

WCCW Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

May 8, 2020

Facilitator: Jo Wofford, Superintendent

Attendance:

Family Representatives: Jason Rice, Laurie Dawson, Cindy Robinson, Janet Moriarty

WCCW Representatives: Superintendent Jo Wofford, Administrative Assistant 4 Melissa Johnson, , CPPC, Associates Swain and Chandler, CPM Vaaia Gaines, Health Services Manager 1 Kate Morissette, Family Services-HQ Caroline Melhuish, Captain Rodney Nordbye, OCO Jessica Means

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.

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

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
DATA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current facility numbers? Transfers in / out?• Yakima numbers• Numbers in isolation/quarantine• Testing done	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We currently have 749 at the facility, 9 in Yakima, 2 back from the community, 8 in isolation and 46 in quarantine.• For the women to come back to WCCW, that decision is not a local decision. This would come from HQ level.
HEALTH/MEDICAL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're hearing differing numbers for pregnant women in the facility so thought it might be good for us to clarify our questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many pregnant women total (federal and state) in the facility? 7 as of 5/8/2020• How many babies/children are in the facility with their moms? 7 babies and one pregnant ready to deliver into program.• Any updates on medical issues in the facility -

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will masks be optional in the future? 	<p>COVID related or otherwise? Any changes in medical/mental health delivery? No changes at this time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking at the long term for masks. We estimate that masks are going to be a part of our lives through the summer and following fall and winter.
<p>FACILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an update on the fence? • Any update on the kiosks and their repair/maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fence project is currently underway due to the delay with our current state of emergency-undetermined date at this time • HQ is working with the vendor about the kiosk system. It should be up and running within the week.
<p>Reentry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many women have released thus far, and how many more will be released? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date 88 have been released between commutation and the rapid release processes. We have 26 left to release next week. • If you have specific questions on how to help the facility, those should be directed to the DOCCovid-19RapidReentry@doc1.wa.gov mailbox
<p>PROGRAMMING/NUTRITION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on gardens, horticulture to increase availability of fresh produce. Are there existing garden plans/layouts that could be resurrected? Can we/should we begin a donation drive for supplies and if so, what are the most useful items for us to focus on? • Please discuss the recent directives related to the need to wear Khaki uniforms more. We're concerned that now (during this pretty stressful time) is not the right time to implement such a policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the purpose is to help the women look professional and to prepare them for re-entry - it should apply only to women in those activities (i.e. women not re-entering or a long way from re-entry would think this only punitive) ○ We have concerns about the comfort of these uniforms - especially as we head into the summer months ○ Concerns that some jobs will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Donations should be directed to DOCCovid-19RapidReentry@doc1.wa.gov mailbox • Khaki uniforms are being discussed. We are working with Correctional Industries to figure out a better design and quality for women. Staff have actually been trying on the current patterns so that they can better relate to the women.

<p>require women to wear this heavier clothing while working in very warm environments - will there be consideration of these conditions and exemptions made?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are additional supplies (clothing) being supplied or additional laundry times offered to ensure women can have sufficient clean options? ○ Will gender specific options for these be provided - our understanding is that the current offerings are not women's cuts. 	
<p>RECOVERY/RE-OPEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As the Governor begins phased-in re-opening of the state, and recognizing that you are still focused on the response, what plans are you considering related to normalizing operations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has planning begun - either at WCCW or DOCHQ? ○ Programming (like Women's Village, classes) ○ Staged visits to ensure social distancing; consideration of the use of attorney rooms initially? ● Communication - as the required restrictions continue, we know the women are becoming bored and anxiety is increasing - even with all you've been doing to try and keep them occupied. If there was a way to communicate what planning is happening (or even just that planning is happening) to normalize - that could help reduce their anxiety. Even better would be to include Tier Reps or Women's Village in some of that planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● As Washington is slowly easing into a phased implementation of reopening the state, it is important to remember the incarcerated population is a high-risk population due to the closed living environments. It is important to remember that as a state, we are implementing a phased reopening to evaluate how opening the state affects a potential influx of COVID-19 cases amongst the citizenry. When it comes to reopening visitation, the department will evaluate the state-wide reopening data closely in line with the phased implementation to ensure the Department acts in a productive manner for the incarcerated population. ● Headquarters is working on plans to implement protocols and procedures to safely reinstate visitation with families and ensure the agency is still being proactive at preventing the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus into the facilities. There is not a direct point of contact for visitation plans. Once the Department has finalized plans they will be distributed with external stakeholders, the incarcerated population, and posted on the external COVID-19 and visitation webpages.

Conclusion:

In closing, thank you for being there for your loved ones. We will meet again next Friday, May 15th 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.