



# FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Washington State Penitentiary Date: 10/07/2023 Time: 8:30-10:00

Teleconference details: MS Teams Meeting – Local Family Council

<b>Meeting Attendees</b>
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Department/facility co-chair: Brad Bowman Family co-chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/council secretary: Theresa Vanderbeck Family secretary: \_\_\_\_\_


Members present: Carrie Montoya, Loren Taylor, Connie Hollis, Lisa Greene

Non-council member attendees: Brad Bowman, Assoc. Superintendent; Theresa Vanderbeck, CPPC; Jordan Kisling CRT, Scribe

<b>Agenda</b>
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Old business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points	Next Steps
Welcome & Introduction (Brad Bowman)	Introduction of all those in attendance. Agenda Management: Brad Bowman Timekeeper:	
Annual LFC Election	<p>The following positions are open:</p> <p>Historically the council has had higher numbers, but more recently the numbers have been lower. We are working on trying to get more family members involved to increase our numbers to help families and their incarcerated individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Family Co-Chair               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lisa Greene has volunteered to take this spot and per votes has been accepted to this role.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local Family Co-Secretary               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No volunteers on this call, will keep this position open and try again for the next meeting to see if there is any other.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facility SFC Representative               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loren Taylor has volunteered to take this spot as she has held the spot previously and would like to be able to share the amazing things that have been happening at WSP.</li> <li>○ Vote was taken and accepted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• These appointments will begin at the beginning of the new year 2024.</li> </ul>	
CPPC Report Action item	<p>Theresa Vanderbeck:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Budget was officially approved and sent out on 7/24/23.</li> <li>○ Received funds in early August.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to school backpack event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Late August to September 8</li> <li>○ Completed. 39 backpacks picked up during family visits and 58 sent out to students ages 5 to 24. Balance of \$8142. It was decided to mail out backpacks to those whose families live on the other side of the state.</li> <li>○ Hygiene kits and other supplies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fall Events</li> <li>• Trick or Treat for dad, candy and Clerical department is helping make up boxes of things to distribute.</li> <li>• Fall Family Fun during regular visiting hours. Crafts and Games.</li> <li>• Will be ordering individual pies to go to the visiting room in November.</li> <li>• Winter Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the date for the event and more information will be available as time gets closer.</li> <li>○ Games and Christmas crafts during regular visiting hours.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In August 41 volunteers came in and gave 291.58 hours of time.</li> <li>○ Non-religious services: Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and cultural events 87.60 hours.</li> <li>○ Religious services: 203.98 hours.</li> <li>○ Working on recruiting more volunteers to get programs fully running.</li> <li>○ We are working as quickly as possible to get the volunteers processed and back up to speed and returned to the facility.</li> <li>○ The volunteers also help with the dog program to check on the dogs and to bring in supplies.</li> <li>○ The Black Prisoner Caucus is very active in the medium custody units which is run by volunteers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p>2023 2024 WSP IIBF Budget.xlsx</p>
IIBF	<p>Brad Bowman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget for Year 2023-2024 was released.</li> <li>• DAWN TAYLOR EMAILED BUDGET TO CPPCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lydia Shund, is more than willing to work with anyone to look over the budget, to go over, ask questions about the funds, and what kind of things can be bought.</li> <li>○ Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund is made up of returns from Securus, Union Supply and other avenues.</li> <li>○ The facilities get money based on many factors like programming, custody levels and incarcerated individual population numbers.</li> <li>○ Talks about getting some of the money rolled</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">BUDGET2023 2024 WSP IIBF Budget.xlsx</a></p>

	<p>over from the previous years about getting money that wasn't used last year due to covid closures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preplanned events for fiscal years \$62,512 for July 2023 to June 2024, pop up fund's allocation \$488 for a total of about \$63,000.</li> <li>● As CPPC Theresa is in communication with all the other CPPC's in the state, there are about 15-16 of them, they trade ideas, different life experiences, they also look for ideas from other sources.</li> <li>● Will pull ideas from other states when needed, other facilities are doing things like carnivals and picnics and was hoping WSP will investigate doing similar things in the future.</li> <li>● Plans for next year that Mr. Bowman and Theresa will try to step up their game and increase engagement and make things better.</li> <li>● May look into setting up a meeting a couple times a year with the CPPC position to speak about ideas, things that families need or possibilities.</li> </ul>	
Statewide Family Council Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFC meeting July 15, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting minutes from the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting have been uploaded to the doc.wa.gov site under Family &amp; Visitors.</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Family Council   Washington State Department of Corrections</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Above included link has information about Family Councils, Local and Statewide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The last meeting topic was programs which families are very interested in improving.</li> <li>● Better bed project, trying to put individuals in the bed that better fits their needs for reentry and betterment.</li> <li>● Not too many programs currently some things like chemical dependency and education. Brad will give a list of WWCC programs to Lisa G.</li> <li>● They main issues with the facilities were Securus and medical for the most part.</li> <li>● The next meeting is in November and topics will be mental health, medical and introduction of contraband into the facilities (this is a subject that has not been spoken about at previous meetings in the past)</li> </ul>	

New business

Topic	Discussion/Key Points	Next Steps
Amend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Associate Superintendent Bowman recently went to Norway to look at facilities that inspired the Amend project that is currently being run out of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>California, North Dakota, Oregon and spreading to more states across the US.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This program is human centered, practices dynamic security, position change, positive interactions (prosocial) and affects Staff, Incarcerated Individuals, Volunteers, and the community positively.</li> <li>○ The current mortality age for those in corrections is 59, Amend is a way of creating a better environment for those working here and those living here.</li> <li>○ Amend looks to create better connections between incarcerated individuals and corrections personnel, taking away the them versus us mentality. Working together to be more prosocial, ways to be better and make positive changes to increase their chances upon release.</li> <li>○ Resource teams in our IMU are trying to help those that self-isolate getting them to come out of cell and talk to officers, playing cards and getting them to socialize, which allows them to work better with staff.</li> <li>○ It's also about getting individuals to the best custody level for them to succeed. Looking at normalizing conversation between individuals, putting in trees/greenery, color in the units like murals, and breaking up the depressing prison feel to a degree.</li> <li>○ We are never going to be Norway, their system is incredible, but we are not them, but we can take from them and mold it to what works for our facilities.</li> <li>○ We are sending 9 custody staff members to Norway to learn, many of them already display themes in their work that correspond to Amend, they will learn and come back to help and improve our facility by helping others.</li> <li>○ Loren has videos from the Oregon Legislature session when they were given a presentation on the Amend program from Norwegian representatives.</li> <li>○ Amend in the United States started in North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania and California are all taking part at this time and Washington has joined. California is turning their San Quintan prison into their own little Norway to model the program.</li> <li>○ In Washington the Amend project started at SCCC, they started with 15 officers in their IMU</li> </ul>	
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	<p>and educated them in the dynamic security model that is the program. It went so well that the Officers have stated that they would probably leave DOC if the program was removed in the future.</p>	
<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the past WWCC talked about having winery type classes offered but so far these kinds of programs have not happened.</li> <li>○ In Washington state it is mandatory for all incarcerated to obtain at least their GED while incarcerated, we also offer college courses and trades craft classes to those that are interested and qualify.</li> <li>○ Unsure what the number of those incarcerated individuals with college degrees is compared to those that have only high school diplomas/GED's or those that have no education.</li> <li>○ One member's son has been taking classes for something like 16 years, he's currently in HVAC and has a 2-year degree and working on another. She doesn't get why other are wondering about education at the facilities on places like Facebook. Maybe there is a way to get more information out to family about the programs available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lauren is looking to work with legislation to work on RCW's to try and keep individuals at the lowest custody level including home monitoring or re-entry/work release. Looking into making reentry plans specific to each person, starting from the very beginning when they are first admitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BAR unit programming, things available for them for re-entry since some of them will be released, maybe having access to SPL on a different shift, or something like HVAC.</li> <li>○ Associate Bowman will get with the Unit Supervisors and staff in the BAR area to challenge them on finding solutions for better programming options.</li> <li>○ Our population is just about 2000, due to the gang activity and staffing some of the programming has been hard to get people into.</li> <li>○ Do we have anything like gang intervention at the facility? We don't that we know of, it's kind of been status que, there are opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>for them to work with IIU to get out of the gangs. Loren will look at resources to see if something can be started maybe to help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compassionate prison project, we are looking at wanting to wrap it into the Amend project and get these things worked into the normal every day of the job. It will take longer with the older generation of officers.</li> <li>○ Maybe have a mentor/mentee like program to increase positive relationships with staff, there are parts in dynamic security that follow these models. There are programs like this in the works.</li> </ul> <p>A vision for the future having prisons work more like communities on the outside, even though we are a community in a way because we have our own hospital, food service, and even internal jail we still have officers who work thirty years and pass away shortly after retiring, or we have incarcerated that get out and come back because we didn't give them what they needed, or even worse the kids of those who were here in the past come in incarcerated and the cycle isn't broken.</p> <p>Staff want to do the right thing but haven't been taught in the best way how to do that. We need to help them have a more positive light, to have creativity.</p>	
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Back in December we have 100 true vacant positions at the facility, we are currently at about 36 positions.</li> <li>● We are actively recruiting and hope that have those 36 positions filled by the end of the year or beginning of next year.</li> </ul>	
Visiting	<p>Loren was massively impressed with WSP during a recent visit, she's been to most facilities in the state, she said for the first time that she felt comfortable coming into the facility. That the staff were great. Did notice that there is not a huge kid's area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some other facilities closer to Olympia and Seattle got a grant to work with a children's museum over there to upgrade their children's areas in their visiting rooms.</li> <li>● We do have a lodging and transportation program run by DOC, you have to apply 20 days before your visit, once you are approved you pay up front for your visit and then after you email your receipt to DOC and they will send you a reimbursement of \$50 dollars.</li> <li>● Loren has a contact in hospitality in Walla Walla they are looking into maybe a hotel discount program set up for those that come in for visiting at WSP and need to stay at hotels, who could benefit from discounted</li> </ul>	

	<p>rates. She is also going to see about legislation getting more money than the \$50 dollars for the DOC Transportation/lodging assistance program as it is just not monetarily feasible to every family to be able to afford to visit especially if they are coming from the other side of the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At Connell (CRCC), there are groups like churches that would help with paying for hotels, maybe some kind of organization that can help with offsetting the cost of visiting.</li> <li>● For visiting wondering about the difference between parents coming to visit their children that are incarcerated verses the children of the incarcerated coming to visit. Possible help for those that are elderly that come to visit and are working their way through coming into the facility and feeling scared or hesitant of what the facility is going to be like.</li> <li>● Most of the hotel's prices have gone up drastically on the weekends in the previous years. For some people you need an extra job just to come and visit.</li> <li>● EFV's, some other facilities run multiple EFV's at the same time, 2 EFV's are used for storage, one for staging and one for actual EFV's. what would it take to get all of them running at the same time, or even have the approval process time to be decreased. May have been a need to upgrade the units, might be something that IIBF funds could be used for. Associate Bowman will get with Sgt. Harvey to see why things run the way they do.</li> <li>● Asked about possibly having a separate team just for the processing and running of the EFV program to increase use and days open.</li> </ul>	
LFC Recruiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maybe during intake at the facility, having a talk with the incarcerated individual about a family member or friend they could email with, to send information about the LFC and get more people involved that way.</li> <li>● The facility has been sending out kiosk messages to the population, letting them know about LFC and asking them to help with getting their family members involved.</li> <li>● An idea was maybe an email for WSP family council that can be accessed from the website, maybe something with a message like 'if you are an approved visitor and would like to get involved, please send your information to this email address.'</li> <li>● We do have information in our visiting rooms, we may want to investigate saving the current one posted as they are old enough to be of historic relevance, and we</li> </ul>	

	<p>might want to see about getting update information put up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An idea was put forth to maybe create small business card sized items that can be given back with IDs at the end of visiting, maybe they could have an email address for the LFC or contact information for the CPPC or Associate Superintendent in charge of visiting/LFC meetings.</li> </ul>	
<p>Round Table Action items</p>	<p><b>Fox Unit OCL Meeting Notes</b> Talked about the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unit ice cream fundraiser that we are going to try and set up.</li> <li>○ Unit murals</li> <li>○ Basketball and Hand ball tournaments</li> <li>○ Unit Garden'</li> <li>○ BPC group-</li> <li>○ Window coverings</li> <li>○ Secures issues.</li> <li>○ Unit cleanness</li> <li>○ Slow walking when we are closing dayrooms and yard issues.</li>   <li>○ We have tier reps in every unit, the numbers for these have fallen off and Associate Bowman has goals in the future to try and get more incarcerated involved. He has an idea of an advisory community from each section of the facility. To get them involved with our meeting, probably not all custody levels at each meeting but maybe one section at a time from one meeting to the next.</li> </ul> <p>Families helping staff with improvements to help their loved ones in the future, that hasn't really been a thing in the past, having families uplifting staff and appreciating their work to give thanks to those that are helping their incarcerated loved ones. Even giving positive feedback will be helpful for the staff, knowing they are doing a good job. Push for the cost of vending machine items to be reduced, because not having a lot left over to pay for food.</p> <p><b>Kudos to Katrina Suckow about getting the BAR shack up and running.</b></p> <p><b>Kudos to Brad Bowman for the newsletter and improvements to it and what is happening her at the facility.</b></p>	<p><a href="https://amend.us/">https://amend.us/</a></p>



Next meeting location: WSP MS Teams Date: 12/2/2023 Time: 8:30-10:00

Comments: Please send your Agenda requests with questions to Theresa Vanderbeck at least two weeks prior to the next LFC meeting.

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