

# Local Family Council COVID 19 Teleconference

## Washington Correction Center for Women

April 24, 2020

**Facilitator:** Jo Wofford, Superintendent

**Attendance:**

**Family Representatives:** Jason Rice, Babs Roberts, Paula Bond, Cindy Robinson, Lethaniel Ray, Becky Overlin, Janet Moriarty

**WCCW Representatives:** Superintendent Jo Wofford, Administrative Assistant 4 Melissa Johnson, Janice Zimmerman, CPPC, Associates Swain and Chandler, CPM Vaaia Gaines, Health Services Manager 1 Kate Morisette,

**Purpose** – to get information related to the COVID 19 outbreak out to the families to help them understand the steps being taken by DOC to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

**Testing** – We are happy to still report that we have had 0 testing positive for COVID for staff and incarcerated and our ISO numbers are continuing to go down.

**Social Distancing** – Social Distancing is still being encouraged, reminded and enforced. Our numbers are down because of this. Kudos to everyone!

**Activities** – Religious activities are taking place for each unit a pod at a time, Friday through Sunday using contracted service providers; and no volunteers. Incarcerated Individuals are also working in various capacities.

We have also had the very successful April fundraiser in which the population was able to have their Q-doba & Costco orders. For Mother's Day, we will have 29 offenders gather in the Gym (social distance rules enforced) and have a card making session for them to send something home to their mother or kids. We will purchase cards & craft supplies to make cards. The women could then make the card or write a letter home and address the envelope to their mother and/or child. Then we would do a free photo (covered with the budgeted funds) for them to include as well.

Due to the COVID -19 situation and the Governors order to stay home till 5/4/2020 this has resulted in canceling the Volunteer Appreciation Event on Thursday May 14, 2020. The Volunteer Event was cancelled last year due to the change in CPPC's). Since we do not know when the stay at home order will end for sure or how soon large groups will be allowed to gather once the restriction is lifted WCCW is going to do an online or recorded video to honor the volunteers. We will have incarcerated individuals speak about how important the volunteers are to them. Then we could mail/email the volunteer recognition certificates and award to them. (I can reach out to HQ to see if they can help us with filming this).

**Screenings** – No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff is being screened at before the start of their shifts.

**Population Concerns** - Management have been making daily rounds to listen to the incarcerated individual's concerns as well as meet with the Tier Reps weekly.

## Questions from Council Members

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p><b>DATA</b></p> <p>Have Red Badge and other volunteers been invited to some level of update calls? We've been getting questions/requests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In regard to volunteers being on the calls, that request has been denied at HQ at this time. Volunteers provide valuable services, but the purpose of these calls is for family and friends. Volunteers have direct contacts at facilities to gain information from, including the CPPCs, and this is the process that should be used for them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEDICAL AND HYGIENE</b></p> <p>Are there any changes from last week's discussion regarding medical personnel?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No, there have been no changes since last week's discussion.</li> </ul>
<p>We understand that hand sanitizer is authorized in common areas (memo from DOC) is that currently available at WCCW and if so, what are considered common areas where these are located?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We have posted hand sanitizer in the dining halls and the recreation area.</li> <li>➤ Handwashing is still the most effective way to mitigate this virus.</li> </ul>
<p>Have you been receiving bars of soap for distribution to the women and if so, how often?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All facilities have received soap to distribute. Enough has been ordered for all facilities to distribute weekly through the end of May. We will reevaluate as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOW MANY WOMEN (TOTAL FROM ALL PRISONS) DO THEY ESTIMATE WILL BE RELEASED UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many to date? How many more? The list that was distributed had over 100 women? How is the re-entry planning going? Are women able to access supports?</li> <li>• Is there a re-entry template?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Refer to the DOC website. The most up to date information is there.</li> <li>➤ If you have specific questions, those should be directed to the <a href="mailto:DOCCovid-19RapidReentry@doc1.wa.gov">DOCCovid-19RapidReentry@doc1.wa.gov</a> mailbox</li> </ul>
<p><b>POPULATION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current population numbers? How many inter-facility transfers this week?</li> <li>• How many people have been transferred in from counties this week?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 781</li> <li>➤ Violators 3. They have tested negative for COVID and are on the mandatory 14 day quarantine</li> <li>➤ This might be something worth looking into once we're through the current</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can women their families be given information while at County regarding family supports and information to help them prepare for WCCW? What is the status on overrides of MI-3's? What can we do to move this change forward?</li> <li>• What is the status on the fence building? The fence is currently being worked on.</li> </ul>	<p>circumstances. Resources are all being used at this point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If this is in reference to overrides to the minimum facility, it has been shared several times that we are not overriding those with over 4 years. Once the additional fence is in place, more women will be able to move to the hill.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT'S HAPPENING WITHIN THE FACILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JPay - appreciate their providing additional stamps, movies, video visits! We are hearing concerns that the kiosks keep going down. Women are getting conflicting information on who to contact (staff say Jpay/JPay says the facility) - result is that video visits only seem to cause frustration.</li> <li>• Wi-Fi for tablets not available everywhere?</li> <li>• Mood of the facility?</li> <li>• Staffing - how are your teams doing? Are you able to maintain appropriate levels of staffing without burn out?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individuals should contact the mailroom staff via kiosk</li> <li>➤ As stated previously Wi-Fi is not available in this building due to the infrastructure of our facility.</li> <li>➤ Tone is very good- staff and Incarcerated Individual's</li> <li>➤ Yes</li> </ul>
<p><b>MASKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have sufficient supplies? Can you give us an update?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, and there are systems in place to get additional supplies as needed readily available.</li> <li>➤ Sisters of charity have made each individual 2 masks. This is in addition to the 2 bandanas with filters and instructions that were provided by HQ.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROGRAMMING AND MENTAL HEALTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious observances - what options have you been able to explore to support this for women knowing that allowing volunteers in is not an option? .</li> <li>• What other opportunities are available?</li> <li>• CI - some working full time / others not? Impact to pay for women?</li> <li>• Finally, could you give us an update on the timeline for the GIPA and gender responsiveness work?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilities have been directed to provide services to the extent possible, utilizing current Religious Coordinators and Contracted Religious Service Providers. We are working with partners to provide materials to include DVDs and handouts</li> <li>➤ The Contract Manager Jeneva Cotton has been in constant communication with our contractor.</li> <li>➤ The GIPA is put on hold until it is safe to continue. This is being evaluated on a regular basis. The work will continue, but it will likely not be for several months.</li> </ul>
<p>What is the status on overrides of MI-3's?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It has been shared several times that we are not overriding those with over 4 years. Once</li> </ul>

	the additional fence is in place, more women will be able to move to the hill.
What is the status on the fence building?	➤ The crew is working on the fence.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Council wanted to thank CO Flemming for writing positive BOE’s for the Sisters of Charity. They also expressed their appreciation to all the staff for working hard to ensure everyone is safe.

In closing, plans change daily and we are prepared for expansion if needed. Thank you for being there for your loved ones. I encourage you to stay focused on what may be true as plans change daily. HQ and WCCW are advocating for your loved ones to HQ. Future meetings will be held via skype. We will meet again next Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at noon, you can send questions to Babs Roberts prior to the meeting. As always, please feel free to contact Jo with any questions/concerns.