

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WA Corrections Center for Women

Date and Time: 06/12/2020, 12:00PM

Attendees

- Jason Rice, Babs Roberts, Renee Hafzalla, Cindy Robinson, Susan Sherman, Becky Overlin
- Melissa Johnson, Bill Swain, Vaaia Gaines, Ryan Rieck, Paul Clark, Caroline Melhuish, Brenda Hill

Weekly Update

- Thank you for always considering our questions and thank you for considering our request for change to the date and time of these meetings. We respect that you cannot ask your teams to be available on the weekends given our current situation. Therefore we respectfully request that the meetings be moved to Wednesdays at 5pm. This will allow for most of the FC to be available.
 - WCCW should have a response for you by next week.
- 2020 Back-to-School Backpack Pickup will be taking place on August 21st from noon to 4:00 p.m. Since we cannot have an event we are still going to get backpacks to the kids! Let's help our kids get ready for a great start to their school year. WCCW will do a drive up backpack pick up day (incarcerated individuals will not be a part of this). The approved adult will drive to the facility and go to the pickup location within the parking lot. Backpacks will be pre-marked with children's name and full of grade appropriate supplies. The approved adult driver must wear a face mask or covering and will remain in the car while staff load the backpacks. To participate incarcerated individuals:
 - Must be 90 day infraction free to qualify
 - Children must be school age (K-12th grade)
 - Children must be on the incarcerated individuals approved visit list
 - Children must be the incarcerated individuals kid or grandkids
 - Adult picking up the back pack must be an approved visitor

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

What are the current facility numbers? Transfers in/out? Releases? Intakes? Numbers in isolation/quarantine?

Answer

Current population is 779 and 2 babies. Since June 1st through June 12th there have been 27 releases and 39 intakes. We have 3 in ISO, 2 in IPU and 1 in quarantine.

Question 2

How is testing and are there any updates on medical issues in the facility – COVID related or otherwise?

Answer

We are happy to report that WCCW still has zero positive tests with both staff and our incarcerated individuals. There are no changes to report on issues.

Question 3

Is it true that some WCCW staff were transferred (temporarily) to Coyote Ridge? If so, is there a plan for ensuring that upon their return they will not potentially bring the virus back to WCCW? Any information you can give us would be much appreciated. Also - what does this do to your own ability to adequately staff WCCW?

Answer

Yes, some staff have been deployed to CRCC to assist with staffing needs. Yes, we will have a deportation plan upon returning to our facility. WCCW's staffing is adequate to run the facility..

Additional Questions

Question 1

Excited to hear that the women are back from Yakima, though rumors are going around that one woman was symptomatic (hearing all 8 women are being quarantined). If all 8 women were scanned, and the scanners cannot be disinfected, is that a concern for spreading contagion?

Answer

Everyone who comes to the facility is kept in their intake groups in RDC for 14 days, not quarantined. This process is not indicative of exposure to or symptomatic individuals. The scanner can be disinfected.

Question 2

Per discussion with Ms. Cotton, the FC is working on suggestions to propose to DOC for re-instatement of visitation. Are there any ideas WCCW staff have that we could consider?

Answer

Great question. We are currently having these discussions. We do know that visitation will begin at the same time across the state.

Question 3

There is a growing concern among the women regarding meals given the shutdown of some CI (textile) at AHCC – and rumors that kitchens at WCCW may need to be brought back up to a condition that would allow meal preparation there?

Answer

So far, there is no date to move forward due to resource constraints. There is no set target date until confirmed with facilities manager. There are many other projects that take priority before we can visit this.

Question 4

Rumors among the women abound related to the fence and who will be moving to the hill once it's completed. What are WCCW's plans for housing once the fence is completed? Will all MI3 offenders be moving, or just a few? Will time remaining be a consideration? Will the offense be considered?

Answer

Our fencing project is around 18 months to completion. This is tabled until the completion of the project, as we do not have many answers right now and understand why you are concerned.

Question 5

How will the shift of MI3 women to the hill impact the use of the EFV trailer as it is already shared with MCCCW.

Answer

Great question. Decisions have not been made yet with all of this. Again this is tabled until we have conversations with HQ leadership.

Comments/Closing

- Follow-up regarding craft supplies vendor discussion from the June 5th meeting.
 - The intent is to get everything on Union Supply; however, because of the vast list of items, it will be a while before that happens. Until then, there will be a list of approved hobby vendors, just as there is now.
- Follow-up regarding educational programming updates.
 - Dr. Shabazz reports that she will be having a meeting with her board of directors from TCC this week, but that there is nothing new to report.
- Video visits are happening. Kiosks are being worked on at the HQ level.