

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Details

**Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex**

**Date and Time:** 10/22/2021, 1pm – 2pm

Quote of the day:

“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Theodore Roosevelt

## Attendees

Joanne Todd

David Bullard

Jody Bullard

Kim Day

Dianne Durall

Melody Grandaw

Cait Moore

Diane Pasta

Annie Trepanier

LTC Byron Coates

Superintendent Eric Jackson

Superintendent Jack Warner

Assoc. Supt. Lisa Anderson

CPM Kari Styles

CPM Melida Ferrell

CPM Terry Cohn

Kristi Webb, AA4

Health Services Mgr. Rachael Symon

CUS Leslie O'Connor

Local Business Advisor Mariam Isaac

Program Specialist Page Perkinson

Records Analyst Monica Ritter

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Ina McNeese

Kathleen Bechler, AA3

## Weekly Update

MCC has 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the population including Violators from the community in the last 30 days with no active cases. MCC has had a total of 567, which is the same number we provided two weeks ago of Incarcerated/Violators with confirmed COVID over the course of the pandemic.

To date, MCC has had 221 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic. This is an increase of 3 since our last meeting.

### **WSR Closure**

Our population number at WSRU is now 241 Incarcerated Individuals. As you all know, many were transferred last week.

Headquarters Classification Unit continues to work through the process of identifying transfer locations or final determinations for the remainder of Individuals transferred.

I will do all I can to keep you informed as we continue to move through this.

## **Classification Policy Change**

There was a big policy change this week related to Classification and custody levels. DOC 300.380, "Classification and Custody Facility Plan Review" was revised effective 10/21/21. Previously, individuals were not eligible for Camp (MI2) until they were within 4 years of their Earned Release Date. That has been expanded to 6 years.

Headquarters and Classification staff around the State are scrubbing their case-loads to review those that may be eligible.

## **SFC Representative**

Felix D'Allesandro resigned as MCC's Statewide Family Council (SFC) Representative since his son moved to another facility. We do not have a SFC Rep until newly elected Suzanne Cook will assume duties as our SFC Representative starting January 1, 2022. Thank you to Felix for doing a great job representing our MCC Family Council on the Statewide level.

## **Co-Chair Joanne Todd's opening remarks:**

- I was reading emails about LFC and SFC creating a connection by showing faces during conference calls. I feel this is a great idea so I have my camera on so you can see me.
- As Co-Chair, I am reaching out to other Co-Chairs throughout the State to see how they are doing things and get some new ideas and best practices
- I am working to understand the comments about counselors. I am putting together a work group to talk about the role of counselors.
- Thanks for the work SFC Representative Felix D'Allesandro has done for this council. He will be missed and we wish him the best.

## **Comment**

When WSRU was doing pack ups, 14 shrink wrapped pallets were shipped by Correctional Industries to SCCC. Since there is so much property, they are working to get the property to individuals as quickly as possible. Captain Frantz worked through the property that went to TRU with staff working overtime, since there was an unusually large amount of transfers.

Thank you to Sgt. Styles who reached out to Correctional Industries to arrange CI transport instead of Fed Ex.

## **Captain Frantz commented:**

- Working in collaboration and interacting with individuals, TRU donated about 8000 pounds of produce grown at the prison to a local food bank and elementary school in order to assist with the summer lunch program for children.
- TRU also grew pumpkins and hosted a pumpkin decorating contest. There as incredible talent and all involved worked to be creative. A whole living unit won the contest, and each person got a large piece of cake to take back to their cell. There was over 150 positive interactions with staff and the population.

## Questions

### Question 1

I heard there were boxes of abandoned books that were not going to others in the prison. Where do the books go?

### Answer

Having property that belongs to another incarcerated individual is not permitted as there is a rule about not borrowing, lending, or trading. The box was put out for amnesty, no questions asked. WSRU and TRU both have Washington State Libraries, but SOU, IMU and MSU do not. The extra books will be donated to a facility that doesn't have a Washington State Library.

### Comment

Provided by a TRU Family Member; "The pumpkin decorating contest was simple and meaningful. The pumpkins are a fantastic idea and shows a great attitude."

### Question 2

When it comes to property transfers, who packs up the cells to move?

### Answer

If the individual is moving to a new cell in the same facility, the individual would pack his own stuff to move. When packing up for transfer, 2 staff will be present with an inventory sheet and the incarcerated individual will be there whenever possible. When moving to the IMU or for medical needs, or out at a Hospital or court, two staff will pack the cell. We never let an incarcerated person pack up property belonging to another.

### Question 3

Is it policy not to let the incarcerated individuals know where they are going?

### Answer

No, there is no policy language to not let them know where they are going once a transfer order is finalized, but we don't tell them when they will be leaving for security reasons. In addition, we generally do not let them know where they are headed until it is finalized because dates and/or destinations may change prior to them leaving.

### Comment

I would like to thank Sgt. Ankrum and his crew for making my first EFV so easy. Following policy, I did a rehearsal packing prior to the EFV, which did not go well. When I got to processing, they had tubs which worked very well and I appreciate their intuitiveness and work they are doing.

### Comment

A couple years ago we talked about when our LFC could meet to allow the most people to attend, to be inclusive. With our meetings only on Saturday, it's hard to get staff available on weekends. We used to alternate between Friday and Saturday meetings. Perhaps this is something we could revisit.

#### Question 4

Can we come in early for our Rapid Test before visiting then leave and come back to visit? This would help as we don't always know what the timing will be.

#### Answer

Yes, they will give you a pass after you have tested which is good for the date issued. If you arrive and test early, you may leave grounds and return to the applicable Visiting Room before the start of Visiting.

#### Question 5

Do you have an update on when the new mattress will be distributed?

#### Answer

Correctional Industries will fill the orders when they get the materials. I will reach out to see if I can find out when and will let you know.

#### Question 6

My loved one only has a t-shirt and shorts and is cold all the time, can he get some warmer clothes? The phone in the dayroom at SOU are staticky and property and mail seem to be an ongoing problem.

#### Answer

I will reach out to assist and see what can be done. I will also try to get you in touch with your loved one's treatment team. We can talk after this meeting.

#### Question 7

Can our loved ones get extra blankets in winter?

#### Answer

We take the temperature both in summer and winter to make everyone as comfortable as possible. We give them what is allowed per the property and clothing matrix. 3 blankets are standard. Although exceptions are made when there are heating issues. If you have an issue, it is best to start with the Unit Sergeant first.

#### Question 8

TRU has been very cold at night. Is this being worked on?

#### Answer

The Maintenance Department is working on the issue and waiting for parts to arrive. The heating coils were not turned on during the summer months and with the change of season, we discovered some replacement parts were needed. They were ordered and are coming from California. We are doing what we can to keep everyone warm.

### Question 9

I find that when I visit on Mondays, the visit is delayed with those checking in for EFV's. Would it be better if I scheduled my visit for Saturday so that I get the full block for visiting?

### Answer

I will investigate the delay on Mondays and talk with the visiting staff to see what can be done to make visiting start on time.

Update; TRU Visiting has a vacant position that must be filled by a female officer. Because the next shift does not arrive until 2pm and we draw from available staff at that time, this can impact effective and timely in-processing.

I have reached out to our Roster Office asking to please keep this position in a place of importance for filling.

### Comments/Closing

Thank you everyone. We will talk to you in two weeks.