

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WSP / Teleconference

Date and Time: 2/23/2021, 1:00PM

Attendees

- Associate Superintendent Steve Barker, AA3 Carrie Meyer, Sgt. Rocky Beal, Acting Chair Wendy Dubinsky, Dean Dubinsky OCO Caitlin Roberts, OCO Caroline Melhuish, DOC Paige Perkinson, Secretary Hattie Wolf, Anna Ivanov, Francis Storandt, Co-Chair Tina Wright, Steve Kuegler

Weekly Update

Please provide the most up-to-date stats:

The website numbers are accurate. WSP is no longer in outbreak status.

The incarcerated individuals are moving in co-horts by unit in the EC and by quads in the WC and SC

Submitted Questions

Due to COVID lockdowns, CI shifted to serving two boats per weekend instead of one. Local CI staff are telling prisoners this is going to be a permanent shift, which is problematic both in terms of compliance with Executive Order 13-06 nutritional efforts and in terms of creating discontent in the population. Food has been a big problem at WSP, as I don't need to remind anyone, and in the past custody staff have expressed frustrations with CI for putting custody staff in potential danger by creating so much discontent over food among the prisoner population. Is WSP leadership reminding CI of this fact?

- Yes. This change was not due to COVID but rather a quarterly change. This change has been approved by the DOC Dietitian and is in line with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans that we are *held to. Inmates with food reactivity to particular items should work *with the Dietician

Other Questions

Is there a way to provide video visit screens?

- Yes. We will work on this. We used to use cardboard that we got from the box factory but that has since shut down. We are working on getting something in place. The JPay screens do not work for this as they have to be attached to the back of a chair.

When new Incarcerated individuals are transferred to WSP, are they quarantined?

- Yes. They spend 14 days in a Transfer Separation area (unit 10 in the EC or Fox in the WC), they are tested twice and if not displaying symptoms they are moved into their final housing destination.

What is the vaccine status?

- We were supposed to receive 300 – 400 doses today. They are being offered to everyone based on the same priority that is used in the general public. We had staff go cell to cell and ask everyone if they would get the vaccine and approximately 60% said they would, another 20-30% said maybe and 10% or so declined. That could all change when they get to the point of getting the vaccine administered but we at least have an approximate number so that we can at least order the vaccines.
- There is supposed to be something out on the Vaccination Dashboard, a memo from Geneva. This will be forwarded.

Are the phones in Victor not working?

- They are working fine to our knowledge. Phones are reported to the I&I.

Video visit over the weekend was good quality! Not sure what is going on with the free visits, there seem to be quite a few who haven't received theirs.

- We have heard there are some issues with the free visits. We had also heard that JPay was going to stop giving them as of the 28th. Some family members were trying to stock pile their visits. JPay will not give more visits if you have free visits still on your books. If we have had to cancel your visit due to scheduling with work or programming, it will be up to you to call or email JPay to make sure you get this visit back or a credit for it.

Have there been any more plans made for visiting in person?

- No. We have a meeting sometime in March, the 16th comes to mind. We anticipate that we will likely start out with no-contact visiting as that was the plan a couple of months ago and then progress at some point to contact visiting. Remember that the previous plan called for very limited visiting in the beginning and that is the last plan that we have.
- Safe Start rules. (more to be announced after the meeting)

Has anyone heard anything more on the Statewide Counsel Rep? Wendy has volunteered if necessary.

- We have not heard anything though we should be moving forward with this and having someone in place to vote on by the next meeting which will be in April.
- Hattie will put something together describing the positive rewards and benefits of filling this position to put out to family and LFC members.

Because Family Services is being "re-purposed", if you feel that their services are not being used to better DOC or could be used better, helping to educate family members of incarcerated, please let your voices be heard. Reach out to HQ.