

TO: ALL CONCERNED

DATE: December 16, 2020

RE: Town Hall Q & A

Deputy Flinchbaugh presented the Town Hall on this date.

Questions/Concerns:

1. Are there going to be free phone calls again?

We have not received any information from Central Office regarding increasing or extending free phone calls or emails. The free cable is running through the end of March as previously noted.

2. Phone calls.

The limitations for back-to-back phone calls were removed. You now do not have to wait any certain amount of time before you can make another phone call. This will allow you to be able to best utilize your time out-of-cell and hopefully will help with getting in touch with your family and friends.

3. Yard.

There were some questions about a ½ time move when we go back to 16-person Cohorts. This is something that we are not going to do right away when we get go back to the 16-person Cohort. We are trying to limit the movement and interactions between Cohorts.

4. Why aren't we doing any Activities?

Again, this would be another avenue for Cohorts to be able to be broken. We did have a plan in place that we were going to try some Activities, but recent direction from Central Office was to move back to the 8-person Cohorts. We still had considered maybe trying some Activities but at this time, we feel that it would be too much of a stretch with running Yard and Block-out time to add Activities with the limitations we are under. Some institutions are not even running Yard at this point. On January 24th when we go back to the 16-person Cohorts it may be something we can reconsider implementing in either in Activities, the Education Building, on the Units or in the new Rec Center that will be in Dining Hall 1.

5. Why are other jails not doing these small Cohorts?

As far as I am aware, every institution is under the direction from Secretary Wetzel to be running 8-person Cohorts.

6. Law Library

With the 8-person Cohorts and the time out-of-cell, all Law Library requests are going to be handled through the Inmate Request system. Write to Ms. Nyberg if you need things, just like we did back in March when we first implemented the quarantine. That is the way we have to run it right now. Once we get back to the 16-person Cohorts then she will go back to the previous schedule of calling people over by Cohort.

7. The GTL contract for new Tablets.

We have not heard anything in regards to new GTL Tablets. Last I heard, specs were put in place by Central Office for the Vendors to put in their bids. That is quite a lengthy process so I would not anticipate seeing anything until possibly next Fall. As we get more information we will put it out to population.

8. Christmas bags?

They are being delivered to Activities at the end of this week. Activities will process them and delivery to the Unit Managers is expected to take place at the beginning of next week for distribution to population.

9. Can Dietary serve pancakes again?

We get asked about pancakes frequently. Ms. Traut is limited at this time with the number of inmate workers she has. Making pancakes requires quite a bit of manpower to accomplish. I did speak with Ms. Traut about scheduling a pancake or a fried egg meal and getting her more manpower to help with making these items. I will continue to work with Dietary and hopefully you will be seeing both of these meal items in the near future.

10. Holiday Music Channel?

Due to complaints last year, it will be running from 12/19 – 12/26/20.

11. Inmate Channel issues.

There have been some concerns with what is running on the Inmate Channel, the length of time that slides were shown, etc. I spoke with Mr. Jackson and he will be reviewing what is playing on the inmate channel and will look at making sure it runs better.

12. When are we going to be able to buy TVs?

I spoke with Ms. Arbuckle in C.I. yesterday and she has not heard anything yet as to when they will be available. She is checking into this and if we get any new information as to when they will be available for purchase again we will put that out.

13. Vaccinations.

We did receive some correspondence from Central Office as to how many vaccines that we will need. Ms. Smock is working with the Bureau of Healthcare Services on how many will be needed here for both inmates and staff. There has been no timeframe as to when we will see them. As we get more information we will let you know.

I hope everyone has a nice holiday....

Deputy Flinchbaugh, DSCS

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