort the dogs to their owners waiting to be dropped off or picked up in Major Control. This is now to be facilitated by a staff member or volunteer from PPPP. This was another potential area that contraband could enter the facility.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm