Statewide Inmate Family Council/CDCR Quarterly Meeting

July 28, 2016

I. Old Business
   A. Update on EDDG Program
      1. Program continues at 11 prisons with extra resources anticipated at Solano, Calipatria, and Lancaster.
      2. In April 2017 assessment of program effectiveness is due and further direction will depend on that assessment.
   B. IFC Workgroup
      1. SIFC Website Statistics
         Since website launch in April 2014 there have been over 115,000 site visits. Many use SIFC website to ask questions, link to CDCR sites, and learn more about family interactions in the California prison system. It is a communication and learning tool. Deputy Director Gipson informed the group that CDCR is also making its website easier to navigate.
      2. New Surveys
         Frequent transitions create challenges in determining which prisons have functioning local IFCs. SIFC proposes a second survey of local IFC’s (first done in 2014) to determine their operating comfort and familiarity with IFC Bylaws. AD Miller was supportive of a new survey.
      3. Training Session
         SIFC plans another training session for local IFC participants and other interested parties in Fairfield, CA in October 2016. More details to follow. CDCR representatives, whose past input has been very valuable for families, were invited.
      4. Discuss phase out of workgroup
         SIFC wants to thank CDCR administration and the Ombudsman’s Office for continuing support of local IFC’s. IFC organizing efforts continue, but as goals of the workgroup have been met, this group will be phased out by the end of 2016.
   C. Medical
      1. A Medical Workgroup headed by Ms. Joyce Hayhoe, Communications Director for the Receiver, is forming to include SIFC members, the Ombudsman’s Office, medical, mental health and nursing staff as well as policy and custody support personnel. If you have medical questions please go the “About Us” link on SIFC website and scroll down to “Contact SIFC.” We want to include family concerns in these sessions and benefit from specific examples of issues.
      2. Progress on Transition in Care
         Currently 6 prisons have transitioned back to CDCR medical care. They are FSP, CTF, Chuckawalla, Tehachapi, Pelican Bay, and Centinela. The Prison Law Office
continues to monitor operations for one year after transition. FSP is at the one year mark.

3. Durable Medical Equipment
   An appeal policy has been approved to review family purchase for durable medical equipment. If equipment is significantly less expensive in the community and shipment to the prison is by authorized vendor, families may appeal to purchase. Details will follow.

4. Electronic Medical Record
   Conversion of the entire prison medical record system is planned in the next 18 months. Medical record keeping at CIW and CCWF is currently electronic. The next institution to convert is Solano which will “go live” on August 23.

D. Enhanced Programming (Level II) Yards
   1. Tablets, kiosks, and MP3 players will be authorized on all Level II Yards and Camps. There will not be more microwaves at this time.
   2. Many services and programs initially provided only at Reentry Hubs will now be offered at Level II prisons to provide better continuity of care.
   3. Deputy Director Gipson informed the group that instead of blanket conversion of all Level II yards to Enhanced Programming Yards, direction is now focused on using inmate behavior to direct placement. An example would be a Level IV inmate who has been disciplinary free and programming could be placed on a Level III yard while a Level III inmate who is not programming and has multiple infractions could be moved to a Level IV yard.

II. New Business: Expanded Family Visits for Lifers and LWOP’s
    Several weeks ago California Legislature approved and the Governor signed the State Budget which included trailer for expanded family visits. This is the initial step in a process of regulation changes, building structural changes, staffing negotiations and finally money appropriations to pay for changes. It is estimated that 30,000 prisoners may newly be eligible for family visits. The criteria for eligibility have not been fully determined; but as they are proposed, there will be a period of public comment. This process is anticipated to be many months away from individual visit approval.