

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

May 21, 2020

1pm

**Facilitators:** Dan White, Superintendent. Dean Mason, Associate Superintendent.

**Attendance:** Justin Schlagel, CPM. Naomi Samson, AA3 to Associate Superintendent Mike Green (meeting notes), Penny Marquart, AA3 to Associate Superintendent Dean Mason (meeting notes).

**Attendance via phone:** Mike Eby-Community Correctional Specialist, Matthias Gyde-Assistant Ombuds, Paige Perkinson-Program Specialist, Casey Carlson-Health Services Manager. Kaishanna Sounders, Kristina Olson, Jasmine Bernardez, Candace Krueger, Amy Grubaugh, Emijah Smith.

**Purpose** – To provide information to family and friends of our incarcerated population related to management of the COVID 19 outbreak. Specifically, what steps the Washington Corrections Center and the Department of Corrections as a whole are taking to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

*Note from Superintendent Daniel W. White-*

*We appreciate the care and concern you have for your incarcerated loved one. We take great pride in all of the hard work being done to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of everyone living and working at the Washington Corrections Center. We take all of the concerns of the population very seriously and will continue to meet with them to hear their concerns going forward. Personally, I feel safer inside of this correctional environment than I do in any other place in society, save for maybe my own home. We will continue to uphold a high standard for humanity and sanitation every day.*

## **Agenda Items:**

**Sanitation** – Sanitation measures continue to be implemented and improved. At WCC, we have increased cleaning protocols to hourly cleanings in populated areas. All units are being provided a germicidal cleaner that is approved by the Health Department as effective for the COVID-19 virus. All incarcerated individuals are also encouraged to keep their cells and areas clean and wipe them down more frequently and wash their hands often. Common areas are being cleaned multiple times a day. We have approved 11 new cleaning positions to clean and deep clean high traffic areas such as the showers, phones, equipment and dayrooms in between uses. [This was delayed due to staffing, but is once again being ramped up.] Additionally, extra porters (janitors) have been hired to conduct deep cleaning on First Shift (late night/early morning). Posters and information regarding handwashing and COVID 19 protocols are hung up all over the facility

and the incarcerated population is encouraged to follow these protocols. A specific staff is designated to ensure that all new information is widely communicated throughout the facility.

**Rapid Reentry** - Governor Inslee's proclamation regarding emergency commutation was released on April 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by additional Rapid Reentry messaging released by DOC the following day. Since that time, a number of WCC staff have been working every day (including weekends) to process every individual approved for one of these options.

**Face Coverings (Masks)** – On April 17<sup>th</sup>, every incarcerated individual was issued a kit that included two bandanas with materials and instructions for making a mask. On April 20<sup>th</sup> every incarcerated individual was issued a sewn face mask made by the WCC Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL). All incarcerated individuals are required to wear an authorized face covering whenever they come out of their cell.

Staff are required to wear face covering whenever they are in the facility.

**Social Distancing:** Social Distancing is a primary focus and is regularly being encouraged and reminded. Dayrooms have been limited to 10 individuals at a time. All education classrooms, medical areas, etc., have been limited to smaller groups at a time and expansion of extra sessions for those areas will be added as necessary. Work areas are being restructured to ensure proper spacing is achieved. Meals are being served in-unit to both achieve social distancing and to increase recreation opportunities for the population. The incarcerated population are encouraging importance of social distancing and they are educating each other of the importance of it.

**Extra Unit and Recreational Activities:** There have been no changes to these activities.

These activities will expand whenever possible. As stated, we will continue to explore other new opportunities for recreation and activities.

**Screening:** No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff must complete an enhanced screening process, including temperature checks, prior to the start of their shifts. Due to this process, a significant number of staff are being sent home and cannot return until they are cleared by a medical screening team that is separate from WCC. Our number one priority is to keeping staff and the population safe.

If any of the Incarcerated Individuals show signs of having symptoms, they are screened by medical staff using the following protocol:

**Quarantine and Isolation** - Incarcerated individuals (patients) will be placed on isolation status when they are presenting influenza or COVID-19 like illness symptoms. Patients who have been exposed (i.e., cellmate of a patient who has influenza-like symptoms) will be placed on quarantine status. Universal precautions will be in effect for all patients. Special housing arrangements will be made for patients on quarantine and isolation status. Droplet precautions will also be in effect, and information will be posted on the red flu supply carts located in R5 and IMU.

All potentially exposed cells are sanitized, and the individuals are provided clean linens. Individuals who do not have their own hygiene items, or run out, will be provided some at no cost. Finally, medical callouts have been increased to every half hour to reduce the number of people in medical.

**Begin Meeting:** 13:05

## **Roll Call**

### **Dan White opened:**

I am really proud of the CI Porters, Maintenance workers, and those in Sustainable programs. They are critical workers and they keep things running. If any of your family members are involved, please thank them.

1. **Sanitation:** We continue to keep the facility really clean.
2. **Rapid Reentry:** This has expired and we have ceased Rapid Reentry.
3. **Face Covering:** This is going well. We continue to emphasize the importance of wearing a mask.
4. **Isolation and Testing:** 62 tests administered. 62 Negative. And 1 positive. This was the transfer from a few weeks ago.
  - a. We have 3 in Isolation. 1 Quarantine and no ads in 24 hours.
5. **Screening:** The process continues to be strong. All Incarcerated Individuals that come in go into the Intake unit for 14 days.
6. **Recreational:** Yard continues. You may hear of no access to phones, but that was because of a power outage.
7. **Leisure Areas:** We did not implement this at this time due Union activities that we are working through. It's still on the table.
8. **Regional Care Facility:** 15 beds. We are still in the process establishing our Chapel as the RCF. We hope not to use it. But we have it if we need it.
  - A. Dean Mason is working with the Religious Coordinator to keep Religious programs going
9. **Dean Mason- Packages for G/H and R6:** Packages that came in, were coming in as ineligible. They showed as Reception Center Beds. We spoke with CCI to remind them that these are eligible. We also spoke with Union Supply, to sure those packages are delivered.
10. **Dean Mason- Video Visitation:** There are no restrictions. The problem is during the day. If someone sets up a visit and if they don't cancel when they don't intend to use it, the spot shows as taken.
  - A. For a Saturday visit, you need to schedule on Friday. Times are tight; 8:30-11:30, 7:00-9:00. I have asked them to expand this time to 3 hours.

### **Round Table Questions:**

1. **Question- Jasmine:** Visitation. Will DOC open visitation in Phase 4?  
**Answer:** We will follow the Governors Directives and we will implement as soon as we get the go-a- head.
2. **Question- Candace:** Food served today was from frozen. Some of it was moldy and/or out of date.  
**Answer:** I was not aware of this. I will take this information to Food Services

**3. Question- Kristina- EFV.** How does the process work after I submit my packet? What happens at WCC?

**Answer:** The visit Sargent would contact you and the Offender is notified.

**Request made by Dean:** We are still in need of a Local Coach and a Statewide Member. Any of you can volunteer. Penny sent out the information last week. Please contact us if you are interested.

Meeting ends: 1333