

# Local Family Council COVID 19 Teleconference

## Washington Correction Center for Women

May 1, 2020

**Facilitator:** Paula Chandler, Associate Superintendent of Operations

### **Attendance:**

**Family Representatives:** Jason Rice, Babs Roberts, Paula Bond, Cindy Robinson, Laurie Dawson, Becky Overlin, Janet Moriarty, Paul Gillespie, Susan Sherman, Kyla Jones

**WCCW Representatives:** Superintendent Jo Wofford, Administrative Assistant 4 Melissa Johnson, Chaplain Lane Brubaker, CPPC, Associates Swain and Chandler, CPM Vaaia Gaines, Health Services Manager 1 Kate Morisette, Family Services-HQ Caroline Melhuish, Local Business Advisor Linda Ineman

**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.

Today, for Mother’s Day, we will have 29 offenders gather in the Visiting Room (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.

**Screenings** – No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff is being screened at before the start of their shifts. We currently don’t know when this will be reestablished, but conversations are taking place at the HQ level.

**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**

<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Answer</u></b>
<b>DATA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current facility numbers? Transfers in / out?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Current number are 767 and 9 babies</li><li>➤ We continue to do normal releases and GRE and do not have the number of transfers in and out.</li><li>➤ 3 in isolation/0 quarantine and 5 others that are in self quarantine.</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers in isolation/quarantine? Has everyone one who has been placed in isolation been tested? If not, why not.</li> <li>• It appears that WCCW reported one staff COVID positive at one point this week but then later reported none? Was there/is there an error in the data or does the</li> <li>• Facility have a staff person who reported positive?</li> <li>• Commutation/Reentry?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We continue to test individuals that are systematic</li> <li>➤ We have 18 more to release.</li> <li>➤ We continue to have zero staff that are positive for COVID. There was an error entered previously.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HEALTH/MEDICAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the proven high percentage of asymptomatic people who are positive for Covid, are ALL incoming individuals being tested before being allowed into the general population? If not, why not.</li> <li>• What, exactly are the criteria for someone to get tested, and who determines when those criteria have been met?</li> <li>• Is the number of women in RPP different from the number of women who are pregnant in the facility? Can you give us both numbers? And what protections you might be providing for them?</li> <li>• Is it true that you all had 3 staff removed from their posts on April 26<sup>th</sup> because they were sick or had a fever?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Incoming pts are accessed by a provider and nursing staff. They are kept away from the general population for 2 weeks to ensure that the virus is not introduced into our population.</li> <li>➤ We test everyone that is showing signs of upper respiratory illness with a COVID and a respiratory Panel. They pt. will be isolated for 14 days.</li> <li>➤ Yes. There are 8 pregnant pts in our facility. Pts were given the option to self-quarantine, masks are provided, movements are limited, social distancing is enacted, OB onsite weekly, medical onsite daily, hourly cleaning.</li> <li>➤ There are 8 (7 with babies 1 pregnant) - Pts were given the option to self-quarantine, masks are provided, movements are limited, social distancing is enacted, medical onsite daily, hourly cleaning – Babies can go to medical appointments anytime as needed in the community via transport, family visits have been stopped at this time due to COVID-19.</li> <li>➤ We have not sent anyone home who have been sick or have had a fever that we know of. We will look into this further.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FACILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will the fence be completed and what is the plan for when it's done?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The fence project is currently underway due to the delay with our current state of emergency-undetermined date at this time</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reentry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many women have released thus far, and how many more will be released?</li> <li>• Are all pregnant women being released? If not, why not?</li> <li>• What resources do they need to assist and support the reentry process: How can we help?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 71 released as of today. There will be 6 releasing tomorrow and 18 more to release after that.</li> <li>➤ Not all pregnant offenders are being released, we have federal borders that do not fall under state mandates, as well as pregnant individuals not meeting the criteria for CPA or rapid release</li> <li>➤ The department has published the Incarcerated Population Reduction Efforts webpage and those who will be included in this effort. If you have</li> </ul>

	specific questions, those should be directed to the DOCCovid-19RapidReentry@doc1.wa.gov mailbox
<p><b>PROGRAMMING/NUTRITION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can more areas in the main campus be made available and readied to grow fresh produce to be prepared and consumed by the women in preparation for likely food supply chain shortages? The Hill gets more fresh food than the rest of the facility for some reason, can that be rectified?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, we are currently working on a plan for more gardens for produce. We are looking at where the gardens are going to be planted and what we are going to grow.</li> <li>➤ ASO Chandler has recently been looking at the menus, examining meals and implementing some positive changes. As for the difference between Main Inst. &amp; Min Inst. They all get the same menu and items.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RECOVERY/RE-OPEN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state has a detailed plan for a graduated reopening, does WCCW have a comparable plan?</li> <li>• Will visitation be able to resume prior to a vaccine being available and if so, how?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We don't have a plan as of right now. This direction would come from HQ by Secretary Sinclair and Rob Herzog Assistant Secretary - Prisons Division.</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION:**

In closing, 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. Melissa has sent you a meeting invite with the Skype information on it. All future meetings will be held via skype. We will meet again next Friday, May 8th 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.