FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: CRCC MSU Training Center & Virtual - MS Teams Date: 5/16/26 Time: 10am-2:30pm

Teleconference details: MS Teams - Meeting ID: 289 237 221 291 45

MEETING ATTENDEES

James R. Key, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department Co-Chair

Elise McKinnon
Family Co-Chair

Felicia Daniel
Family Vice-Chair

Brianna Reames, Executive Assistant to James Key
Department Co-Secretary

Andi Shotwell
Family Co-Secretary

Members present: AHCC-Stephanie Hough; MCC-Danica Seavoy; SCCC-Daphne Nolte; WCCW-Greg Mansfield; WSP-Sally Boyle
Not present: CBCC-Vacant; CCCC-Diane Sifres CRCC-Scarlett Williams OCC-Nancy Johnson; WCC-Felix D'Allesandro

Superintendents present: Karin Arnold -SCCC; Eddie Reetz-CBCC; Rob Jackson, WSP;
Also Present: Tim Lang; Brad Bowman WSP; Frank Rivera, AHCC; James Parker, AHCC; Reps from CRCC, Heather Bates, Jennifer – Government affairs

DOC Staff Presenters: Andrew Votry, Case Management Services; Kristen Morgan, Senior Admin; Sarah Sytsma, Deputy Assistant Secretary-Reentry

Commonly Used Acronyms

SFC *– Statewide Family Council* ***LFC*** *– Local Family Council* ***FC*** *– Family Council* ***DOC*** *– Department of Corrections* ***OCO*** *– Office of Correctional Ombuds*

Prison Facilities:

AHCC *– Airway Heights Corrections Center*
CBCC *- Clallam Bay Corrections Center*
CCCC *- Cedar Creek Corrections Center*
CRCC *- Coyote Ridge Corrections Center*
MCC *- Monroe Correctional Complex*
MCCCW *- Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women*
OCC *- Olympic Corrections Center*
SCCC *- Stafford Creek Corrections Center*
WCCW *- Washington Corrections Center for Women*
WCC *- Washington Corrections Center*
WSP *- Washington State Penitentiary*

AGENDA

Topic	Discussion/Key Points
Welcome	Introduction of James Key as the SFC Department Co-Chair. Welcome to the Family Councils, DOC staff, the OCO, and everyone who joined today.
Agenda Review, Action Item Review, Election Announcement Brianna Reames, DOC Co-Secretary	Agenda reviewed (*Attachment #1*) Action Items: There is no update yet on the staffing model report.
Facility Updates	Elise: SFC Family Co-Chair Felicia Daniel – SFC Family Vice-Chair Andi Shotwell – SFC Family Co-Secretary Stephanie AHCC: There was a Bridge program update, for those who release in about one year. It was very positive, it's a good program to look into. There's a new requirement for food at visitation; we have to show the officers that there's nothing in it before we're allowed to take it to the tables. We have to open up hamburger buns and show the tops and bottoms of soda cans, etc., to show that there is no contraband added. People aren't very happy

about it. We're having a lot of vending issues, they aren't being refilled. We would like input on clear cups and visiting issues, to hear what other facilities are doing.
Diane CCCC: Absent
Scarlett CRCC: A lot of positive things are going on. Redemption and Redemption X (Spanish) had a kickball tournament. Peer support training is happening. We also had a Mother's Day popup that was a surprise. They had roses and cupcakes; it was so nice. EFVs have brand new screen doors, and stand-up oscillating fans. Televisions were added to the master bedrooms in the EFV, and standup oscillating fans. Native American event, Buddhist, African American heritage. June LFC is having a facility walk-through. We have three summer outside events planned. We're looking forward to that. July 16th is our Corrections Education Graduation. Visiting has been going very well. Vending machines quit putting salads in, that was disappointing. Overall things are going very well.
Danica MCC: Absent
Nancy OCC: Absent
Daphne SCCC: **Solitary Confinement Transformation Project: SCTP**

- Stafford Creek is currently a Solitary Confinement Transformation Project in their IMU. Staff continuously provide surveys to the population for feedback on what they would like to have during their out-of-cell time.
- They currently have 14 different programs running, as well as rotating movies. Two 75-inch TVs are on order for education watch parties.
- A program called House of Healing is provided through the mental health providers.
- **Chemical Dependency** is providing a pre-class due to the waitlist for the current classes; this class is an introduction to Chemical Dependency and allows the I/I to start to put themselves in the recovery mindset.
- Through these programs, the amount of out-of- cell time **has doubled**.
- Another program that is provided through SCTP is the **Coffee Corner**. This program allows individuals to have coffee with a staff member of their choice to talk about whatever they would like.
- One staff member who was invited to attend the Coffee Corner, said it was really great opportunity to open communication for staff who may not be in that area very often.
- Because of her meeting with the residents of IMU, this staff member is implementing more programs that are currently lacking, including NA and AA. It was a great experience, and she says she truly loved participating.
- Most recently, the individuals requested that Secretary Tim Lang join them for coffee. This meeting was set for 4/29/2026. During our in-person meeting, Secretary Lang confirmed that he had enjoyed his visit with a group of residents in the IMU, and found them polite and engaged.
- Secretary Boe and Megan Pirie recently attended a meeting of the CARES group at Stafford Creek. CARES consists of residents and medical staff who meet with each other to help break down barriers and to bridge the gap between staff and incarcerated individuals. While Secretary Boe and Megan were there, the residents were asked to put together a diversion program to move from a punitive stance to one that would support recovery.
- The participants in CARES have made a lot of progress putting together this diversion program, and they look forward to showing their progress to HQ staff with the thought that this could be used throughout the DOC facilities.

Bite of Stafford

- Toni Grun: The Bite of Stafford is a cultural event that is being held for the second year at Stafford, where individuals exchange learning with each other about their different cultures.
- They currently have a committee of around 50 individuals who are creating 8 different culture booths that will provide food, education, and performances centered around different cultures.
- This event was a big hit last year and promises to be even better this year.

Stafford Creek produces a monthly newsletter called the NW Conduit. The team consists of 2 staff members and 4 incarcerated individuals.

- I am highlighting one of their favorite sections, which is called 'Condi's Kitchen'.
- The incarcerated population submits their recipes to the staff, the only rules being that the ingredients can be found on commissary and are affordable.
- Our superintendent, Ms. Arnold, loved the idea of the group doing this, but they don't have funding, so she pays for the ingredients herself, so they are able to do this.

	• The conversations they share during these meals have helped the staff and incarcerated get to know each other and share stories. The feedback is that this is a really great thing the group gets to enjoy together! Felicia WCC: As some of you may know, Felix gets to step away from his roll. We have a new CPM, the roll was backfilled with William Carpenter. We did have some good news, as we've discussed in the past, we've needed more dental hygienists. They filled a contract for temporary hygienist. It's making a huge difference already! The backlog is looking better. Greg WCCW: Absent Sally WSP: Just recently stepping into this roll but I have been attending meetings for about 2 years. I've enjoyed this challenge, but I'll be leaving. My loved one was transferred to SCCC. We have books that the children can take home and with a QR code the I/I can download the same book and read it to their children. Basketball tournaments have been a huge success. Salsa boxes are being rented out for gardening. Concrete cornhole may be coming. Our dogs and incarcerated that are part of the dog program are going through the Good Citizen program and that helps get those dogs adopted. One thing I really wanted to share, in the intensive management unit, a very stressful unit, they have a resource team that has 4 Correctional Officers, one Sergeant and one Psychology Associate. They're working with the individuals in the unit and it's making a very positive difference. The Concrete Mama podcast, that podcast comes out of the sustainable practices lab. It's a great platform for story telling and communication.
Secretary Time Tim Lang	Thank you all for being here. Thank you Daphne for telling us the story about the individual from Stafford Creek who passed away. We are limited in our ability to release people. And even with EMP those things take time to find housing and arrange everything. Thank you Felix for everything you did for us and all the time you put in. May is Corrections Appreciation Month, it's when all our facilities and locations celebrate staff. People who work in these facilities and in these environments can have the same negative impact on them as the I/I. Patrick Mendel – health services is one of the most important parts of our system. We're so excited that he took that position. The state has funded a statewide electronic health record. This will be transformational on how we undertake care. Spring 2028 is our goal date. DCYF and DSHS are also getting this system. Epic is system we'll be using. Also working to expand our medication for opioid disorder. We have some transitions happening with the East side superintendents. 3 positions are currently being filled. We're excited about the future with those positions filled. We continue to be challenged by the amount of drug contraband coming into our prisons. From January 1st to May 11th there have been 654 reports of drugs being found in our prisons. There are many types of drugs coming in. We're administering Narcan to people on a daily basis. We've had two recent deaths that appear to be due to overdose. 23 of 654 have been tied to visitation. One person brought in 28 balloons of methamphetamine. I share this with you in hopes to receive your understanding of our visitation policies and ask for your help. Treatment is just as important as interrupting the introduction of drugs and we are working on updating our opioid use disorder treatment. In March, we approved the expansion of Atlas. There are also updates coming to the infractions for drug use versus drug introduction. People who were using were being treated the same as those who were actively trafficking drugs, that's going to change. At WCCW I sat in on a class on the Civics Committee, there was a cohort at WCC and the second is going to be at WCCW. It's designed to help learn about government and the different forms of government. It's a great thing. Run club at Coyote Ridge was great, they had a 5k and 10k event. It was fun, they brought up the Warden from San Quinton and an individual who was released from San Quinton last year came too. He's a part of a documentary. Tommy was his name. It was nice for me to interact with those who were running there. It was an opportunity for the men to set a goal and see that they could accomplish their goal. The WSP film festival was a result of that connection to San Quinton. A film producer taught a class on how to write a screen play, and they wrote it and filmed it. They showed their film as well as number of others. It was a cool event, 200 or 300 guys participated. It let them focus on something positive to participate in. We have the Concrete Mama podcast at WSP and there are other podcasts in the works now too, at other facilities. There's a new bill that changes the definition of indigent and changes the balance amount in their account to be considered indigent. It will also now adjust depending of consumer house index. It will significantly increase the amount they can have. Daphne mentioned the Coffee Corner, I was invited and went down there. It's good to get the guys out of IMU and I sat with 8 or 10 guys, and they served us coffee and we talked for an hour or hour and a half. The theme was mostly about communication or lack of communication that is the most detrimental. A lot of times when

	they go to IMU they're spiraling and the people who they trust the most to talk to, they lose that. They asked about using the tablets and we're looking into that. They brought up some great points. They've come up with some really great ways to get these guys out of their cells and it's making a positive difference. They asked for ambient sound to play at night. One of the messages he heard was that that this IMU should be a model for all the others.
Reimagine Visiting Presentation	*See Attachment #2* Liz: June 4th there will be a virtual feedback option to ask those who have used LTAP and see what they want to see in the future and how it's been going. We've seen a 20-25% uptick this year in use. Please opt into messaging.
Open Forum	
Elise	I wanted to clarify, I was confused about the video visits standing portion, is it the I/I? Liz: Yes
Kehlauni	You mentioned the amount of drugs coming in and I have an issue with the way it was framed. Most of us on these calls are not involved in criminal activity. They come in a lot of other ways too. Tim: You're correct and they come in many ways and most of those here are probably not doing that but all we can do is talk to the people here and we just ask that you all talk about it and talk to your loved ones and they talk to theirs. Second question is one of things I've seen is many of the past items look as closed/addressed but I'm really wondering what the purpose of this council is. No one here on the council gets to vote. Will there ever be or is there a way to monitor if things being discussed are actually addressed. Tim: I know vending machines have always been an issue and will continue to be. I think these meetings are important because they offer us an opportunity for us dialog and hear from families and we take that information back to the facilities and address them.
Gwen	Mine is not so much a question. AHCC and Reimagine Visitation, we put a lot of time into it and we're just going backwards. We have to wait until we're called up to get food from the vending machine. I have to take it to the CO and open it in front them and put a spoon in and mix it to show that I have not put drugs into it. So, if I buy a sealed sandwich I have to open it up and show the bread and everything and show that I did not put drugs into a sealed sandwich. If I get a drink, I have to show them the top and bottom of the can. It's traumatizing and now I have to worry that there might be drugs in the food. I'm not bringing my granddaughter anymore; I won't do it. I loved hearing that CRCC did the Mother's Day popup event. We can't do that at AHCC. Even crafts, we have to pick them up outside, we don't even get to do them with our loved ones. Cups are still an issue. I know you want me to go back to the facility, but we've tried and tried and the visiting Sergeant at AHCC has made things so bad. They took all of our movies because they could have a rated R preview, no they don't. We pay for them and then don't get them. And what about the clear bags? What is the status of that? James: Thank you for your comments. We do have representation from Airway today and I will have a conversation with the facility as well. Tim: This is a great way for us to hear your concerns and listening to this feedback is important to us. We will look into this further.
Daphne	Tim, I want to say thank you. When I wrote you an email at 11pm I thought I might get an answer the next day, but you wrote back in 10 minutes. People who know they are addicted to drugs, I understand that people who reach out and ask for help, they get in trouble. Is there a process or can we get one where they can ask for help and not get in trouble. Tim: If someone asks for help from their health care provider it doesn't fall into the disciplinary process. Megan: We are building up our AA and NA groups and that may also be a good outlet for them. They are anonymous, what is said in the room stays in the room. Isolation is the worst and this provides the avenue to get them with others and get them the support they need. At what point during incarceration can they get the opportunity for treatment? Megan: Right at intake there are very targeted questions to try and find that out.
Sally	Is there NA and AA at every facility? Megan: I'm not positive that they're organized at every facility. But there is evidence that people need a group to help them through that. We're working on those peer groups, and they offer support in the units. I think we need to work on educating families, your loved ones, everyone could use more education.
Catherine	Are your K9 handlers certified? I was pulled aside in June and most of the people he pulled were older. He didn't pick anyone who was younger. Are the dogs trained with state police?

	Are they in the mail room where a lot of the drugs are coming in? He took a copy of my ID with his phone. They need more training. Chuck: Our dogs are highly trained; there was a competition with local law enforcement and DOC took 4 of the 5 top places. Please get us the information on the staff interaction and we can look at that. Jason: Our k9 program actually helps train law enforcement. Specifically for narcotics detection.
Melissa	I have a question about who to contact at AHCC. There is nothing like what happens at Airway. My loved one was told after being handcuffed in visitation that he's being investigated but they didn't tell him why. The learning curve is terrible for families. There has to be someone to talk to about this. I expect some accountability. James: Have you reached out to the facility already? No, I haven't, it's difficult to find who to talk to. James: Please put something in writing and send it to the superintendent.
Elise	As the leader of the family side of this, I'm going to push back on this Airway thing. We've been told many times that we'll look into it, and nothing is happening. We need to not come back two months from now and have this same conversation. Every other facility has clear cups and you're telling me we can't have clear cups of water for our loved ones. Nowhere else have I had to open up my food in front of staff. Is there data showing that this facility is having more issues than any other facility? Why are they doing this differently than every other facility? Tim: I hear you loud and clear and this is something that needs to be addressed. Is it main or minimum or both? It is both. It used to only be main but now it's at camp too. Tim: It's concerning to me that you won't bring your granddaughter in anymore. AHCC is at the top of the list as far as drug finds.
Andi	Gwen, would you do me a favor and put your concerns onto paper and I'll talk to the reps we have here today and I'll see if I can find a way for us to communicate this.
ISRB Leah Landon	*See Attachment #3* Elise: If someone wants an early hearing, how often are they accepted. Leah: Yes, I would say they're normally always accepted but some of them are really hard. For example, they may have an internet condition where they're not allowed internet access because of the crimes committed. Melissa: Is the ISRB the group that decides if parole can be done in another state. Leah: There release plan can be to another state, and we can approve that but the state they want to go to has to accept them. Melissa: How far do we need to look at that in advance? Leah: You can start anytime but we don't look at it until their release plan is received. It can be a confusing process so you may want to look into the process with the other state. Felicia: Why do some individuals going before the board have psychological evaluation and others don't. Leah: It depends on many things that are directed by WAC. Some offenses require them.
Reentry Danielle Armbruster & Kristen Morgan	*See Attachment #4* Elise: How are we addressing practical life skills, cooking, laundry etc. Danielle: That's a great question, I think we're addressing some of those things. We have life skills classes in facilities. We're having a lot of discussions with the WaWay group and working to expand this. We have bits but it's not system wide. Kristen: There are some units that focus on these things more. Sky River Treatment Center has a skills unit. We are working to improve upon this. Navigators will do a lot of this real time with folks once they're released. Gwen: I've heard that on GRE are you not even allowed to go out to mow your lawn? I'm curious if there's going to be more about being on your own property? Can you take out your garbage? Danielle: There are blackout periods for GRE where for a time you have to stay in proximity to your unit. Megan: The monitor doesn't know where you go, it just knows if you get too far away from the monitoring unit. So, they recommend you don't get too far away, or it will send out an alert. We looked at using bracelets which would be better but there's a cost for those, we don't have a way to fund those.

	Kehaulani: When the individual goes for work release and they pay rent, do you take money out of the general fund for rent for each bed also? Danielle: The fee offsets the cost of running to the Reentry Centers. It also helps individuals learn to budget. Kehlauni: Why aren't GRE and CPA under your department? Danielle: They're both under community corrections, that was a decision made internally. It didn't go through legislation; it didn't need to. Daphne: People who have a TBI are more likely to have these issues after release, housing issues, mental health issues, and more likely to return to prison. Seems like another reason to lead peer let support groups in prison and reentry. Kristen: I think that's a really good point and the Health Services Department has a huge group of outlets that can help after release and getting those releasing their Medicaid set up and soft handoff of electronic records will be fantastic. The warm handoff can help with so many issues.

Roundtable open discussion

Name	Discussion/Key Points
Kehaulani	The 603 violation changes that are going into effect July 1st. Can you explain that? Scott: We held townhall where we reviewed violation in the WAC and in order to implement those. Separating those who are just doing/found with drugs from those who are actively trafficking drugs. Is it up for discussion that I/I can come to these meetings? Open to the public and on TVW?
Wendy	I was so excited to see that we were going to have hybrid meetings, and I was so disappointed that we were excluded. We're also excluded from being able to do tours. As to Tim's comment about I/I doing drugs because they're bored. Can we please expand the programs based upon need? Gaming is also another great way to beat boredom.
Elise	Medical conversations about appointment reminders and appointment information, can we get an update on that? Brianna: Mark had scheduled a meeting with health services to discuss this; we'll follow up on that. **Follow-up:** This is being looked into, and more information will follow soon.
Catherine	Different facilities have different gaming options; can we get continuity? Bennett isn't here today, but we're having Securus issues again and the tablets are 4 years old. When are we getting new tablets? Can we get a follow-up with him next time? Tim: It sounds like we're looking at 4th quarter to get new tablets. Who is going to get the first tablets? The people with older ones or broken ones? Tim: I imagine that will be transition and when we have more information, we'll make sure and get that to you. James: At the next meeting we can take a few minutes of Tim's time and we can have Bennett give an update.
Felicia	At WCC they did let everyone who wanted to participate in the tour, even if you weren't an elected representative. Tablet swap, we want to make sure the media isn't lost. Getting an update would be very beneficial.
Scott	I just got out a couple months ago after doing 10.5 years and worked CI the whole time I was at one location and it was great and then I was transferred and couldn't get a job, and the idleness is awful. That's where you see the drugs and infractions, by those who have nothing else to do. Pine Hall itself, there is nothing to do there. I know it has to do with the short turnaround, but they need something to do while they're there. Elise: Can you talk on life skills and how that transition is going for you? For me it's going good, but my wife is so supportive and wonderful. But I went to Costco and I had to leave, it was too much, very overwhelming.
Gwen	This forum is so important so we can share our voices. I'm thankful to everyone who is here. We do not do drugs; we don't participate in that. Visitation is so important, it's important to make sure they don't go back again. We need more things for our loved ones to do in there. They need more programs. There are those inside who have rehabilitated themselves and

	made that choice to do it themselves. It's called a correction facility, not a punishment facility. Please look into that.
James	We're seeing an uptick in volunteers and programs at all facilities across the board. That's a positive! We are seeing increases.
Carrie	With the changes in the world these days, you can't watch anything without specific streaming services. Have we looked into any of these or how they could be monitored so they can have them on their tablets. Tim: I don't think any streaming services will be allowed but Securus is looking to go to more of a subscription type format. Kristen: Maybe the state network could pay for a subscription, and we can get that in the dayrooms? Tim: Internal brainstorming is going on here, we'll keep looking into that.
Elise:	I was very interested in the books that were talked about. That kids could take them home and read them with dad together. Is that something that is available statewide or can we get it statewide? Kristen: We can follow-up. Family services can look at this. It might be imagination library by Dolly Parton.
Melissa:	Boredom brings up food or the lack of. Some can buy endless amounts of food and keep it in their cells. They sell it to others who use cash app for to pay for the food. One family pays another family for something, and it causes issues. There are fights because of food. I'm not going to use my money to pay another family for food. Even when there are opportunities, they can still get denied those opportunities because they have infractions that haven't been dealt with. They shouldn't continue to be punished because DOC hasn't finished the process. Then they're sitting there bored, eating, etc. He went to prison after two years in juvie. He's never had a bank account, he's never had a job, he's not going to know what he's doing when he's released. We're trying to teach him as much as we can while he's still incarcerated so he's ready when he's released but that's hard to do. It's hard to help them grow up when they're in there. I hope that someone on here hears my plea. Tim: It sounds like it would be good for you to connect with the facility and talk to someone there to see what programming is available and what he can be doing. Megan Pirie also volunteered to help you. She will email Elise her info and we'll get it to Megan.
Carrie:	It is the Dolly Parton program that was implemented at WSP. **Follow-up:** This is still being investigated.
Elise:	What I want to say is something I say every time. Since this is not supposed to be punishment, it's correction. They're not learning these skills before they come to the facilities and not learning them while they're there. How can we get them to live normally inside a facility? They come back to the real world, and they don't know how to function normally. Some facilities do this better than others. Tim: What you're talking about is the foundation of WaWay. It is a process, we can't change culture overnight. Some people do it naturally and some struggle with that. We're continuing to work on it.
Elise:	We'd like to make medical an action item and AHCC visitation. And a Securus update.

Next meeting location: CI HQ/Virtual – MS Teams Date: 7/25/2026 Time: 10 am – 2:30 pm

Comments: _____

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