

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 3/11/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd, LFC Co-Chair

Josephine Johnson, LFC Co-Secretary

Diane Pasta

Deborah Zoutendyk

Diana Knesek

Cait Moore

Caryl Darby

Melody Grandaw

Heather Hamilton, OCO

Superintendent Dan White

Associate Superintendent John Padilla

Associate Superintendent Paula Chandler

Monica Ritter, Engagement

Health Care Manager Lisa Anderson

CPM Kari Styles

CPM Melida Ferrell

PIO Kristi Webb, AA4

Local Business Manager Mariam Isaac

CS Kaela Chong

AA3 Heather Trenk

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Dan Allen

Captain Ina McNeese, LFC Co-Chair

Informational Call Update

There has been 28 (last week's report was 90) incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 1691 (No increase since last Friday) COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 449 (up from 445) confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

This will be our last weekly Local Family Council COVID call. We will resume this service if MCC experiences another outbreak.

Last week a question came up about the lack of Visitor bathrooms in the MSU Visiting Room.

An error was made when I was told the bathroom will be made available. I apologize for that and any resulting confusion.

None of the MCC Visiting Rooms have a bathroom co-located in the VR. Visitors must step out of the VR to use the appointed Visitor bathrooms.

Isolation and Quarantine Units

IMU COVID Unit

IMU Continues to house both COVID positive and Quarantine Individuals on separate Pods.

Pre-submitted Questions

No presubmitted questions for this meeting.

Question 1

When will school and regular programming start?

Answer

MCC TRU and MSU have already begun Chemical Dependency. EDCC classes will start on April 5th. We have also begun the process for getting religious activities going again.

Question 2

My son is at WSR and access to the Recreation areas has been inconsistent. Why is that?

Answer

We have authorized shift lieutenants to open the recreation yard at WSR, despite not having sufficient staff to assign to Recreation. Before the murder of Jaime Bendl, we were not required to have yard officers and relied upon the towers to supervise yard activities.

In light of our recent staffing shortages, and understanding the importance of offering recreation to our population, we are allowing access except for times when fog limits visibility, or when there is an emergency response or operational disruption that may interfere with access.

I did see we were able to staff the gym at WSR this week.

Question 3

I'd like to talk about Graduated ReEntry (GRE) and what seems to be the general confusion coming from Counselors. I am a strong advocate for my loved one and have been able to get some answers for him.

What can be done to ensure all incarcerated individuals are provided information and support for access to this program? Some individuals may fear negative outcomes if they push too hard.

Answer

This program is still fairly new and there are still processes being developed to ensure our Classification and unit staff have the necessary tools and training. Superintendent White provided the links below, in addition to expressing his support of the program and equitable access for all.

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/400-BR015.pdf#:~:text=What%20is%20Graduated%20Reentry%3F%20In%202021%2C%20The%20Washington,at%20an%20approved%20address%20through%20two%20different%20tracks.>

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/graduated-reentry.htm>

Question 4

Having weekly COVID calls has really been beneficial for our LFC. Going back to the bi-monthly may erode the work we have done together. What can I do to have additional meetings?

Answer

I would recommend you respond to the request from Lisa Flynn regarding input on the Family Council policy DRAFT. You can also raise this issue with our SFC Rep. Danielle White for discussion at the Statewide Family Council.

Comment

My son has been waiting 2.5 years to have his Dental needs taken care of and we are grateful TRU has been able to get this addressed.

Comments/Closing

I very much appreciate the work we have done together in building a collaborative Family Council. Thank you everyone.