

**Family Advisory Board Meeting**  
**with MDOC Administrator, Kyle Kaminski**

Tuesday 7/28/2020

Agenda Items

**1. Proposed Change in Funding as it relates to MDOC, programming, etc.:**

The removal of State dollars for operating expenses are being replaced by the COVID-19 Federal Funds in addition there are some canceling of Physical Plan Projects as Contractors are not able to come at this time. Some positions in the Education Program are not being currently filled to offset the funding shift. The filling of the above positions is not impactful this year; however, if these reductions continue for the next year's budget, this will possibly become impactful. Next year's budget officially begins October 1, 2020.

**2. Is MDOC requesting or mandating to Securepak that they only process so many orders per week or per month. Can orders be filled as they come in.**

Kyle will follow up on this matter because this should not be happening. However, Kyle noted that if someone was positive for COVID-19 Securepak was being asked to hold those boxes as those individuals could have possibly been transferred to another Correctional Facility as a result of having a Positive test result.

**3. Visitation plans - video calling, tablets (GTL, Pilot sites) -The Video Calling is underway.**

The 7 selected Pilot Sites will become functioning and operable at the latest October 2020. After the trial run of the Pilot Sites the plan will move to making this option available to all Correctional Facilities Statewide. Calls will be 16 cents per minute with a maximum of a 30-minute Video Call. The committee is in the process of looking at scenarios related to this new process and they are open to all suggestions that the FAB may have. Some discussions were brought up regarding scheduling of the Video Calls and this will very well include once in person visits resume to schedule the visit. Other conversation included would only persons listed on the approved visiting list be allowed to visit or is it open to everyone, what if a person is on restriction for visits how will they handle these issues. Additional questions were brought up regarding handling of dropped calls or frozen screens if someone uses their cell phones or home computers? Further conversation discussed listing on MDOC website what type of equipment will be required to participate in the Video Calls.

#### **4. Sweltering temperatures within the cells, no ventilation, access to ice and cold water, fans. What are the plans to ensure that people are not having heat related health matters?**

Kyle will investigate this matter as well. He stated he is not familiar with the usage of a 3speed fan vs a 2-speed fan however he will find out and report back. It was further asked if possible, families are willing to purchase the fans to ensure that their loved ones are accommodated regarding the heat and sweltering conditions if this would be allowed. In addition, Kyle addressed the ice machines and them not properly functioning. He stated that all facilities have been told to ensure that water and ice are available to all Prisoners. If ice machines are not working properly and we become aware of this matter he asked that the FAB would report this to him.

#### **5. How is the MDOC addressing the Pandemics (Racial Injustice and COVID-19) that are impacting the world in the communities and within MDOC.**

Kyle reported that MDOC has at most 20 prisoners positive for COVID-19 statewide. He did report that Muskegon and Kent County has had an upswing in reported positive cases. This is true within the Communities as well as the Correctional facilities in those areas and they are keeping watch on those numbers. Kyle went on to report that now RGC in Lansing is now the designated area to house positive prisoners ONLY. Prisoners are quarantined for 14 days up to 30 days requiring that they have 2 negative test results before they are considered safe to return to the facility from where they came or safe to move to a new facility based on their level of need. He stated that if a person is transferred there because of a positive test result once they are cleared more than likely they will return to the facility from where they came. If a prisoner needs a different type of setting for either Medical or Mental Health related issues that prisoner will be transferred to a facility that can better accommodate their needs.

Kyle noted that additional trainings are upcoming related to the racist practices that they (MDOC Administration) now realize exists within the facilities and a strong stance and statement has been made to the Wardens and Deputy Wardens regarding such practices and how they will not be tolerated. If reports are made regarding such practices those specific facilities will be addressed and dealt with accordingly. Further conversation was had regarding tracking of such behaviors related to specific correctional officers. In addition, Lois asked what else will be done because telling them has fallen on deaf ears. It was brought up regarding cards being filed of prisoners and possibly families to give recognition for those CO's who are doing a great job as well as acknowledging those CO's who are not. Kyle noted that he met with his staff and there was discussion regarding asking some very honest questions of prisoners and parolees to determine if the MDOC are meeting their needs and or their expectations. This should also be asked of families as well. There was additional conversation regarding tutorial trainings for prisoners that is displayed on the TV monitors throughout the facilities regarding SSA, working will receiving SSA benefits,

budgeting, how to obtain citizenship and banking just to list a few. Kyle is interested in receiving comments from the Doodle Poll that Tiffany Walker and Lois created on CPR's website where families responded with 53 complaints and or concerns. I will forward these complaints to Kyle.

#### **6.) Social Security Benefits access for Parolees-**

Kyle is open to this and working on this for those prisoners who could utilize this assistance. He states that it will not happen overnight however he would like to explore this more and I offered to share information with him.

#### **7.) Health Care needs and concerns how are they being addressed during Covid-19: dental care, mental health, primary care and or surgeries.**

Kyle stated that only Emergency matters are being addressed currently. Routine Care will be occurring within the next few weeks.

#### **8.) Welcoming sign for visitors with the list of Chain of command at each prison, what to expect per facility for new families. i.e. being processed in, clothing attire, what to expect since the changes of COVID-19.**

This could be done via MDOC website now. These things are on the back burner for right now until in person visits resume. However, the question was asked regarding the Authorization forms being placed throughout the facilities to ensure that they could be easily obtained by those who needed them. In addition, Kyle stated he will check on this as typically when such forms are out people use them as scrap paper and not for what they were intended for.

Kyle stated that he likes having the monthly meetings with the FAB as this makes concerns and responses to the concerns real time and are now being addressed. He stated he can schedule future meetings out either on a Tuesday or Wednesday either 2pm or 3pm just to let him know.