

WSP LFC COVID-19 Q&A Teleconference Notes

Date 5/26/2020 Time 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Department/Facility Co-Chair: Rob Jackson for Steve Barker

LFC Co-Chair: Anna Ivanov

Secretary LFC: Susan Wade, taking notes

Present: Lonnie Roberts, Rocky Beal Wendy Dubinsky, Dean Dubinsky,, Bill Copland, Caitlin Robertson, Paige Perkinson

The following questions were addressed:

- **Please provide the most up to date stats on what's below**
 - # of men in quarantine – 1
 - # of men in isolation – 5 , (4 in the Health Services Building)
 - # of men tested including results – 92 tested at WSP, 5 secondary screening awaiting results (**97 total**)
 - # of staff currently screened out - 37
 - # of staff tested positive - 2
- **Any update on the incarcerated individual who tested positive?**
 - No update, awaiting to be 14 days symptom free then follow up, as last discussed tested negative, so protocol is being followed with the quarantine.
- **When will it be a good time to offer fundraisers? These are more important to people now during the difficult times than ever before. What makes it so difficult for the facility staff to commit to fundraisers when incarcerated population is locked in their cells now more than ever which in turn means that staff do less work than usual?**
 - WSP is not in a position to offer fundraisers at this time. Some of the difficulties are related to the staffing, however it is also due to being in Walla Walla, a small town and the vendors are small and not able or capable to supply based on limitations. The popcorn was implemented to all of the population, \$800-900 dollars spent. This is typically an EIB benefit, WSP staff were able to offer it to all. Family commented that while fundraisers are good for morale, the best thing that could be done would be to get back to regular programs and initiate the “out of cell times” each level of custody is allowed. It was mentioned that the understanding is that each facility can use their own discretion on allowances. Staff stated that the #50 was provided – meaning that 50 persons can be out at a time in a group for the entire state. This is also determined by the infrastructure. The #50 is not a hard and fast number, some staff were counting and that created a problem, which has been addressed. It was questioned that these reduced “free times” were implemented before masks were provided. The correction was made, the provided items were facial coverings, not masks. Understanding the day room protocols being monitored, however why cant the “big yard” be opened, it certainly fits more than 50 - as they are currently only using the “small yard”. The rationale is that we are all humans and gathering is common. If more of the incarcerated were allowed out at one time, they begin to congregate, and it becomes difficult to manage the social distancing. Groups, friends, whatever tend to congregate, and it becomes hard to separate the groups. We are still under the Governors orders. It was mentioned that there is room in the yard for the spin cycles, perhaps a few of those out may assist with the exercise the men are needing. Due to gyms being closed this is not a possible action at this time. Staff assured that equal access is being given to being out of the cell, and numbers are being stretched. The question was raised how

much “out of cell” time is being given, specifically to the medium custody units, two hours, five hours a day? This depends on work, SPL, kitchen duties, yard and dayroom activities. Staff stated not as much time as the men would like or staff would like for sure. Hopeful this will change soon.

- **Has a plan been developed on visiting reopening? Would you be willing to share at least preliminary plans?**
- Staff stated there is nothing on visiting opening from HQ. There is a group that are discussing what guidelines will be adapted but no direction for moving forward. Sgt Beal, Rob Jackson, Lonnie Roberts and Steve Barker all got together as family asked to discuss what the new visiting will look like. Social distancing, sanitizer use are two items that are being discussed. There have been no parameters to develop or operate under, only ideas. WSP will try to do the best they can with the space available. Understanding the West complex operates 7 days a week, based on the make up of staff and with no increase of hours and based on how people get a long we are hopeful that will continue. Again, no guidance from HQ and since there has not been a review for what Phase 4 would look like, and it is still unclear about Phase 2 parameters. Family reiterated that while it is still unknown, we are hopeful you can share your thoughts with us, what goes into a conversation, telling us what you are thinking is what we are asking. It is feared that when the go ahead comes, DOC will be not be prepared and will not have a plan in place to activate. Staff stated yes, they have a vision, a vision, nothing more, this is not be misconstrued as a plan in place or approved to move forward on. Vision – everyone through the door will have temperature taken, using an infrared thermometer forehead swipe, if 100.4 or above, 4 questions are asked, which could lead to 4 more questions. This would apply to adults and kids, social distancing in waiting room, hallways. Possible 1/3 of the visiting room tables could be used, limited contact, hand sanitizers on tables, the mandating of facial coverings, this is all a vision, not an plan to implement. Keeping in mind, those entering the building are the ones that are capable of bringing the virus in. Family members expressed the dire need for JPAY to come through, a full press on JPAY by DOC for quality service when it comes to the video visit, since this is the new visiting at this time. JPAY offered services to loved ones and the incarcerated that do not work. If they could just focus on the video visits working properly that would be huge, all agreed. It was mentioned that a letter from Steve Sinclair to JPAY was introduced and that DOC is hoping for some changes and better results. JPAY continues to tell the focus group that changes are being made. There continues to be a high percentage of inmates and visitors having issues with all services
- **Are you planning to install an alcohol-based hand sanitizer in the visiting room?**
 - Again, no clear direction but as a vision, yes, hand sanitizer may be available in the visiting room, if not on tables. Staff was asked if hand sanitizer is made available to staff currently? Not in areas that are accessed by the population, not since the misuse of what was supplied. There are several areas in the facility that continue to have stations, WSP has and continues to purchase individual hand sanitizers to provide to staff for their use.
- **Has any work gone into review of EFV process and opportunities? Please share what is possible.**
 - After our last meeting, staff got together for some brainstorming on this topic. Due to not a full discussion with Superintendent Holbrook of the ideas that were generated no expansion can be given at this time. Staff did indicate that they will be looking at the possibility of opening one additional unit in the EFV program. Clarifying there are four units at WSP in the EFV program, only one is currently being utilized. Family asked how visiting life has been affected for Sgt Beal, he stated he was managing video visits, his staff is assisting in other areas with staffing voids. Sgt Beal is generally in the command post with Rob Jackson.
- **It has come to our attention that there is a garden being built in WSP medium unit(s). Could you please elaborate on this, so that we can all celebrate positive changes?**
 - This has been a longtime discussion and vision if you will, of Rob Jacksons, after returning from a visit to an Ohio Women’s prison, ORW, and what their campus looked like. After my return, during a walkabout, I looked at the Medium Units and they looked like gravesites. My

vision was supported, and I was blessed with a team that could assist in the implementation. There are raised boxes for rental, seeds for producing, which aligns with Secretary Sinclair's garden sustainability for the population. For the first time ever, the inside has trees and raised boxes. Allowing the population to dig in the dirt, which can be therapeutic. The area is much like SPL's garden, on a reduced level but an expansion to the Units. Family commended WSP and Rob Jackson on this program and hopes that there will be something public that goes out on this to recognize the good and positive light this will bring. It was asked how will the raised garden boxes be assigned for rental – lottery? The program/ process used in the East Complex will be mirrored. This is a reminder good people can do great things.

- **What is the status of tier rep meetings? We have not received meeting minutes in a long time and hear from HQ that these meetings take place daily, weekly or monthly at a minimum.**

- The meetings are occurring throughout the facility, with CUS's, perhaps not in large groups but individual discussions are being held. The results and minutes of these meetings are not being published or received by LFC. These calls that we are having are "informational" calls, for the COVID, and not considered the LFC meetings which were suspended due to the limitations placed and from DOC HQ. Family pointed out we have not had a LFC meeting since February and we would like to have these meetings minutes to be proactive as needed to represent the voices of the incarcerated. Due to not being any official LFC meetings, if LFC requests these minutes, could they be provided? Staff stated yes. The Statewide Family Council meetings have been slated for possible July reinstatement; we are hopeful LFC meetings can resume as well. If not in person, under these same circumstances, conference call style.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Caitlin Robertson from the Ombudsman's Office stated she would be spending a couple days at WSP, June 10th & 11th. Due to the distance she must travel and that she has never been to WSP and it being a such a large facility, meetings have been scheduled with several people in several areas. A report will be made and available through the Ombud's office for sharing.

Family asked if the minutes from these COVID meetings can be made public and posted on the WSP website? It was suggested that they should be on the visiting website Statewide and Local, as well as the DOC website. This item will be carried over the Steve Barker for response and application. Steve was not present due to vacation.

Family asked how is property received handled differently between vendors for example Union Supply orders versus United Art & Education, or Sweetwater Pros (musical instrument vendor) or even Amazon or book vendors - staff stated they wanted to say Yes, but nothing further was offered.

Family followed up with - what are the rules on what can be ordered by family vs the incarcerated? And where would we find this information? Staff stated that it is how they were told do it, that it is policy.

Time ran out, actually over a few minutes, WSP staff will invite for next call in to weeks. It was asked that they give plenty pf notice so perhaps more could plane to attend. Staff apologized for the late invite this time; it was due to needing a help ticket to have Skype. The meeting was adjourned.