



# FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting

Date: February 12, 2022

Time: 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Teleconference details: Virtual Teams Meeting

## Meeting Attendees

Department/facility Co-chair: Captain Ina McNeese Family Co-chair: Joanne Todd

Facility/council Secretary: Kathleen Bechler Family Secretary, Josephine Johnson

Members present: Joanne Todd, Josephine Johnson, Danielle White, David Bullard, Jody Bullard, Ron O'Neil, Byron Coates, Caryl Darby, Kim Day, Diane Kneseck, Gary Klingele, Stephanie Meadows, Diane Pasta, Ryan Swanek, Deborah Zoutendyk,

Non-council member attendees: Ina McNeese, Susan Leavell, Dan White, Kari Styles, Rachel Symon, George Turcin, Terry Cohn, Heather Trenk,

## Agenda

### Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Captain McNeese	Update on COVID status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incarcerated Individuals' positive cases have increased by 895 in the last 30 days. Total of 1,674 since the beginning.</li> <li>- Total of 432 staff have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic.</li> <li>- There are 76 Incarcerated Individuals (I/I) from TRU in quarantine &amp; isolation at WSR B unit due to testing positive.</li> <li>- WSRU - A is off quarantine, 26 Individuals, who haven't tested positive and were housed in 3A are now returned to A unit.</li> <li>- TRU - All units are off quarantine &amp; isolation, a few individuals are in isolation in the COVID Unit and approximately 76 individuals are still housed at WSR..</li> <li>- MSU - A unit is on quarantine, C &amp; D are off quarantine. B unit, which was previously closed, houses 14 I/I who are in isolation.</li> <li>- SOU - F unit, 1 side is being used for isolation the other side is being used for quarantine.</li> <li>- Guidelines have changed recently for DOC</li> </ul>
Rachel Symon	Health Services Manager of SOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisted with I/I vaccinations</li> <li>- ICP updated why I/I moved and why they moved. There are many challenges with all the living units status' and the ability to expedite moves is hampered by previous moves and our desire to return individuals to their original assignments.</li> <li>- Boosters: There is a long list of I/I who want to get a booster. With currently being on outbreak status, we are unable to administer vaccines or boosters due to possible reactions of the vaccine that would present as someone with COVID. As soon as MCC is off the hill-wide outbreak status, we will start administering them.</li> </ul>

		-There was a short window, where we were able to do flu vaccines.
Cpt McNeese	Mattresses	Mattresses being ordered monthly and are still being issued as they are received, mattresses are still on backorder, CPM's have told the CUS's to give out the elderly and those with medical needs can get a HSR for a new mattress. Those waiting for a new mattress can have 2 of the older ones until getting a new one.
Cpt. McNeese	Visiting Update - In-person & EFV's	Visiting & EFV's are currently shut down. Headquarters will reassess by March 3rd and will have an update depending on the COVID status at that time.
Cpt McNeese	Cable Update	There was no one on the call from maintenance to give an update to the cable situation. Captain McNeese checks randomly and notices sometimes reception is great and other times not clear, especially if it's raining.
Family Services George Turcin	Family Services Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Avery: A community online support for I/I who have children who are 8-18. There are group sessions that teach the children to connect with communities to become leaders. There are 6 groups, the next one will start at the end of February. I/I can let the family know, then the parent or caregiver will fill out the application. There is no cost and it has great resources.</li> <li>- Family Services can help address certain questions related to a variety of topics. Example: Life without parole, denied programming, GRE.</li> <li>- Parent/teacher conferences started about 7 years ago. It supports child development by having their parents involved. The I/I apply by filling out the form and will send it to family services who will connect with the caregivers to get permission to contact the school to set these up.</li> <li>- Lodging Assistance provides \$50 to assist with financial hardship towards lodging while visiting their loved one. You must travel at least 150 miles or more and can be used once a month. Applications must be received 20 days in advance. Family needs to coordinate dates with the facility to match the visitation schedule.</li> <li>- Form from website <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/docs/lodging-assistance-program-application.pdf">https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/docs/lodging-assistance-program-application.pdf</a></li> <li>- Family Centered Services- policy 530.150 (Captain McNeese emailed the policy to LFC during meeting) Policy is updated when there is a new Secretary, as they will want to look it over to have their input.</li> <li>- DOC is working on an updated Family Service Guide. The last update was in 2018. Still waiting for communication contracts to be finalized to finish updating information in the guide. See the attached Family Services Guide <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/500-HA002.pdf">https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/500-HA002.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Heather Trenk	Community Partnership	-Kayla Chong is working to get Volunteer Programming back but is unable to do so while the facility is in outbreak status.. The goal is to have them come back in again as they did before the recent visit closures.

		-When visitation reopens, the plan is to have activity bags again as we did in December. -It's been difficult trying to work out new fun activities to do. Kayla is working on a letter to send out to the LFC asking for ideas they would like to see.
Cpt McNeese	Fundraisers	Cpt McNeese reported that CPM Ferrell is in the process of planning a fundraiser for WSR. This will be for A unit, along with anyone left in B unit when the fundraiser happens. No update on fundraisers for TRU or MSU.
Cpt McNeese	Odds & Ends	Cpt McNeese mentioned the links that Secretary Strange sent out to the LFC with the video links for "Step Inside the Circle," Secretary Strange has reached out to the program Coordinator. Also, is excited to be working with Dan White again as she has worked with him before and was appointed to Captain by him. She models her interactions with family and staff as a result of his positive impact.

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points (questions)	Next Steps (responses)
Danielle White	Update From Statewide Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFC discussed the reason behind the movements to quarantine/isolation. (Danielle missed part of the meeting due to medical emergency, but will send SFC notes out as soon as she gets them)</li> <li>- New state reps feel like they are being listened to and work together, there are a couple of powerhouses, but won't let them overtake the entirety of the SFC meeting. DOC doesn't seem as organized at the upper level, but is receptive to ideas</li> <li>- Pushing to have visitation longer than 3 hours if testing before going in</li> </ul>
Danielle White	Update from IIBF meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion: DOC is looking into the cost to either buy the handheld gaming systems and make them available to rent or looking into them being added to Union Supply for families to be able to purchase for their loved ones.</li> <li>- Looking at providing brand name full size hygiene products for variety of skin and hair type</li> <li>-Packets of things I/I may want to learn about, ex: horticulture.</li> <li>-Library book donations from families</li> <li>- Jpay, GTL and commissary credits should have been received already. If your loved ones has not received these, contact Danielle for assistance.</li> <li>- A question was brought up regarding loved ones who are in max custody and don't have access to jpay for the credit. Anyone not able to access jpay will receive paper and pre-stamped envelopes in place of the credits.</li> <li>-Continue to send suggestions to bring to the SFC meetings.</li> </ul>
Senior Administrator Susan Leavell	Graduated Reentry (GRE)	<p>Senior Administrator Susan Leavell gave a brief overview of the Graduated Reentry Program and answered questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DOC 390.590 Graduated Reentry policy is in public review, then will be sent to staff, counselors for feedback. Feedback will be incorporated, then sent to Secretary Strange for final review. After being reviewed, it takes about 30 days to be processed.</li> <li>-2021 expanded GRE has 2 tracks to be able to qualify for GRE now.</li> </ul>

		<p>-Incarcerated Individuals and their counselor can start working on the GRE packets up to 30 months before release date if they qualify. This gives someone who can be released within 18 months sufficient time for programming or to gain needed skills. Please see the following links for more information.</p> <p>DOC GRE Website - <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/graduated-reentry.htm">https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/graduated-reentry.htm</a></p> <p>GRE flyer - <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/400-BR015.pdf">https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/400-BR015.pdf</a></p> <p>GRE Screening process - <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/300-DG001.pdf">https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/300-DG001.pdf</a></p> <p>Partial Confinement Options Letter - <a href="https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/400-GU001.pdf">https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/400-GU001.pdf</a></p>
Family Questions/Comments	GRE	<p>What if someone is supposed to be released soon but hasn't had the chance to take required classes or programming? <b>COVID interrupted programming, GRE program will look at each situation separately and possibly try to get them into a community-based program. Will work with a behavioral health specialist to meet individual needs. Pilot program currently happening with 4 or 5 individuals in an inpatient program who are on electronic home monitoring.</b></p> <p>With the updated GRE policy, everyone is supposed to qualify to take programming. Some I/I who are sentenced to life without parole are experiencing refusal or the opportunity to take classes. Why is this happening? <b>Superintendent Dan White commented he is not sure how this will work yet, classification staff initiate programming based upon cited needs/risks. This may be based on length of sentence if they are allowed to take classes. Programming needs are based on the Washington One assessment and risk levels.</b></p>
	Family Services	<p>How can our loved ones contact family services? <b>I/I can send a kite to their counselor, or they can write a letter to family services. Normally family service staff visit MCC but hasn't since COVID started.</b></p> <p>Can daycares be involved in the parent/teacher conferences? <b>Have your loved ones fill out the paperwork with the information and submit it, then Family Services will follow steps to contact caregiver &amp; school/daycare.</b></p>
	Mattresses	<p>Comment: I have heard the CUS on D unit at TRU is starting with A wing cell 1 and handing out mattresses in order. <b>Captain McNeese forwarded this information to CPM Geer for review.</b></p>
	Programming	<p>Family member asked about programming for the spring quarter. <b>Programming is still on track for Spring Quarter for in person classes. I/I from TRU who turned in computers that were updated, haven't had them returned yet.</b></p>
	GTL/Phone issues	<p>Reports that Verizon cell users are having GTL issues with incoming calls. <b>Captain McNeese will email headquarters. A family member commented that Verizon &amp; T-Mobile did an update that changed something with their spam blocker. She had to uninstall spam blocker and reload it, then highlight the number from the prison as a priority number.</b></p>

	Yard time	Family members reported loved ones have limited outside time due to working full time for CI. Is it possible for CI workers to all go outside at the same time? They are only getting access to the yard twice a week with the current schedule. <b>This was mentioned at the tier rep meeting, Captains are discussing possibly an evening yard. COVID has made things complicated by having to keep all the units separated per health services.</b>
	Visiting	When visiting starts again, will there be family religious services also? Suggestions for upcoming events are movies and arts & crafts. <b>MCC had 2 chaplains, 1 left and 1 was out for a while. CPM Cohn interviewed to hire a new one, however hasn't been able to hire them due to COVID. Will work with the chaplains and community services to see what options are available.</b>
	Yearly Reviews	When are yearly reviews going to start up again? <b>Reviews were not meant to be stopped, COVID has interrupted regular work. CPM Styles stated SOU is caught up on reviews but was unsure about other facilities. TRU's outbreak had counselors doing other jobs.</b>
	Jpay Kiosk	Jpay kiosk has been out for 2 weeks, many concerns with video visits not working. <b>CPM Cohn reported there was an issue with the replaced Wi-Fi that created a glitch that was fixed on Thursday or Friday. I/I and families continue to be frustrated, and feel sending help tickets, and complaints does not result in a fix. CPM Cohn was getting generic responses from Jpay and took 4 weeks to take care of the issues. Every work ticket creates data and proof that a jpay terminal wasn't working. With the moving of I/I due to COVID it can take 24-72 hours to be assigned to a new kiosk machine. Downloads are done once a day and when this happens it seems that the machines are broken, when in fact it's just updating. When this happens, it will have a black screen for about 20 minutes. Captain McNeese will see if we can add signage with the time frames of the updates.</b>  Kiosk #8 at TRU D unit is not functional, Wi-Fi is down and loved one said he lost all his stamps. <b>Jpay tech was supposed to be there this morning but had to be rescheduled to Monday due to an urgent call at a different facility.</b>  <b>Captain McNeese explained the difference between the CE Prison kiosk machines (to email DOC staff) and the Jpay kiosk machines. OMNI (offender manage network Information) bed entry is what generates which jpay kiosk machine they are assigned.</b>
	Property/Rec Staff	Family member asked if other staff could be trained to hand out rec or property when regular staff are out on vacation or out sick? <b>With closures, vaccine mandates, and COVID this has made it hard to have other staff trained. Staff must be trained to update OMNI. Hopefully with COVID numbers going down and stabilizing, we can get more staff trained. Non-uniform staff are qualified to work in other areas, and it's important to get property out. There are new players that were delivered but are still waiting to be issued. Sgt. Styles is working at all facilities trying to get things moved and handed out.</b>
	COVID Calls	Weekly COVID calls will continue with the next one Friday, February 18th at 1:00pm. COVID call information can now be

		shared with anyone who wants to know information regarding COVID status at MCC. The call-in information will be published on the website.
	LFC Calendar	Dates of 2022 LFC Meetings. All meetings are held on Saturdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. Currently they are all Virtual Team Meetings. April 9, 2022      June 4, 2022      August 6, 2022 October 1, 2022      December 10, 2022

**Roundtable open discussion:**

Next meeting location: Virtual Teams Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Date: Saturday April 9, 2022  
Time: 10 am to 12 pm

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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