



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

June 4, 2020

Joanna Carns
Office of Corrections Ombuds
PO Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Ms. Carns:

The Washington Department of Corrections appreciates the opportunity to the 'OCO Monitoring Visit to Cedar Creek Corrections Center' completed by the Office of Corrections Ombuds.

The Department of Corrections takes the health and safety of the incarcerated population and staff in the Washington Correctional Facilities very seriously. The agency appreciates the opportunity to have your staff tour the Cedar Creek Corrections Center and evaluate the facilities implementation of the protocols and procedures put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information provided by the OCO was useful to ensure the Department of Corrections is doing everything it can to ensure an incarcerated individuals health and safety while incarcerated, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cedar Creek Corrections Center recognizes the importance of protective screens between phones and JPay kiosks. The facility superintendent has created a plan with the facility plant manager to urgently implement installation of protective screens between the JPay kiosks in the Olympia housing unit. The facility will continue to remind the population and staff of the importance of social distancing and wearing face coverings wherever possible in the facility.

We appreciate your team's understanding of the unique implementation across facilities and the addition of policies and procedures being put in place to protect our populations. We will continue to proactively implement precautionary measures as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Moving forward, Washington Department of Corrections will continue to collaborate with the Office of the Corrections Ombuds on any future quality assurance visits.

Sincerely,

Steve Sinclair, Secretary
Washington Department of Corrections