Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details
Facility: Washington Corrections Center for Women
Date and Time: 08/05/2020, 12:00PM

Attendees
- Jason Rice, Babs Roberts, Renee Hafzalla, Cindy Robinson, Paul Gillespie, Kay Nelson
- Jo Wofford, Paula Chandler, Bill Swain, Vaaia Gaines, Melissa Johnson, Caroline Melhuish, Janice Zimmerman, Angee Schrader, Paige Perkinson

Weekly Update
- Data
  - Current facility numbers, including pregnant women and babies? 759, 3 children and 4 Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals
  - Are any of these women in units that are quarantined or locked down? No
  - How many are federal prisoners? 0
- Health/Medical
  - Numbers in isolation/quarantine? 3 ISO 26 Quarantine
  - Which units have women in quarantine? RDC A Pod, SEG, MSU
  - Numbers tested? All in quarantine have been tested twice and have received two negative tests. We are also currently testing all incoming patients twice.

Pre-Submitted Questions
Question 1
We understand that recently a regularly scheduled generator test knocked out the Wi-Fi and kiosks. While most areas came back up relatively quickly, the Hill (specifically J unit) spent more than a week without Wi-Fi or access to kiosks. It’s also our understanding that this happens (knocking out the kiosks and Wi-Fi) almost every time there is a generator test. What can you do to eliminate this from happening? Can we consider not conducting these tests now when JPay players and kiosks are literally the only method of outside communication some of the women have?

Answer
- The load tests are requested quarterly per policy 250.200 Emergency Generator Use and are mandatory. We have to comply with the policy.

Question 2
We would like clarity on the strip search issue. We’ve had a number of responses to this question that have consistently been that NO strip searches are happening at WCCW. Recently we were told they are happening for workers going into and out of Z building.

Answer
- There are circumstances in which we will still need to strip search an incarcerated individual, as our body scanner does not lend itself to every situation.
- DOC policy still requires that wen an individual moves into a secure housing unit they must be strip searched. When there is a fight within the facility, they are searched and changed into different clothing to keep everyone safe. Other reasons include a person entering or leaving a secure housing unit for work, women who go out on medical/dental trips.
- Our body scanner is used for all other searches, to include incoming transports, outside work crews, before medical transports and all kitchen workers.
Additional Questions

Question 1
How are we doing on the recovering/re-open?

Answer

• ASP Swain reported that he has received safe start corrections step-by-step approach proposals from the all program areas and will be scheduling a meeting with the stakeholders of these programs to discuss.

Comments/Closing

• Babs shared with the group, “on behalf of all the women, they are happy with the fresher food that is being provided from the gardens. The women are really happy and enjoying it!”