



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

June 5, 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 Stafford 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 Stafford 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 protect the incarcerated populations health and safety while incarcerated, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stafford Creek Corrections Center has one main entrance that is being utilized in their facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. If an individual is to enter the main doors of the facility, they will be directed to enter through the main screening area where the implemented screening is required to be completed prior to their entrance into the facility. The system allows for the facility to manage all entrances to the facility and ensure that all individuals are properly screened prior to their entrance into the facility.

The facility has also implemented many protocols for ensuring social distancing is occurring in all areas of the facility. In the dining area, the incarcerated individuals are only allowed access to the seating area amongst those who are in their specific housing cohorts. The measure helps to alleviate some of the concern of those individuals interacting at the dining tables that don’t allow for the recommended social distancing.

Additionally, the facility has reminded all correctional staff to monitor those individuals in the medical waiting area for compliance of wearing facial coverings and following social distancing protocols. The facility also recognizes that during the time of the OCO monitoring visit the separating screens for JPay kiosks were in production, and since the visit, the facility has been able to install spacing screens between all JPay kiosks throughout 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

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

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forward, Washington Department of Corrections will continue to collaborate with the Office of the Corrections Ombuds on any future quality assurance visits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Sinclair", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Sinclair, Secretary
Washington Department of Corrections