May 21, 2020

* First death – of a correctional officer at MCC. Unknown whether he absolutely got the virus from the population, but seems likely, and it’s being treated by DOC as their first death.
* Also a number of individuals positive from CRCC.

CRCC monitoring visit last Friday

* Entry screening was done correctly.
* Almost all staff and incarcerated were wearing masks.
* Attended tier rep meeting and met with them independently.
* Went to C unit and the veterans pod.
* Observed kitchen area and individuals were cleaning the kitchen. Operating hot morning, cold lunch boat, hot dinner.
* Observed Sage East, which is under ongoing protection protocols for the elderly population. Observed and spoke to people in Sage West. The Sage West people expressed concern about the people in Sage East, that wifi isn’t working, that GTL and JPAY isn’t working. Every incarcerated person said that their JPAY/GTL wasn’t working.
* Toured Willow – temporary housing in the camp. Also housed in the EFVs – the people said they really liked being in the EFV trailers. Two people were not thrilled with being in Willow, but most people were. They had a TV and popcorn.
* Met with tier reps – consistent frustration with the poor quality of laundry bags. Problem with rags – they have them in the morning, but by the afternoon they don’t have them. When meeting with them independently, some said it was all bad, some said there was tension and frustration. In the LFC call that morning, there was a conversation about is CRCC is on a lockdown and Uttecht said no. So OCO asked the tier reps whether it feels like it’s on a lockdown and the incarcerated said no.
* IMU – individuals who had been contact traced. Of the seven who spoke to Caitie, three were there because of contact tracing with a COVID-positive individual. All seven confirmed that they had been tested. One said that he had received a negative test, and the rest did not know the results at the time. Most have since learned that they are COVID and they have been transferred to AHCC. Several said that they were symptomatic. All seven reported that they had only showered one time. All said that their cells were clean and all said that they had communicated through staff – DOC staff called the family member and read off the information that the incarcerated had written. The staff had written the response.
* Finished with a conversation with Uttecht and Sawyer and we also have had a phone call since with

MCCW Monitoring Visit also last Friday

Joanna read the executive summary from the draft report:

* Throughout the OCO monitoring visit, normal interactions were observed between DOC staff and incarcerated individuals. The overall atmosphere among DOC staff and the incarcerated population appeared standard. Incarcerated individuals and DOC staff were all masked and practicing social distancing. Some incarcerated individuals were playing cards, watching TV and using J-Pay. The tier reps are meeting daily with their CUS in each unit.
* The facility appeared clean and orderly. Porters were observed cleaning throughout the facility. Bottles of Hepastat and heavy-duty cleaner were observed widely available throughout the facility. Bleach was available upon request at the officer station in two of the three units. Bear Unit had a cleaning schedule listed on the dry erase board. We were told by the incarcerated population that Bear and Mission Units are deep cleaning twice a shift with Gold Unit deep cleaning once a shift.
* OCO staff observed 100% compliance with DOC staff wearing face coverings (fabric cloth coverings, surgical masks, etc.) and 100% compliance with the incarcerated population wearing face coverings. The incarcerated population was given two masks each and the authorization to make more. They are allowed to wash them in the sink or in laundry. They were all given free antibacterial soap. Hand sanitizer is located in the gym and periodically in pill line and mainline.
* While two out of the three units have been able to lower the population and socially distance (Bear and Gold), the Mission Unit that houses Therapeutic Community has steadily stayed at a high capacity. When someone exits the program, their place is immediately filled. To attempt to socially distance, this unit has converted the visitation room and a large programming room into a dorm like setting.
* DOC staff has tried to keep morale high among the incarcerated population by providing different extra activities. They have added trivia games and bingo with the opportunity to win small prizes and brought in ice cream, popcorn and popsicles to distribute on different days of the week. All of the population is allowed to participate in this.
* The incarcerated population is not allowed to eat canteen in the dayrooms. They must eat the canteen food items in their rooms. DOC staff relayed this is because they do not want the incarcerated to take their masks off in the dayroom. The incarcerated do, however, take their masks off to eat in the dining hall.
* OCO staff asked if there were any infractions or behavioral observations being written for the population not wearing masks or adhering to social distancing. The answer from both DOC staff and the population was no. OCO was informed the Superintendent has specifically requested that the population should only be reminded if found not following social distancing and/or PPE guidelines.

MCC Monitoring Visit (today)

* Joanna just completed it so am still getting thoughts together. Overall, it was an improvement over the last visit. Joanna only visited SOU; another team (Q and Celeste) visited TRU and MSU. Joanna attended the tier rep groups and then met with them separately. They indicated that most things were going well with regard to face coverings, social distancing, but relayed some areas for improvements that Joanna shared with the Superintendent.
* Toured E unit – very clean, everyone single celled, good spacing, all signs posted, people had masks. Probably the best case scenario to stop the spread of coronavirus.
* Toured the medical area and the kitchen. All appeared clean, everyone wore face coverings, etc. Joanna ate the lunch meal, which was actually quite good. It was the teriyaki chicken meal over brown rice – very tasty, appeared healthy – came with a biscuit, a salad/coleslaw, a handful of carrots that were fresh and had a crunch, and a banana. It was plenty of food, good array of fresh fruit and vegetables.
* Went to the quarantine and isolation units, which were in the IMU. It was an improvement over the E unit in TRU, but there were still problems. The CUS touring with me had informed me of some of the privileges that would be afforded, but when we toured, many were not being followed or the guys didn’t know they could request them. For the quarantine, they were supposed to get showers daily, but they were only given three times a week. They did not know they could request recreation. The isolation unit continues to be one where the individuals are in need of emotional support and mental distraction. They expressed the need for basic creature comforts. The primary want was to be able to use the phone to talk to their loved ones, which would help with their mental health as well.

Information OCO received regarding Reynolds Work Release Center’s handling of positive COVID-19 cases:

1. Regarding treatment of those residents at Reynolds who are COVID-positive.  After the positive diagnosis the resident is provided a cell phone and if at the time of a positive diagnosis they are housed in a double room they are re-housed to a single room.   Additionally, residents are then provided a key to their own bathroom (ADA), and their meals are delivered to their rooms, and staff retrieve and deliver any medication that may be needed.   Each resident is called every 2 hours by custody staff (during waking hours) for a health and welfare check. Residents can also call if they have issues or need any assistance.  Because some residents do not have a pre-established primary care provider, arrangements were made with a community partner to provide tele-med appointments in order to provide medical services for the residents and inquire if they need any additional care, prescribe medication/refill prescriptions (we would pick them up at a local pharmacy) and determine the asymptomatic date (the date they are symptom free).  Additionally, residents can also utilize the process of calling the Harborview Medical Center to speak with a consulting nurse to obtain medical services.  This service is explained to all residents as part of their orientation when entering the facility.

Reynolds currently has only one COVID-positive resident as of 5/20/20.

As far as quarantine status – when they had to quarantine, the CCS met with residents on each floor and explained that the facility was being placed on quarantine status and what actions they would be taking to ensure their health and safety.  She also let the residents know that they still had the same access to medical care and that was not going to be impacted by the quarantine.  The CCO’s worked with the residents who had already set up routine doctor appointments to see if they could facilitate tele-med appointments in place of in-person appointments.  The CCO’s have been picking up  prescriptions from the pharmacy for each resident as requested.  Each resident was moved into a single room, and they then co-horted floors (meaning each floor lived together, ate together, and had recreation time together. This strategy allowed for minimal affect if they had to re-quarantine residents, as it would only have to do those particular floors as opposed the entire facility.  They have implemented hand sanitizing stations at the front desk and also at the entrance of the dining room for use when they come in to eat.  They also are sanitizing all high-touch surfaces every hour with approved cleaners by headquarters and the Centers for Disease Control.  They have gone to even/odd use of the dayroom and phones in order to increase social distancing.  They reduced the number in the dining room to ½ our usual number.  They eliminated the salad bar (these are now pre-prepared and packaged) and went to single serve condiments as well as disposable (but recyclable) utensils and extended meal service times.  During quarantine status, they are doing twice per day screening and temperature checks of all residents who remain on quarantine status.