

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** WSP

**Date and Time:** 6/22/2020, 2:00PM

## Attendees

- Associate Supt. Rob Jackson, AA3 Carrie Meyer, LFC Secretary Susan Wade, Caitlin Robertson OCO, SFC Rep Wendy Dubinsky, Dean Dubinsky, SFC Secretary Loretta Pederson , Danita Parkins

## Weekly Update

- COVID-19 Update

## Pre-Submitted Questions

**Please provide the most up-to-date stats:**

# of men in quarantine? 0

# of men in isolation? 15

# of men tested 118, There are no tests pending, there is 1 positive case, from Fox Unit.

# of staff screened out? 26 staff at this time, and 498 since the beginning

# of staff tested positive? 2

### Question 1

Have there been any changes since our last meeting? Increased rec time, more programs available, less restrictions, etc?

Answer

We had an incarcerated individual test positive for COVID; he was in Fox Unit; he has been moved to isolation in IMU North. Staff was not privy to details on other possible cases or those possibly affected in the Unit. The staff nurses are mapping his contacts. As for adjustments to rec time, the numbers allowed were increased for the big yard. Some programs are beginning to open. Those with the required 28 points needed to participate in education will be able to start some of those programs. Family mentioned the opening of the Tier restrictions in units, particularly Williams. While the separate tiers are being expanded, it was presented to the incarcerated that the plan for "allowances out of cell" were to take place beginning June 15th. This happened for the day but not the evening hours. In addition, over the weekend it was not followed by staff even though the plan was posted for the incarcerated to be aware and follow. Rob Jackson stated that if changes occur on a Friday, not everyone "gets the memo" and therefore that could be the circumstances. He stated he would make sure unit CUS and staff are aware of changes and implement them.

### Question 2

Has JPay been responsive to problems reported? Any equipment updates such as mother boards replaced in kiosks, etc.?

#### Answer

JPay has had an issue with the Wi-Fi application that they have been working on. We just received word today that an update has been sent out. This should eliminate a lot of the problems the population has been having. A tech will be out Thursday to address the issues in several units. Family inquired if Williams Unit was on the list? Carrie reported that she had no complaints from anyone in that unit. The Williams unit for video visits is a hit and miss, no audio, freezing video and has been an ongoing issue for months. Staff reiterated it is important that the incarcerated are reporting to the staff, the CUS, the Unit Managers and or sending an email to her directly so that issues can be resolved. It was mentioned that the DOC Kiosk was down for a few days but was up and running as of this meeting. If family and friends are having issues with video visits, they should be reporting these issues to JPay, not to the facility. For other issues that the incarcerated individuals are having with players or kiosks they should be turning in help tickets to JPay or writing either a kite or email to Ms. Meyer. It was reminded that the incarcerated can only have one ticket out at a time for resolution and the return time on those is 15 days. JPAY had sent an email out earlier today related to this fix to the incarcerated population as well as family and friends. Per DOC new equipment bandwidth are all issues that will be brought up in negotiations.

#### Question 3

How many cells/beds are in each IMU – North and south? What is the current occupancy?

#### Answer

The current occupancy is:

196-198 IMU South - 190 occupied

96 IMU North - 84 occupied

It was asked if the incarcerated are reluctant to turn themselves in as having symptoms due to the fact they do not want to go to IMU isolation? Staff stated that some may feel that way, and there are some that won't admit to being sick, that is just the nature of some. Staff continues to send the message to the population of what can and what cannot be taken into isolation. We strive to place as many as we can in the Echo unit isolations, but the segregation of some of the population remains a factor. I.E those that cannot be in the general population or those that fall under prison politics, those that cannot be together, the Security Threat Groups (STG).

#### Question 4

Has solitary confinement during this pandemic increased?

#### Answer

No increase, may have even decreased based on protocols. IMU North is being kept available for isolation for STG's. Echo is being kept open for isolation. Health Services Building (HSB) also has negative pressure rooms available. Family inquired as to if Health Services remained to be the main medical station still? Staff stated that yes, it is and it is located in the middle of the facility. It was stated that Quarantine again was 14 days, and isolation is 14 days symptom free or 2 tests negative results.

#### Question 5

Please share about the custody level changes in the BAR units. How was the decision to do so inspired and what improvements have been made to those men's lives?

## Answer

This change came about due to the Disabilities Rights suing Governor Inslee on unfair treatment relating to those with mental health issues or concerns. It was to ensure that those incarcerated men are not held back from custody level advantages.

The changes are 21 staff members were hired as officers, yard staff, custody staff, and operational staffing needs. This change is ongoing, but the COVID shutdowns have affected it and slowed the process down. Family asked which unit was being altered. Adams Unit is being turned into a medium level unit. Doors are being removed and replaced with doors that have locks, so they may have a key like the other medium units' population. Asked how many live in Adams unit? Adams unit has 96 incarcerated individuals.

Family inquired if the line staff supportive of these changes. Yes, pretty much, there are always some that struggle with change, but the conversations are being had and we are doing what we can to help with the adjustments.

## Question 6

Have there been any transfers from Coyote Ridge in the past two weeks, if so, why?

## Answer

Yes, WSP accepted 11 incarcerated individuals on the Wednesday after our last COVID call of June 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff stated we talked about this on our last call. Family corrected the comment and stated no – no one mentioned this last meeting. This transfer was a DOC HQ level transfer – it was a clinical decision to assist with Coyote Ridge population and the spread of the COVID. WSP staff also made a clinical decision to quarantine these individuals since they were coming from a “hotspot”. They were screened at transport from Coyote Ridge, then again at arrival at WSP. Family asked if WSP has the ability to refuse transports knowing the possibility of spreading the virus exists? Staff stated they have no choice in the matter, it was sent down from DOC HQ. It was asked if the 15 currently in isolation, include the 11 from Coyote Ridge? Yes, they are in that group. This transfer was to assist on clearing the housing to assist with their isolation needs. Sometimes the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

## Roundtable

WSP staff mentioned that Caitlin, from the OCO office had been at WSP on June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> and asked if she would like to share information. She stated that she had sent an invitation out to LFC members for Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30 for a conference style call to share her report. She did mention she was aware of the CRCC transfers and spoke with them on her visit.

Family inquired as to who someone would get in touch with related to joining LFC, since there was no CPPC at this time. It was discussed that you no longer need to apply to be on LFC, the policy had changed however you still must be a visitor in good standing. It was also stated that if a loved one gets transferred to another facility you automatically can be placed on the LFC of the new facility. It was recommended that any interested parties be directed to Steve Barker.

Family inquired as to transferability's – which facilities are not accepting transfers? And if annual reviews are being conducted are the requests for transfers being procured and happening? Staff stated that there are four facilities not accepting transfers: Monroe, CRCC, Airway Heights and Clallam Bay. Transfer requests, transfer orders and custody plans are occurring, but at a slowed pace.

It was asked if staff could confirm that DOC has stated that when visiting is reinstated, all facilities will act as one and only open when they are all ready and able to?

Staff confirmed, as of today, we will move as one department for visiting. A lot of absolutes have changed over the past months, but as of today that is the plan.

Next meeting will be scheduled for two weeks and Steve Barker will send out invite.

Thanks was given to all who were participating.

Meeting was adjourned

**Note:**

**Due to changes in COVID status at WSP and other concerns LFC Co-Chair Anna Ivanov has requested a phone conference update for June 19<sup>th</sup>. A confirmation has been sent out.**