March 13, 2020 phone call notes

Attendees

* Paige Perkinson (DOC)
* Q Turner (OCO)
* Kehaulani Walker (family member – CRCC)
* Matthias Gyde (OCO)
* Wendy Dubinsky (family member – WSP)
* Melody Simle (former family member)
* Family member of CRCC and CCCC
* Stella Spracklin (OCO)
* Shayna (OCO)
* Fred (concerned citizen)
* Dave and Jody Bullard (family member – TRU)
* Kay Crampton (family member – CCCC)
* Loren Taylor (concerned citizen – friend at SCCC)
* Cameron Mathison
* Kara Morgan
* Jessica Johnson
* Alex Bergstrom
* Tony Davis ACLU
* Elisabeth Kingsbury (OCO)
* Elisabeth Hendren – Northwest Justice Project
* Paul Gillespie (family member – WCCW)
* Anna Ivanov (family member – WSP)
* Scout
* Lisa Cameron
* Rachael Seevers (Disability Rights Washington)
* Byron Coates (family member – TRU)
* Joanna Carns (OCO Director)
* Janelle Guthrie (DOC Communications Director)

Call open

Joanna – Greetings to the group

* The purpose of these groups is to ensure the steady flow of critical information from DOC. We will have daily calls at 3:30 each weekday for as long as is needed.
* The basic agenda of the calls will include confirmed cases, then sharing information

Updates on Confirmed Cases

* Only 1 confirmed case- out of Monroe WSR. See DOC’s public information.

Elizabeth Hendren read through the letter that she (with others) sent to DOC with a list of questions.

1. What steps is DOC taking to notify all persons incarcerated by DOC of the symptoms of COVID-19, when and how to request medical attention, and how to prevent the spread of COVID-19?
2. How is DOC Headquarters ensuring that every state prison in Washington is uniformly communicating symptom and prevention information about COVID-19 to incarcerated individuals.

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1. Has DOC tested any incarcerated person to date for COVID-19? Does every state prison have tests to conduct COVID-19 testing? What type of test is it?
2. What steps has DOC headquarters taken to ensure that every prison in the state has quick access to test results for suspected COVID-19 cases?

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1. What is DOC Headquarters’ plan for ensuring all persons who regularly enter the prisons of the evolving recommendations and protocols regarding COVID-19?
2. What is the DOC policy being communicated to DOC entrance staff regarding the protocols of how to screen anyone entering the prison for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure?
3. What is the DOC policy being communicated to DOC entrance staff regarding the protocols of entry if someone attempting to enter the prison reveals that he or she has COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to a confirmed case?
4. Part of WCCW is reportedly under quarantine – what is happening? Has anyone been tested for COVID-19 at WCCW?
5. What is DOC’s plan to keep families connected who can’t afford JPAY/GTL?
6. What cleaning solutions are they using to clean within the facilities?
   1. Can they get extra handsoap? Will DOC provide it, especially to those who are indigent?
7. Can families purchase extra immunity boosters through the Commissary? Emergen-C or elderberry?
8. How will families be notified if their loved one becomes sick?
9. Social distancing practices – some of the prisons across the nation are altering programming, movement, dining schedules – what social distancing practices is DOC implementing and at what point would they implement?
   1. Are they still transporting people in buses?
10. What is the status of negative pressure cells – what are they doing to identify additional cell space for quarantines?
11. What are the plans for supplementing staffing, given the likelihood that staff will need to call off with the closure of schools?
12. Shouldn’t the facility treat as critical everyone who has flu - for example, ten people at WSP have the flu, but no one knows that they don’t have COVID-19. Those people could potentially be contagious. During normal times those people are just sharing rooms and periodically they are checked on. Shouldn’t this be an emergency and take more serious measures?
13. Are they identifying at risk people who are in quarantined units (right now WSR A and B) and moving them? And more largely, are they proactively identifying people who are at risk (immunocompromised, older, etc) and putting them on specific units, taking extra precautions, etc?
14. DOH has been reporting every day the number of people tested and the number coming back positive and negative. Can DOC start reporting the number of incarcerated people tested and the number positive/negative?
15. With the shortages of PPE, is DOC experiencing the shortages and do you have a plan in place for that?
16. DOC is still allowing attorney visits – are they planning advanced screening for them?
17. WSR C was told they can’t use the phones – is that correct?

Longer Term Questions

1. Will DOC be setting up temporary hospitals on the ground? Will they be able to transfer people to ICUs and do mass treatment? These people will be all together.
2. In the worst cases of COVID, people need ventilators – does DOC have ventilators and what is the plan?
3. Tom Fithian is in charge of the COVID response – what does that mean? If he does not have a public health background, who is providing that perspective?
4. What are the names and contact information of the Infection Prevention Committees for each prison?
5. How often is the Infection Prevention Committee meeting in light of the urgency presented by COVID-19?
6. How are the Infection Prevention Committees of each prison working with the Department of Health and county health officials?
7. Will the DOC as the months go on look at low risk people who could be released from prison?

Rachael Seevers (DRW) shared that the advocate community is putting together a letter that relates particularly to the question of extraordinary medical placement and/or Governor’s clemency and looking at using those provisions to target people who are the most high risk, identifying people who are close to home release. The letter will go out relatively shortly.

Janelle Guthrie (DOC Communications) joined and in a response to a question, indicated that Steve is working with telecommunications vendors to reduce the rates so that people can still communicate with loved ones.

Janelle confirmed that she believes that some people have been quarantined at WCCW but there is a difference between those who are symptomatic and those who are quarantined as a precaution. She will need to find out more information and get back.

People who are quarantined at MCC are on modified restricted movement and they are retained in their unit. There are some additional things that they are being allowed to do.

Janelle shared that they are starting enhanced screening for staff – putting protocols in place now for what to do if people refuse, etc. At that point they will consider reopening visitation.

What about attorney visits – those are still going on because they are legally required. Janelle could not answer at the moment about advanced screening for legal professionals.

Timeframe for lift on visitation? No timeframe, but working on it because they know it’s an important part.

WSR in the C unit – told that they cannot make phone calls? Janelle did not have information about that but will find out.

DOH has been reporting every day the number of people tested and the number coming back positive and negative. Can DOC start reporting the number of people tested and the number positive/negative? Janelle said that she would check with the doctors – easier to report out incarcerated individuals who are tested than staff.

With the shortages of PPE, is DOC experiencing the shortages and do you have a plan in place for that? Janelle indicated that she would find out.