

The following is a summarized list of questions and answers from the audience of the IIBF Live Event Public Meeting on April 27, 2023.

Question:	Answer:
<p>How much is family involved in the planning and event choice?</p>	<p>We have an annual family council meeting in March/April, and it's discussed at that meeting. We split events up into 2 events for children-friendly and 2 significant other-based events in addition to other events that are pre-approved throughout the year. On top of the annual meeting, we also have Pop Up funds which can be used at any time of the year. We knew how cumbersome it is to plan all the events at the beginning of the fiscal year. If you have a proposal for an event please talk about it at your local family council meeting, including any cost and what material you would need. Most of the events happen in the visiting room, but if you want to plan a larger event we can look into other options.</p>
<p>Since not every person will have family visiting, can the Pop Up funds be used for an event that is only for the incarcerated individual?</p>	<p>This is something we can look at, it would still go through your local family council with a proposal. Each facility has discretionary funding from the \$10.00 incarcerated individual allocation funds that can be used for events and activities that happen just for the incarcerated individual population. If the facility does not have funds left in their budget, the facility can put a proposal together and send it to Cathy.</p>
<p>Seems like a lot of the spending is on games and holiday decorations for unit activities. Would we then have the facility and their tier reps plan that? How can the local family council encourage the tier reps to get ideas for this funding?</p>	<p>Friends and families and the incarcerated individual population can have their local family council or their tier reps talk about what kind of events they want to have. We can encourage them to use their voices and ask how we can help them. We will also talk with facility business managers so they are more educated on how these funds can be used as well. We can request extra funding if a facility doesn't have the budget for the event.</p>

<p>I was going to donate card games that have now been approved for my loved one's unit, but what I'm hearing tonight is that instead of donating them I might be able to use the IIBF funds to just buy the approved games.</p>	<p>Yes. This family member is at Stafford Creek and the facility LBM will assist this further on the request.</p>
<p>Today we don't use IIBF funding to cover funeral/death bed visits, but we used to. Is there a possibility of that coming back?</p>	<p>An underlying guideline of Account 800 Institutional Welfare Betterment Fund (OFM), better known in DOC as the Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund (IIBF) is the expenditures must benefit the population and not an individual. We do not recall at any time the IIBF was used for funeral/death bed visits. However, if you have documentation that it has happened in the past, please share it with us and we will look into it. As Lisa mentioned, DOC has been accommodating funeral and death bed visits virtually during COVID and will continue these opportunities where appropriate to reduce costs for families and incarcerated individuals.</p>
<p>Can you talk about the satellite/tv system?</p>	<p>We have been working on this for a long time and it's gone through a lot of little hurdles. We have now met with the contracts office and have come up with a better plan. We sent a notification out to the facilities to understand what providers they are using and what kind of support they are getting. We then narrowed it down to the top 5 service providers who will now visit the facilities so they can give us a better idea of what they can provide. We are looking at who can provide service in our existing locations. We are now considering this a client service procurement and the procurement rules allow DOC to directly negotiate with providers without going through the competitive procurement process.</p>
<p>You get to the place in the year where you are doing this spend down and you are finding you are underspent in a couple of areas. At any point in the process is there an</p>	<p>The first thing we need to do is have the local family council and the facilities develop their annual events and the costs associated with them. Once we get that, we then use that data and see how much we can allow for Pop Up allotments and other categories. If the women's division has the needs, now is a great time to speak up as we are</p>

<p>effort to equalize the expenditures at all 12 facilities?</p>	<p>developing the fiscal year 24 IIBF budget. If you have any ideas or concerns, please send them over and we can discuss and see how to fit them into the budget. One thing to keep in mind is that the IIBF Policy does not permit funds to be spent on capital projects. A policy exception would be necessary to pay for facility wiring for televisions.</p>
<p>Comment from one family member: There are not many families involvement in events and activities, they are planning much ahead of the local family council meetings. We need to have surveys from the facilities long before they plan these activities. One problem is they will change the schedule and the ones that have plane tickets and took off work are out of luck. The Superbowl bags and Holiday bags content were not asked from the incarcerated individuals, Correctional Industrials just provided the bags on request from the facility staff that is responsible for the bags. No consideration for the ones that are on restrictive diets.</p>	<p>We are hoping to implement more surveys. We had one system glitch but should have our new survey tool up and running shortly. This will help us to cast a broader net for input. There is a magnitude of things we will be able to get input on once the survey tool starts working. Holiday and Superbowl bags were determined by a survey of the population. We had 4 choices offered to us by the company and that is what the incarcerated individuals voted on. Again, we are hoping the survey tool will help in that gap in our data collection. In the near future, we will have the ability to conduct surveys through the institution kiosks to provide a broader reach to the population regarding these types of events and activities.</p>