



COVID-19 Behind the Walls

Prisoner Reports Dated May 11-14, 2020

5/14/20 KB ERDCC:

CONSTITUENT SERVICES - Chris Nyman (573) 526-2695. Call this guy. He says that Housing Unit 10 at ERDCC is being used to quarantine prisoners who are suspected of having COVID-19.

5/13/20 MC SECC

*****Message sent 5/13/2020 at 12:56*****

As the safety and well-being of staff and offenders are always our primary concern, the decision has been made to extend the suspension of offender visits until June 18, 2020. We will continue to monitor the public health crisis of COVID-19 and continue to assess the reinstatement of offender visitation. Recently we asked institutional staff as well as offender committees for ideas on how to reinstate visits in a safe manner. I have to tell you that I am very impressed with the suggestions from both groups. Thank you for taking the time to provide awesome feedback! This information has been compiled and will be used in the assessment of reinstatement of offender visitation as soon as we can safely do so.

Thank you all for your perseverance and patience during this difficult time. It has been hard on everyone, but your efforts are working. We have COVID-19-positive offenders in only one institution. Our success at preventing further outbreaks is due to your efforts (staff and offenders) to social distance as much as possible and clean and sanitize the institutions. Again, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding. I assure you visiting will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. We knew we would have to work together to be successful, and you have done that.

Job well done!

Jeff Norman, Director of Adult Institutions

Offender note:

I know damn good and well that COVID-19 is at SECC. This would mean SECC is the "only in one institution" he describes. What do other sources say? We floated the visitation idea of social distancing and open the visits up to everyday of the week. Family must make an appointment to visit 24 hours prior to visit day minimum. First come on appointment first served. If a family makes an appointment 10 days out and visits fill up then those don't get scheduled. There can be a stand-by list in case of cancelation. Missing scheduled visits more than twice a month suspends visit by that person who makes appointment. On Saturday and Sunday priority also includes distance traveled. Open up outdoor visitation areas with playgrounds.

5/12/20 SG FCC

Hope you're all doing well. It was a long weekend... I really wish I could have

spoken with my mom, but it's impossible with all that's happening in Nursing Homes now, unless I'm able to get released.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to email you back sooner... All of our mail and emails go through our mailroom which was closed Friday because it was Missouri's Truman Holiday.

Regretfully, I don't have Internet Access, so I'm unable to fill out these Civil Rights Organizations' forms electronically, such as Missouri ACLU, St. Louis MacArthur Justice Center, and Arch City Defenders have online. If you have time, would you contact them and anyone else you all think could help about the following very serious problems? I'd be eternally grateful for any assistance because of the urgent need of their help.

My friend received two responses from Central Office/Constituent Services last Thursday to my concerns on what is happening here, and what they are saying isn't always the same as what is really happening. I and others deal with this all the time and it just takes asking a few simple questions to get to the truth. Which can make a big difference when Friends, Family and others ask, rather than when we try.

First would be: Why is FCC moving several people into and out of Housing Units like the Open bays of H.U. #25 out of and over to H.U. #7 as they were moving them around last Wednesday and the week before, even although Constituent Services at Central Office said the FCC is under a "Viral Containment Policy" and isn't moving inmates around? Being that they have now been made aware this is happening, will it be immediately stopped from continuing?

Second, if Central Office believes there are no cases here, then how many Staff and Inmates been tested for Covid19 to determine this? Especially being that is the only way to know, and being that one could be asymptomatic and highly contagious with it, although never showing any symptoms? Unfortunately, there are Staff here coming into work who readily admit they've been recently ill (or) are at work while not feeling well? Are they being tested or are they just having their temperatures checked? Which cannot determine if they have it (or) if they are highly contagious?

Third, why isn't Staff required to follow basic CDC Guidelines of 'Social Distancing' inside and outside of work (or) to wear the Masks given to them while at work, being that 99.9% of them are doing neither?

Fourth, what is Central Office doing to be more prepared for the much more (contagious and deadly) mutated Second Wave of Coronavirus coming in a few months in the Fall, being that Staff is failing to follow basic CDC Guidelines now?

Fifth, what are they doing to protect those with Underlying Health Issues and Elderly who can't afford to risk not being able to 'Social Distance' when forced into an Open Bay, who would be at extreme risk of 'dying' from contracting Covid-19,

especially with Staff not following any CDC Guidelines (or) being tested to 'actually' know? Why can't they also be reasonably accommodated as those with disabilities under the ADA Act?

Lastly - **Sixth**, why are some inmates listed as medium - moderate risk not forced to live in an Open bay to take the Phase 2 program and instead allowed to only have to take Phase 1 and be released to continue on the street, when they have a much higher Ohio Risk Factor Score and are not at extreme risk of dying from contracting Covid-19?

It would seem that Central Office would not want the Legal Liability or Public Relations Disaster of (knowingly and willfully) putting those with Underlying Health Issues and Elderly at extreme risk of 'dying' from contracting Covid-19, especially with Staff negligence in not following any CDC Guidelines?

I truly believe these are 'reasonable' questions to expect answers to (and) not unreasonable for them to make reasonable accommodations or exceptions to "protect" those with Underlying Health Issues and Elderly at extreme risk of dying from contracting Covid-19 when they're unable to protect them.

Especially when you look at what's happening in prisons across the country like the one in Marion, Ohio and with also keeping in mind a much more Contagious and Deadly mutated (Second Wave of Coronavirus) is coming in a few months in the Fall...

I'm looking to be released in June 2021 and can't afford to be put at this unfortunate risk of having to choose between the extreme risk of dying from contracting Covid-19 in an Open bay in the Fall (or) still be put at risk of dying from contracting Covid-19 while having to do 20 more years by refusing to be in an Open bay, while others similarly situated moderate are not being forced to make this insane choice.

Thank you sincerely for everything and let me know if you have any questions. Please have everyone keep me in your daily thoughts and prayers. Take care. In Faith and Strength.

5/11/20 MC SECC:

Special Note: Shake-up at the top. As we previously discussed about Alanna Boyles and Jeff Norman and the extra marital affair of Mr. Norman and the Caseworker at Jeff City, we now see that Warden Jason Lewis has been promoted to the Deputy Director, and Deputy Warden of Operations Bill Stange has been promoted to Warden of SECC. *(Note from Hedy: Stange was assistant to former SECC Warden Ian Wallace 2-3 years ago. Wallace, now retired, was notorious for stealing money from the SECC NAACP, preventing them from donating to Missouri CURE, and censoring our newsletter. It was Stange who wrote us the censor letter, claiming that material "on page 22" of a Turning Point issue could be used to make an "exploding lunch." When Keith challenged him on this assertion, they claimed the*

letter was intended for another party.) Musical chairs. Here is the e-mail.

*******This message sent 5/11/2020 @ 10:11 am*******

Monday Morning update:

We have completed 427 tests. 43 offenders have been positive (all from HU 4) and 14 staff members. All are isolated if still positive. I know combined that 57 seems like a high number and we never wanted to have even 1 person sick. However consider that we have close to 1600 living and working here each day. That's only 3% who have caught the virus. I am proud that you are working so hard to keep the virus as limited as possible.

2 staff have recovered and are now negative.

3 offenders have received their 1st Negative test (they have to have 2 before being cleared)

27 guys who were on quarantine status (never positive) have been cleared and back to their unit.

Just a few reminders. If you are a porter make sure and wear gloves and face covering especially when handing out supplies. Remind each other! It's easy to forget when you get busy. **DO NOT ADD WATER TO YOUR CLEANING SUPPLIES!!!!** Just ask for more if you are low. It has already been diluted.

Wash your hands and enjoy the sunshine if you get a chance to get out today. A few more tests are pending. I'll get you those updates when they all come in.

Deputy Director Lewis