



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

May 29, 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 respond to the ‘OCO Monitoring Visit to Coyote Ridge Corrections Center’ completed by the Office of Corrections Ombuds (OCO).

The Department of Corrections takes very seriously the health and safety of the incarcerated population and staff in the Washington state correctional facilities. The agency appreciates the opportunity to have your staff tour the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center and evaluate the facility’s implementation of the protocols and procedures, especially cleaning and communication tools, 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.

We also 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. The facility will continue to remind staff and the incarcerated of the importance of wearing their face coverings at all times, has purchased and issued new cleaning rags, and will continue to implement any further precautionary measures as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. The facility has recently ordered approximately 2500 new laundry bags that we hope will address the concerns related to laundry being lost. 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