Public Meeting 3/25/2020

Message From OCO:

* OCO will be evaluating COVID-19 from a systemic view.
* 2 calls with the policy director for the Governor’s office about concerns that you all have about risk to population during this time.
* Directed community to OCO site to see notes, resources, and OCO progress report on DOC’s implementation of CDC guidelines for correctional facilities mapping out standards and marking where DOC is at with those standards. Detailing DOC progress towards reaching those standards. They included: *recommendations for vaccines, greater protections for at risk, prioritizing those with symptom’s, screening, PEE, suicide risk increase screening, all people temperature screened daily, systematic people tested, audits of sanitization, not touch access to tissues and trashes, hourly cleaning, audit of all sinks(hot water), increase frequenting of laundry, restrict transfers of incarcerated persons unless essential ( see definition), no in person visitation, increase phone and video communications to family, other options for legal work cases, information and transparency, provide addition information in all forms language and ADA accessible often and continuously, health care rounds to give information, regular information to the public, apply all to release planning and more.*
* We will work to confirm if DOC is meeting the CDC standards.

Updates from OCO:

* Jeremy is willing to extend time depending on questions
* Conference calls with individual facilities are being scheduled and were hoping OCO will be on all those calls. Very happy those are happening, 2 have happened today.
* There are no additional cases of COVID-19 from staff and none for population yet.
* 71 tests conducted for incarcerated persons all that have come back so far are negative.
  + Have asked them to be broken down into facility hasn’t yet but will be.
* The first site at WSR is off of quarantine as of today, Units A & B.
* Allegations a CBCC about riot & lock down. The response received is, “one unit is on lockdown due to an assault on a staff member and is under investigation. We don’t know why the assault was committed and if because of the lack of changing their gloves.”
* WCCW- the message that Counselors aren’t essential staff is also not the case. They should be working and present. We know that there has been a large number of staff either sick, called off, can’t pass screening and so on,
* CI workers are now implementing the temperature checking moving forward.

Comments from community:

* ACHH- they are having daily tier rep meetings, recommendations for safety, calling houses out one at a time, older units are going to separate dining and day rooms to keep them safe.
* Having a clinical supervisor on the phone was very helpful during the facility calls. There were questions answered. Even with the soap they have dispensers. The superintendent was on the phone and did a run down of what they are doing.
* At AHCC during family counsel there were told that hepastat is apparently approved for COVID- 19 by the DOH. A community member also went to the CDC website and got their product number and were able to confirm it is approved for use
* SCCC- we had our meeting and they went through 20 items there doing to heighten sanitation. 2 bars to each inmate and increase in rags so they don’t have to use their own towels. Will send it when I disseminate the notes. They just initiated the call to the local family counsel officers not all members.
* SCCC- G unit- 4 new quarantine units with the same amount of people, they are doing cell searches without PPE or changing PPE. Jpay apparently has a phone option on tablet that needs headphones w/ mic can we check into this? -not yet approved my DOC administration, we hope in light of this the phone option will be enabled. Answer-Unfortunately we cannot turn the phone option on for the tablets because phone services are contracted with GTL and the tablets are provided by JPAY; it would be a violation of our contract. But it is something that we are strongly encouraging for the new contract that is being negotiated in case we are ever in this situation in the future.

Concern from community:

* LCC-there is a new person (CO) who is letting out tiers 36 at a time to do phone calls. Which leaves 32 waiting for phones. This is not social distancing. There is a family council meeting at 4pm.
* AHCC some inmates are concerned because they were left outside in the cold at the food factory. Temperatures were then taken on wrist, showing at 80 degrees. This isn’t accurate there has to be an alternative.
* 80% of people tested don’t have a temperature. We need another alternative. Respiratory issues are the best indicator.
* AHCC- in a wet cell they are not provided soap and if so they have to pay for it.
* Time frames of testing – taking so long to get testing results back, why is that? A- Jeremy had shared previously that testing is only being conducted by two or three labs in the community, and there is a backlog for testing results. DOC is in line with everyone else in the community that wants testing results.

Questions from Community:

* How many people are in quarantine at each facility? How many in each facility have been tested? Can you ask each superintendent? This question has been asked continuously.
* Is it possible for the DOC to get their head medical professional to address this counsel to what is the best screening message?
* CBCC doesn’t have family counsel from our understanding can we verify this?
* Are there only 3 phones available to use at Larch? How are they facilitating wait times and lines implementing social distancing?