

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WSP / Teleconference

Date and Time: 12/21/2020, 1:00PM

Attendees

- Associate Supt. Rob Jackson, AA3 Carrie Meyer, CPM Lonnie Roberts, Sgt. Beal, SFC Rep Wendy Dubinsky, Hattie Wolf, Dean Dubinsky, OMSbud Caitlyn Roberts, Anna Ivanov, Steve Kugler, Loretta Pedersen, Joanne Carnes, Theresa Cecilia, Adria McGee, Amber Ashley

Weekly Update

- COVID Informational

Please provide the most up-to-date stats:

of men in quarantine?

In Isolation: [317](#)

Positives here now: [384](#)

Total of men tested positive? [655](#)

of staff screened out at this time? [262](#)

of staff tested positive? [72](#)

Submitted Questions

1. What does DOC think has caused the sudden COVID blooms in units that have been on quarantine for a month or more? What is the specific vector when men have been kept so tightly corralled in their cells for a month? And can quarantine lockdowns, which impose severe mental and physical discomfort on prisoners, be justified when they clearly are not working?

2. Why are prisoners who test positive, and who have a cellie who did NOT test positive, being asked to pack up and put in storage all of their belongings? This would seem to indicate that WSP (not sure if it's also happening at other facilities) intends to assign new cellies to cells where it is known that the cellie who was left behind has been living with someone who tested positive. Moreover, it sure seems like forcing prisoners to pack up all their stuff and store it away not only disrupts the life of that prisoner by eliminating their permanent cell assignment, but also must eat up a ton of staff time that could be better spent dealing with COVID, getting prisoners the showers they need, etc. This happened to my husband last night and I am quite upset about it.

Other notable and non-related issues:

- How are things going at WSP??
 - Quarantined:
 - Delta
 - W. Echo
 - Golf
 - Victor
 - William

- Rainier
 - IMU North
 - Unit 8 Isolation
 - Some of Unit 8 has been moved to the bottom of Unit 10 for isolation
 - HSB is off of Quarantine
 - 37 positives have been moved to the SC gym.
 - Everyone who wanted to go to the WC Yard gym were able to go. Some chose to do Phones in the WC
 - There is no cable in the SC Gym but we are providing movies, the side door is open to allow them to go to the SC yard.
 - Mail is now set up for delivery
 - Soap and linen delivery is all set up
 - They have restrooms with showers in the SC Gym area, only one person at a time able to do shower, due to PREA concerns.
 - All from William Unit, those not able to go to the gym went to Fox unit.
 - Victor Unit: Post positive isolation incarcerated are able to work and program.
- Is there concern with staffing?
 - Always.
 - Is moving from original and cellie disruptive?
 - We are aware of this and we are trying our best to get them back to their original cell.
 - How is the morale?
 - It is ok. We still have groups pushing back but for the most part, they understand. Reality has hit
 - What is this opinion based on?
 - Staff are out talking with individuals, answering questions and have conversations. We are also able to see mail conversations and hear phone calls. Some of them don't want to have these conversations with us, they are putting up a "strong face" meaning they don't want to show us they are scared or share their concerns.
 - Have there been more suicide attempts?
 - Mental Health staff has been working closely with the incarcerated as this time of year is harder on most with the increased pressures of the holiday and being away from family, but we can't say there has been an increase in attempts.
 - Immunizations/ vaccines? Will staff and the population be mandated to receive the vaccine?
 - No. It should be available to staff and the population soon but it cannot be mandated. A memo was sent out from Health Services. Per survey approximately 36% are opting out of the vaccine.
 - When vaccines are available: Will this make a difference as far as visiting goes?
 - No. This could be problematic if people were forced to have the vaccine to visit. That could be considered discrimination.
 - Exercise and recreation continue to be a concern. This is not ok that they are not allowed to have recreation and are not allowed to be out of isolation.

- We continue to work on this and are hopeful that we will be able to allow post positives in the same area with other post positives.
- Does the camp have access to proper cleaning supplies, in particular, Unit 8?
 - Yes. EVERY cell has access to this.
- CI is struggling. Why are post positives assisting with this?
 - Victor will be assisting with this.
- Who is making the risk decisions for activities other than the scheduled phone calls?
 - Drs. McDaniel; Strich; Lugano have daily discussions as to this.
- How/when do they receive holiday / property / Union Supply packages?
 - The facility is in charge of the distribution