

# Local Family Council COVID 19 Teleconference

## Washington Correction Center for Women

March 26, 2020

**Facilitator:** Jo Wofford, Superintendent

### **Attendance:**

**Family Representatives:** Babs Roberts, Kay Nelson, Cindy Robinson, Lynda Powers, Jason Rice, Janet Moriarty, Lethaniel Ray, Renee Hafzalla, Paula Bond

**WCCW Representatives:** Associate Superintendent of Operations Chandler, Associate Superintendent of Programs Swain, Correctional Program Manager Gaines, Health Services Manager 3 Clark, Administrative Assistant 3 Hill, Administrative Assistant 3 Boutwell, Community Partnership Program Coordinator Zimmerman.

**Purpose** – to get information related to the COVID 19 outbreak out to the families to help them understand the steps being taken by DOC to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

**Sanitation** – Sanitation measures have increased. A germicidal that is approved by Health Department is being used to that would take care of the COVID 19 virus. There has been an increase in the number of Incarcerated Individuals working to keep the common areas clean, and at night a deep cleaning is done.

**Testing** – No Incarcerated Individuals have tested positive in any Washington State DOC facility.

**Social Distancing** – Social Distancing is being encouraged, reminded and enforced. College is working on restructuring class sizes, and other programs are regrouping for smaller sizes too. Mainline is happening daily in shifts and at a slower rate to accommodate social distancing. The facility team is currently working on developing activities that can be completed in cells. Gym and yard times are being accommodated to encourage social distancing and sanitation

**Activities** - The garden sites are being increased to give Incarcerated Individuals a chance to get fresh air and activity, all of the food produced will be donated to charities in the community. Puzzle are being printed and games are being developed that will promote social distancing, and to give the Incarcerated Individuals something else to do.

**Screenings** – No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff is being screened at before the start of their shifts. If any of the Incarcerated Individuals shows signs of having symptoms is screened by medical and quarantined. Their cells are sanitized, clean linens and hygiene items are being provide at no cost to them. Medical callouts have been adjusted to reduce the number of people in medical. Telehealth appointments are being implemented.

### **Questions from Council Members**

<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Answer</u></b>
What are staff doing to help alleviate the population's fears and concerns?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Mental Health is beginning telehealth appointments.</li><li>➤ Chaplain Lane is in touch with the population.</li><li>➤ Tier Rep meetings are happening daily.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leadership is walking and talking to the staff and the population.</li> <li>➤ We are posting and sending information via kiosk to the population to educate them about COVID-19 and preventative measures.</li> <li>➤ WE encourage social distancing and give the women the opportunity to feel safe with these rules.</li> </ul>
<p>Does the Telehealth modality you are using comply with HIPPA guidelines and is the area accommodating privacy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Telehealth appointments will be done through Skype for business with the added layer of being on the DOC secure network. The individual will be in a room alone with the Laptop and will have someone outside the room.</li> </ul>
<p>Are you testing for COVID-19 within the facility and are you prepared for any cases that become severe?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We are testing for two strains of Flu as well as COVID here in the facility.</li> <li>➤ There is a negative pressure room in out IPU that is reserved for severe cases and we have aligned with area hospitals to work with for very severe cases.</li> <li>➤ We have had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 either among our population or staff.</li> </ul>
<p>Are incarcerated workers provided masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment items?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of workers are not cleaning in the quarantine areas. Those works have access to the usual protective equipment necessary to their jobs.</li> <li>➤ There are a few specifically trained workers who may need to be in any quarantined area. Those workers are provided all the required protective equipment.</li> </ul>
<p>There are reports of an officer in J unit spreading information that is causing fear among the population, what is the direction that you are giving staff about information sharing with the population?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We are trying to provide information in a calm manner and passing information along as we receive it.</li> <li>➤ Leadership is out walking around daily to assure that the population has every opportunity to approach and speak to us.</li> <li>➤ Incarcerated Individuals are able to use the formal complaint process to report specific concerns.</li> </ul>
<p>Is there any possible way that the women who are already at Yakima can stay there?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ That is a decision above our local authority.</li> </ul>
<p>Have anyone had success with video visiting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There have been several successful video visits, however, please be aware that there are IT challenges are occurring.</li> </ul>

	JPAY has assured us they are working on those.
RDC is still housing 3-4 people in a room, is that going to be fixed?	➤ We are moving people as quickly as we can.
Are you opening W building? The population is saying it will be opened today.	➤ There is discussion about that happening.
Can the units have single use paper towels?	➤ We will look at providing paper towels to the units.

**CONCLUSION:**

We will schedule another call within a couple weeks. As always, please feel free to contact Jo with any questions/concerns.