

MCC Local Family Council

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference Notes

April 17, 2020

Family Members deemed present: Angela Hinton, Felix D'Allesandro , Carol Welch, Diane Durall, Christine Mathison, Kim Day, David Bullard, Wendy Wilhelm, Byron Coats, Danielle White, Lynn Barker, Carol Darby, Joanne Todd, Julyan Pegram, Ruth Weaver.

Participants: Mike Obenland, Ina McNeese, John Padilla, Kathleen Bechler, Eric Jackson, Lisa Anderson, Terry Cohn

Captain McNeese welcomed everyone and proceeded to answer predetermined questions.

MCC Quarantine & Isolation

There are 396 men on Quarantine status

There are 33 men on Isolation status and 11 COVID Positive Individuals.

6 staff have tested positive for the virus.

Individuals on Isolation and Quarantine are seen twice daily by medical staff.

All necessary medical devices are provided, ie. Cpap and Bipap.

PPE Masks

All staff are required to wear masks when entering facilities.

The incarcerated and Correctional Industries are making masks for the population. All men at the MSU have been issued masks and it is anticipated WSR will receive theirs today.

JPay and telephones

There was positive feedback on JPay patches. Tier Reps are reporting no issues and I also received positive feedback from some of our council members. There are phones for the isolated men, working with proper cleaning procedures.

Communication

We are working on getting information out to the population as it arises, but things are changing very quickly. When necessary, messages are sent to the incarcerated.

Inmate banking is fully staffed and the business office is telecommuting.

Cleaning Supplies

We continue to provide cleaning materials and appropriate cleansers.

Recreation

We had a lot of positive feedback as a result of last week's change to recreation schedules. We are working to get everyone time to get out in the yard.

Soap

Soap is available through the store at no cost to those that can't afford to purchase it.

120 hand sanitizing stations are being disbursed throughout the facilities for individual use. The solution is 60% alcohol based.

Law Library Access

Confirmed with Law Librarian that appropriate access is being provided with emphasis on those whom have filing deadlines. Daily tier rep meetings have resulted in positive feedback.

Property

We are currently down 95 staff this had a huge impact on our property and clothing rooms. A big push has been made to assist in accounting for and delivering property and clothing replacement.

WSRU Double Bunking

We anticipate all will be housed in single cells after early releases.

Visiting

The Department has not established a date for return to visiting operations.

Representatives from the Ombuds Office and Disability Rights Washington toured MCC this week. It is difficult to Socially Distance in prison.

Releases

There is a strike team working on releases to come up with approved release plans with addresses.

There will be the following scheduled to release: IMU – 7; SOU – 7; TRU – 5; WSR- 16; MSU- 30, for a

Total of 65 releases.

Questions:

- Can speaker phones be used for those on isolation? No, logistically it wouldn't work.
- Some of the chairs in the dayroom are blocked from those sit on, this is for social distancing and to avoid too many in the dayroom at a time.
- The ISRB room is set up for Skype for hearings in which lawyers can participate virtually.
- Asked about getting information out to the population. Messages are sent out often to get information out to the population. We are doing our best to get information out.
- Will the no-contact visiting booths be used for visiting? Not at this time. We are working at Emergency Staffing would not be able to manage.
- While trying to manage Social Distancing of the population it is reported that staff are congregating at the base of Tower 9. Staff are to be wearing their masks and we encourage social distancing for both staff and the population.
- The men on isolation are moved and we use the space judiciously. Rounds are made daily and puzzles and games have been purchased for them.
- Congratulations to CPM Terry Cohn. Suggestion to put bags over phones to keep them clean. We are governed but HQ infection Control protocol.
- Concern about spreading the disease during a pat search. Pat Searches have been suspended with the exception of those leaving CI.
- Question regarding Quarantine and isolation. Quarantine is for those who may have been in contact with someone who is sick but shows not symptoms. Isolation is for those that are symptomatic and stay on Isolation until 14 days after they have no symptoms. This process is to separate those who are sick from those who are not. There may be those who are sick trying to hide symptoms. Temperatures are taken twice a day. If someone gets sick and put on isolation, the quarantine would start over which we do explain, but this impacts everyone. Infection Control directs what we do.

During the COVID 19 Crisis, MCC will have weekly phone conferences on Fridays at 1 pm. Our next conference call is on April 24th at 1300 Hours.