

Questions for SFC call 05/11/2020

Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.
If specific questions about individuals were asked, they were removed.
If you have specific questions about your loved one, please contact your local facility.

Please do not share Local Family Council or Statewide Family Council Informational Calls Phone-In Information with others, especially via social media.

These are internal DOC communication lines, and are not for public posting.

PRESENT ON CALL

SFC DOC Co-Chair – Jeneva Cotton
SFC Family Co-Chair – Suzanne Cook
SFC DOC Secretary – Rhonda Roberts
CCCC – Leslie Redic
CRCC – Stephanie Biedman
MCCCW – Melody Simle
SCCC – Susan Cooksey
WCCW – Jason Rice
WSP – Wendy Dubinsky
HQ – Paige Perkinson, Lisa Flynn
OCO – Mattias Gyde

PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

1. As the governor is slowly easing restrictions on the stay at home order, what is DOC doing proactively to come up with a visitation reopening plan? Who is in charge of this?
 - a. **As Washington is slowly easing into a phased implementation of reopening the state, it is important to remember the incarcerated population is a high-risk population due to the closed living environments. It is important to remember that as a state, we are implementing a phased reopening to evaluate how opening the state affects a potential influx of COVID-19 cases amongst the citizenry. When it comes to reopening visitation, the department will evaluate the state-wide reopening data closely in line with the phased implementation to ensure the Department acts in a productive manner for the incarcerated population.**
Headquarters is working on plans to implement protocols and procedures to safely reinstate visitation with families and ensure the agency is still being proactive at preventing the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus into the facilities. There is not a direct point of contact for visitation plans. Once the Department has finalized plans they will be distributed with external stakeholders, the incarcerated population, and posted on the external COVID-19 and visitation webpages.

2. We have requested disaggregated numbers of confirmed cases on the DOC website for Monroe (there are 5 facilities) with maintained refusal to do so. When can we expect this update to the reporting to occur?
 - a. Per the Joint Information Center, at this time Headquarters is not set up to post data in this way. We are tracking information on a facility level in general. This request is noted at the Headquarters level, and it has not been dismissed. It will continue to be a data request that will be responded to when the resources are available to respond. At this time, we can inform you there have been positive incarcerated individuals in MCC-TRU, MCC-MSU, and MCC-WSR.
3. Why are the OCL's (tier reps) not allowed to participate in the local family council phone calls regarding Covid-19? We've asked this at the facility level and the response was they are waiting for direction or authorization from HQ.
 - a. The department has daily/weekly meetings with tier reps depending on the respective facility. The agency is working with the tier reps to alleviate concerns and get information to the population during each of these meetings. The department will continue to host these meeting with tier reps, and will separately host the informational phone calls with the local family council members.
4. The virus has impacted many areas of peoples' lives and everyone is getting used to living in a "new normal" environment. Why can't we resume SFC meetings virtually? What does the "new normal" look like for DOC? Are the expectations for their employees to work from home or just be at home? Why is everything on hold due to COVID-19?
 - a. Ongoing conversations with agency executive leadership indicate that staff that are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to pause all regularly scheduled meetings not COVID-19 related in an effort to prioritize the COVID-19 response. As the staff who take place in these SFC meetings are directly involved in the department response, these meetings will be suspended until further notice. We will continue the bi-weekly informational calls pertaining to the efforts related to COVID-19.
5. Rumor has gone around that Yakima could be turned into a Quarantine site, is this true? Right now there are 9 Women in Yakima, is there a plan to return them back to WCCW now that population numbers are down and if so will the transfers to Yakima be ended and that contract terminated?
 - a. This is not true. There are 9 WA DOC women currently housed at Yakima County Jail and the agency has not transferred any individuals to Yakima for several months. We are currently working on a plan to return the WA DOC women currently housed at Yakima County Jail to WCCW.
6. Could you please address why the Rapid Reentry list keeps changing? A name will be on it, then removed, then back on it again.

- a. The Rapid Reentry list is fluid and may adjust due to different factors. The primary factor causing removal is felony warrants/detainers. Although all individuals with warrants/detainers have been removed from Rapid Reentry list, we have been responsive and added individuals back onto the list when notified a warrants/detainer has been addressed and removed from the system.
7. What is the harm in having the Ombuds doing visitations unannounced?
 - a. The staff of the Office of the Corrections Ombuds (OCO) have the ability to visit facilities unannounced. We are working through an unprecedented pandemic and the department will adhere to the process the OCO ultimately will deem as most appropriate. Again, the decision for OCO to conduct unannounced visits is up to the OCO.

PHONE DISCUSSION/CONCERNS

- Issues with lunch items at SCCC regarding no vegetables; reports lunches only include PBJ or bologna sandwiches – Jeneva will follow up with CI
- Issues with JPay video visits statewide – Jeneva will ask Keith DeFlicht to join SFC call on 05/22/2020
- Question about when complimentary JPay video visits will be ending – Paige reviewed most recent memo and it indicates “until further notice.” Will attempt to get additional information.

Next SFC Informational Call – Friday, May 22 at 2:00 PM