

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 6/10/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- James Key, Superintendent
- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Joanna Carns, OCO
- Anita Barker, LFC Co-chair
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Gheorge Turcin, Family Services
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Stephanie Colunga, LFC Member
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Bethany Shepler, LFC Member

Weekly Update

- Memos went out to the population regarding free calls being extended, extension of gratuity, and medical ROI's.
- We have expanded our quality checks to transport vehicles, ensuring proper PPE is in use and cleaning is adequately being done between transports.
- Currently there are 12 incarcerated in the Regional Care Facility (RCF), 4 in IPU, and 3 on hospital watch, for a total of 19 positive cases. Additionally we have 5 on isolation and 1 on quarantine. These numbers can change up to twice a day.
- We are on day 100 of this emergency.
- There have been a lot of questions about the Kiosks being down. As of 10:30AM, HQ states The Kiosks are still not working.
- We are looking at the quality assurance process for the RCF, based on a report received back this morning the process is working well. Regarding the post isolation convalescent housing (PICH), the final walk through has been done and the fire marshal is coming this afternoon. We are working on finalizing the staffing plan, this area currently is not open.
- K unit meals, the food has been warm and the new process is going well. The warmers are being transported directly from the kitchen to K unit.
- We had 0 grievances in the MSU and 15 in the MAIN. They were pertaining to; yard times, work in CI, manageable amount of school work from education, pay issue while out of work, COVID positive patients at AHCC, and showers during quarantine.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

I believe the most important reason for having minutes after an LFC meeting or a COVID-19 teleconference meeting is that information is published and thus communicated among DOC staff/administration and LFC members. How is the information on these teleconference calls communicated with the incarcerated? Are these minutes posted in the unit dayroom?

Answer

I want to clarify this is just an informational call, not meeting minutes. When Dr. Heinrich goes to the Tier rep each week she briefs them on the information we speak about. We do not currently post these in the day room. Many tier reps also have family members on the conference call that they get information from.

Question 2

Is there a process whereby the concerns of the incarcerated are communicated with the LFC members, namely having the minutes of the tier rep meetings sent to LFC members attached as an addendum prior to or after the teleconference calls?

Answer

No, there is not a process for this. We can at look at this and see what other facilities are doing state wide.

Question 3

I understand that six inmates were transferred to K Unit last week, 2 from N Unit and 4 from T Unit. Since the inmates in K Unit are a high risk population and since about one third of the people who test positive for Covid-19 are asymptomatic, it would be proactive to test inmates to be certain that they do not have Covid-19 before they are moved to K Unit. Were the six inmates tested for Covid-19 before they were moved to K Unit?

Answer

No, we have a health service protocol we adhere to before we make any moves within the institution. We have to be able to still move individuals when we have spare beds based on custody promotions.

Question 4

The state kiosk in K Unit has been nonoperational since June 3. The inmates have had no access to any postings or information that are on the kiosk. Are the state kiosks in all the DOC facilities down? When will they be working properly again?

Answer

Yes, all institutions are down. There is no estimated date at this time for the kiosk to be operational.

Question 5

What does it mean that the DOC budget will be cut by \$181 million if social distancing does not take place in prisons?

Answer

I am not familiar with this. The department is going through and looking at our budget, but I'm not sure what the social distancing has in correlation with is. Anything budget related comes from HQ.

Question 6

I know the new EFV policy came out and they increased the price. If we have one previously scheduled do we have to pay the difference?

Answer

EFV visits that were already paid for and scheduled prior to the policy change should not be affected by the change.

Additional Questions

Question 1

How many of the symptoms do people need to exhibit before they are tested for COVID-19?

Answer

This is a medical decision, if they are symptomatic they are placed on isolation and tested for COVID-19. If someone is showing symptoms, medical dons proper PPE and does an evaluation.

Question 2

Has there been a follow up on the L unit microwaves?

Answer

All of maintenance has been occupied with the RCF and PICH. We will see if we can make this a priority.

Question 3

In the MSU space in limited with lockers. Would they be allowed to keep their soap on their bunks or tables for sanitary reasons?

Answer

We have cleaning supplies to be able to clean inside, to implement something like this would have to be a policy change.

Question 4

Have you been doing mass testing or hot spot testing?

Answer

We do not do selective testing, we have a criteria of symptoms we screen for. We have not been given any directive to test the whole institution.

Question 5

What are the roles of the classification counselor?

Answer

Counselors have many varying jobs needs depending on each individual. Some of their main duties include; work on placing incarcerated in programs, sentence structure, PREA evaluations, custody points, risk management, screening for job assignments, complete facility plans, release planning, counsel and inform individuals in regards to their transitions, enforce court ordered conditions, assist in any legal calls, and many more individual needs. You can also call the facility and be transferred to your loved ones counselor.

Question 6

There was a memo posted about the cards being taken away due to social distancing. Are they being taken away due to social distancing or because of inappropriate use?

Answer

I am not aware of any memo coming out about social distancing and cards. There are day room restriction numbers for social distancing. If you have the specific memo please send it to me.

Update: Cards are not allowed to be played with another incarcerated individual due to social distancing and in a group setting as everyone uses them during a game. They are still allowed to have them on an individual basis.

Question 7

Is there a waiting list for M unit honor pod and TC on B side?

Answer

Yes there is a waiting list. This unit has a specific criteria to be eligible to live there. This includes non-violent infraction history, programming, chemical dependency, and other court mandated programs.

Question 8

Will there be another round of masks distributed to the individuals?

Answer

There were the masks that came from HQ (round 1), then we distributed masks that were made here (round 2), and there will be one more disbursement of masks made at this facility (round 3). Each individual should receive a total of 2 AHCC made masks.

Question 9

Can I just clarify that the second round of masks was delivered?

Answer

Yes, they were delivered last week.

Question 10

With the new Senate Bill 6164 coming out tomorrow, have you talked about what this looks like for transfers within the facilities?

Answer

There has been no communication regarding this yet. I will look at this for next week's call.

Question 11

Is the population still getting 2 bars of soap weekly?

Answer

They continue to hand out soap from the duty stations. We will look into how many we have left for next week.

Update: We have 925 bars of soap left, and we have another 12,600 on order scheduled to arrive in the next 2-3 weeks. Units are still doing a weekly delivery.

Question 12

I heard there are opportunities for overtime for CO's to work at multiple prisons?

Answer

This is not true. We need extra staff for alternate housing areas, RCF and now if we open up the convalescent shedding housing this will take more of our staff. We have not sent any staff out.

Question 13

How is your staffing looking with many extra areas open?

Answer

We are making it work. Staff are getting tired. We have the staff, but we have many working overtime and multiple shifts.

Question 14

Has visiting been brought up with leadership at HQ? Is there a way to bring this up with HQ?

Answer

At this time we aren't giving out any "maybe" information. When there is a final plan we will distribute the information the families, incarcerated individuals and facilities.

Question 15

Since the governor is phasing in the rest of the state, when is the prison going to go back to normal?

Answer

Based on our close proximity that we have, we are not like the general population. It will be a slower opening for DOC. All ideas are being considered at HQ.

Question 16

When I have questions about policy or addendum and can't get ahold of anyone is there another avenue to go through, like a third party number?

Answer

All policies are owned by different people in the department. There is the COVID-19 webpage online. It is difficult to get ahold of people right now as we are all busy, teleworking, and on conference calls. I suggest continue to email those at the facility.

Question 17

Is there an update on the delivery of the K unit bikes?

Answer

They are scheduled to be delivered 6/11/20.

Update: 2 bikes were delivered to K unit 6/11/20.

Comments/Closing

- CI is starting to phase departments in and get individuals back to work, and education opened up on Tuesday. With COVID-19 we are taking all direction from HQ so we have a consistent effort statewide. I understand emotions are high and the issues around visiting. We are working towards getting past this new normal. This is something we have never dealt with. I appreciate your patience and emails. We will get the information asked for at next week's call. Thank you for your time and communication.