

# WSP LFC COVID-19 Teleconference Notes

Date 4/13/2020 Time 2:00 p.m.

## Meeting Attendees

**Department/Facility Co-Chair:** Steve Barker

**LFC Co-Chair:** Anna Ivanov

**Secretary LFC:** Susan Wade, taking notes

**Members Present:** Don Holbrook, Rob Jackson, Bill Copland, Melissa Hutcherson, Wendy Dubinsky, Dean Dubinsky

**OCO and DOC HQ:** No Attendees

The following questions were addressed:

- Please provide the most up to date stats on the following:
  - # of men in quarantine - **19**
  - # of men in isolation - **20**
  - # of men tested including results – **63; 61 negative, 2 pending**
  - # of staff currently screened out – **267, 40-45 still out based on second level screening**

The previous week the number was 40+ men for both sections, isolation and quarantine. The numbers dropped significantly.

### **Monroe demonstration impact on WSP**

- **How is WSP leadership developing reasonable medical protocols and guiding staff interactions with prisoners so that what happened at MCC does not happen at WSP? Has WSP taken any extra measures?**

*Superintendent Holbrook explained that unlike MCC, there are no dorm style units at WSP. The dynamics are different. The communication is key, WSP leadership team continues to discuss and communicate with staff and the incarcerated. There are protocols and screening that takes place. If changes are necessary, they discuss why and move who needs to move. Hopefully the virus doesn't enter but the facility planning is based on the worst outcome.*

### **Isolation/quarantine**

- **Why the incarcerated population in quarantine are not allowed any of their personal property such as books, food, hot pot, TV? This seems unnecessarily punitive. Is there a rationale underlying this practice? Depriving inmates of all of the things that they normally rely on to get through their day (now that all programs have been eliminated), can cause reluctant to report symptoms, which would likely increase the risk of transmission within the population. Why can't WSP mitigate these punitive aspects of medical, non-disciplinary isolation?**

*The incarcerated are allowed personal items in the isolation and quarantine units. They are allowed a brown bag and can take what items will fit in a bag, i.e. commissary, toiletries, address book, tablet. They may take what they can carry in the bag and /or whatever else they can carry.*

*The men in quarantine are quarantined in their own cells so they have their personal property and they do have medical interaction daily.*

*Staff secured 15-17 additional T.V.'s and placed in the units, for those who did not bring one. In addition, staff stated they are providing word searches, mind teaser type activities, they are provided to the CUS and copies should be available. Superintendent Holbrook mentioned that staff has made Channel 13 a movie channel that supports 5 movies, that will change weekly and Channel 12, the internal channel, is providing updates to the COVID -19 protocols.*

- **It is our understanding that WSP only isolates or quarantines those who exhibit overt symptoms of infection. Given the fact that COVID-19 can be transmitted from asymptomatic carriers (silent spreaders), it seems clear that only isolating/quarantining persons with overt symptoms does not prevent the virus from reaching the population inside. In the last meeting we heard the Assoc. Supt. say that WSP can't quarantine new arrivals due to space and capacity limitations. Wouldn't it be better to aggressively address that problem, and quarantine or isolate all new arrivals for 14 days -- and cope with the logistical challenges presented by that practice -- than to be coping with hundreds of simultaneous infections within the population?**

*The CCJ's do not have contact with the general population, as stated by Superintendent Holbrook. There are two tiers where the men are held and then transfer to a 14-day quarantine. Other transfers are being maintained at the sending end facility, so therefore they have been subject to medical attention and screening. Arrivals are then screened before assigning unit.*

*A DOC memorandum was written that on April 6 - April 27<sup>th</sup> two facilities are suspending transfers, Monroe and Stafford. It was stated that Stafford is full, and that transferring must continue to reduce overcrowding.*

#### **Masks and other supplies**

- **Why aren't staff required to wear masks? Haven't we all been instructed that wearing a mask reduces spread? One asymptomatic, but infected staff member who decides to forego wearing a mask could introduce the virus to the entire population. Expired N95 masks issued to WSP staff are still effective but need to be checked to assure the elastic bands, nose fittings, etc. are in good working order. Is this being done?**

*As of Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, it will be mandatory that all Staff wear a facial cover. The facility was issued 600 of the expired N95 masks. Staff has been told to wear a facial cover, a barrier whether it is a dust mask, homemade mask, medical or other "backyard type" mask. The isolation and quarantine unit staff will wear appropriate medical/ surgical PPE's. Superintendent Holbrook stated that it is paramount that cleaning be continued at the level staff and the incarcerated have reached to significantly help reduce the spread. Handwashing, cleaning, and more cleaning this is what combats this virus. Walking into the units they smell clean, that is huge. Everyone is doing what they can to keep things clean.*

- **SPL is making face masks and face shields. Can you tell us what they have produced to date and how DOC plans to utilize these masks and shields?**

*SPL has made face shields for ST. Mary's Medical Center and donated those. Darrin (Medical Director) has about 250 additional made. The masks being made are not medical grade. SPL has made approximately 1000 masks. DOC has ordered 42,000 Bandana Style mask kits for the incarcerated. WSP will not be issuing masks to the incarcerated population until there is enough supplies for everyone. The masks will create two barriers – the staff masks and the incarcerated masks.*

- **Will the incarcerated be allowed to wear face masks when outside their cells, in chow lines, day rooms, yard and other community areas? It's advised we all wear face masks when out in the public. How can we assure our loved ones can follow the guidelines established to fight this disease?**
  - Bandannas and directions for making a mask out of the bandannas are being distributed to the population. The expectation is that they will wear the "Masks" any time they are outside of their cells.
- **Secretary Sinclair said in his most recent press conference that hand sanitizer is available for incarcerated to use. Has WSP been able to procure hand sanitizer?**

*Yes, alcohol based hand sanitizer "stations", the pump kind and hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed throughout the facility. Staff has designated areas for the 60 units that should be coming next week. The sanitizer stations will be in dayrooms, general populated areas, and common areas by the doors within visibility of the staff. **Update: The hand sanitizer was delivered to the facility on Friday 04/17/20 and is immediately being installed.***

- **How is the soap holding out? Are these regular size bars or hotel size? Will they need to have more soap over time?**

*The men were issued 2-3.5 oz. bars of antibacterial soap last week. DOC has ordered more, and it will be available. Commissary soap is also available; however, it is not antibacterial.*

#### **JPay**

- **Can DOC try to assure video visit kiosks are available and working? Seems to be more than just bandwidth issues?**

*Staff mentioned they were aware that JPAY had added additional times for video visits, however we are all at the mercy of JPAY. Staff is continuing to call the techs for maintenance with issues and complaints. The techs themselves are overwhelmed with the amount of issues. The audio/video not being sync'd is the major complaint.*

*It was asked if JPAY could install additional kiosks during this time - it would be up to JPAY and that would not guarantee any better quality. Discussion continued regarding the video fails and processes of credit for such fails.*

*Anna was asked about the status of the RFP - technology upgrade. She stated that the team is continuing to work on the specifics and that realistically if a contract is reached by September, installation and implementation would probably not occur until January 2021.*

*The discussion continued relating to the kiosk access in the isolation units – currently the men are not allowed to use the phone/kiosk in isolation. The time out of the cell is focusing on the showers. With this there are several protocols related to sanitizing and sanitation. Which takes added time. We have placed*

*cleaner in cells and showers, the added cleaning aids in reducing exposure, proper PPE must be used for routine cleanings. The goal is to get them in and out and back to isolation/quarantine.*

*The question was raised that "if the men are allowed to take their tablets to isolation and quarantine – how will they be able to sync the tablet as needed?" The tablets require syncing every 30 days - quarantine periods are 14 days. IMU north does not have a kiosk, IMU south may have one.*

*Isolation is in the IMU unit; those quarantined are in Echo and are self-quarantined – outside of general population, quarantined to the cell, food is brought to them and they have masks.*

*Staff mentioned the added measures being taken for the isolation units to assist in making contact with loved ones for those who cannot at this time. Phone calls been made to families letting them know where their loved ones are and status.*

*Family members thanked the facility staff for their due diligence. Thankful that the facility and staff for continuing to be careful and deliberate in the actions to protect our loved ones.*

*Statistics for Walla Walla County were mentioned – 21 positive cases*

*Family inquired to the availability of fundraisers during this time – not a good time, the staffing piece, not enough staff to conduct extra activities at this time, the risk of contamination, the screenings of the vendors, or even businesses not up to the task.*

*Members exchanged thanks - Superintendent thanked everyone for the way our group handles itself and without conflict and drama. The key is working together.*