

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WSP / Teleconference

Date and Time: 9/15/2020, 1:00PM

Attendees

- Associate Supt. Steve Barker, Sgt. Rocky Beal, SFC Rep Wendy Dubinsky, Dean Dubinsky, OCO Caitlin Robertson, Family Services-, Bill Copland, Teresa Rasher, Anna Ivanov, AA3 Carrie Meyer

Weekly Update

- COVID Informational

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Please provide the most up-to-date stats:

of men in quarantine? 0

of men in isolation? 10 at WSP

of men tested positive? 138 (128 discharged to living units)

of staff screened out at this time? 25-35

of staff tested positive? 10 by our records but only once since staff testing started three weeks ago.

Notes from Supt. Holbrook

Our elections for LFC meeting will need to be done at the October meeting.

Submitted Questions

None.

Question 1

If we can make this meeting later in the month of October so that we can have the IIBF numbers back from Jim Cerna. (they should be back after the 10th)

Answer

Yes. Wednesday, October 28th 6:00 – 7:30 PM. (a calendar date will be sent out)

Question 2

How is the air quality in Walla Walla?

Answer

Very bad! The air quality index shows Walla Walla at 301 right now.

Question 3

Are there fires in Walla Walla?

Answer

No, we do not have fires in town, but as near as Dayton/Tucannon area and since we sit down in a valley we have extremely poor conditions.

Question 4

Is the air quality in the units bad?

Answer

No. Especially in the new units, the air comes through the air handling unit on the roofs and runs through a filtration system before being forced into the unit. Some air inevitably will get through the doors when opening and closing to allow staff to enter/exit.

Question 5

How did the COVID training go at Stafford Creek?

Answer

Great! They are ½ of our size or less. They will be starting their testing tomorrow. They will have challenges but they will do well.

Question 6

We have heard that Stafford and Monroe have opened their gyms. Will WSP be doing the same?

Answer

We just had a meeting regarding opening our gyms. We are still in the planning on how to run 5 sections through 3 gyms. We cannot start at this time due to the smoke but we are planning to do so ASAP. We will also be starting up religious programming soon as well as visiting. We will be basing all of this on the guidelines provided by HQ. No activities ending in "ball" will be allowed, i.e. Basketball, football, pickle ball and only running at 25% capacity. No weight deck at this time.

Question 7

Now that the box factory and metal plant are closed, will they be opening something different in those locations? Possibly computers for doing re-entry?

Answer

There are other areas interested in the space so we are pressing to have these areas opened but not for re-entry at this time.

Question 8

Have the large TV's been installed in the EFV's?

Answer

Yes, the large TV's are in the EFV's. There have been some hot water tank issues in the EFV's so repairs will have to be done to the tiles and the sheetrock. Laundry units have been approved but not purchased or installed to date.

Question 9

Are they still having issues in the mailroom? Mail is VERY delayed.

Answer

Yes. We are down 3 staff members in the mailroom and not able to fill these positions. We have issues in other departments as well due to the hiring freeze and no permission at this time to fill these. Currently we have 21 non-custody positions open at this time and do not have permission to fill them. It is effecting operations in many different areas.

Question 10

What is the morale with the Incarcerated population?

Answer

Very good. Yes, there are fights but one in particular can be attributed to alcohol. We seem to have found some wine makers in the units. Due to shortage in staffing and the social distancing we have not been running regular cell searches and security checks or cell inspections. This has led to an increase in contraband such as homemade alcohol.

Other notable issues:

We seem to be having a hard time contacting CC's either by phone, email or kites. Are they working from home?

Yes. As advised by the Governor and the Secretary, many staff are working from home at this time. Most of them who are working remotely only do so for a couple of days per week. Others are splitting their time with other areas but they should be keeping up with their caseloads.

The phones in the camp, in particular, Unit 8 have 3 broken phones. This has been an issue for a while. Can someone please look into this?

Yes, we will let I&I know that this is an issue. *Update: The Unit-8 CUS was notified and he met with the OCLS who informed him that they were only aware of one broken phone in the Unit-8 dayrooms. The technicians were notified to schedule the repair.*

Do the COVID meeting minutes get published on the WSP Kiosk?

No, not at this time but if the Superintendent is OK with this we will ask that his AA distribute to the general population.

JPay was asked a couple of days ago to provide positive things they are doing and what changes they have implemented in DOC. To date we have heard nothing. Are you seeing any positive changes at the facility and do you know when you are supposed to get the JPay staff at the facility.

We have actually seen some pretty positive things from JPay.

- They have been responding to help tickets in 3 to 4 days rather than the two weeks it had been taking

- They have extended the 2 free stamps and 2 free video visits to the population
- They are bringing a JPay staff member to WSP to attempt to answer questions and assist in small requests.
- They have hired a new tech that will be servicing just the East side of the state