

## Statewide Inmate Family Council / CDCR Meeting

August 18, 2017

### I. Old Business

#### A. Low dose X-ray Backscatter use on inmates to and from visiting

This equipment is available at all 35 prisons. At a few prisons further training is needed for full implementation; but it is in use elsewhere. It is a tool that the prisons can use for contraband detection. Another tool, the Canine program, increased the number of canine units from 49 to 70. Each prison is expected to have 2 canine units.

#### B. Video games, E-mail updates

This communication tool is now available at the 7 pilot prisons and has had positive reviews by both families and prisoners. There has been some misinformation provided by J Pay, and CDCR will follow up with corrections. The final pilot site, SATF, went live on 8/17/2017.

#### C. Proposition 57 Implementation

California voters passed this initiative 11/16 and CDCR implementation was finalized 8/17. From this point going forward, Milestone Completion Credits (MCC), Educational Merit Credits (EMC), and Rehabilitation Achievement Credits (RAC) are logged in SOMS and become part of a prisoner's record. Statewide there are 2109 programs eligible for rehabilitation achievement credits. If a program provides behavioral or emotional growth, is mentored by a Brown Card volunteer, and attendance at meetings is taken, it may qualify. The Department provided a power point presentation of RAC specifics. Inmates have viewed this presentation. An inmate may earn up to 4 weeks yearly RAC for participation in 208 hours of one of these inmate activity groups (IAG), formerly known as ILTAGS.

Dr. Choate, Director of the Rehabilitation Division agreed to provide a list of Milestone Completion Credits and Rehabilitation Achievement Credits available at each prison. We very much appreciate his help.

#### D. Family Visiting Update

To date over 2000 applications from Lifers newly eligible for family visits have been received and 1700 processed. On average this processing takes about 50 days. Although the legislation allowing family visits for lifers did not include money for this process, CDCR has proposed a budget to replace condemned units, convert to family units old family visiting units lately used for other

purposes, and add staff to support family visiting. They are also processing an increased number of weddings. These efforts are appreciated. SIFC noted that each prison is following different procedures such as quantities of toiletries, actual allowed items, ect. CDCR will look into this and standardize.

#### E. SIFC Updates

Our website ([www.Statewide-IFC.com](http://www.Statewide-IFC.com)) continues to get over 10,000 views monthly. We have added a link to photographer Peter Merts' website which showcases Arts in Correction throughout the State. Check out [http://www.petermerts.com/galleries/30\\_prison-art/](http://www.petermerts.com/galleries/30_prison-art/) for some inspiring photos.

#### F. Workgroups

1. VPASS- Next Workgroup meeting has been scheduled. EIS reported that in the near future visitors will be able to make appointments using mobile devices. An upcoming VPASS release in September will include (1) the ability to "inactivate" inmates and visitors so they do not appear when making appointments, (2) revising the statewide and institution messages, and (3) updating the profile so you do not have to update your ID expiration.
2. Medical-The process of selecting durable medical equipment vendor(s) for family purchase is ongoing. No selection of vendors to allow families to purchase DME has been made.
3. CDCR will distribute IFC survey to monitor functioning of local IFC's. Please fill out the survey when available so that SIFC can better help with local IFC issues. Additionally, the VPASS survey is still planned. It is going through External Communications review and will be available through Survey Monkey when ready.

#### G. Medical

Transition of State Hospitals to Receiver/CDCR management has occurred smoothly. There are no current changes in staff or programs. Now there are psychiatric inpatient programs (PIP) at CHCF, CMF, and Salinas valley.

### II. New Business

#### A. Amazon suspension

As of 8/18/2017 the temporary suspension of Amazon book services has been rescinded. For Memo documentation please see SIFC website.

#### B. Introduction of new metal detectors in visiting

Several weeks ago CDCR received new metal detectors which have excessive sensitivity thus slowing and in some cases limiting visiting. This problem was recognized and the sensitivity has been adjusted. Some institutions continue to experience overly sensitive metal detectors. Prisons have alternatives if this is

the case. Per policy, visiting staff should be wanding visitors who fail the metal detectors. Please notify if problems continue. CDCR will readdress this in monthly visiting meetings with the prisons.

C. Visitor vending allowance

Currently the allowance is \$50 per visitor. There is a request to increase that limit due to increasing vendor prices. Increasing that limit, oversight of vendor prices and service, and statewide uniformity in this process were issues discussed. There is proposal to form a Vending Work group.

D. Programming yards as alternative to GP / SNY distinction

Currently CHCF Facility E, Pelican Bay, and RJD are “non-designated” programming yards. This process is providing prisoners who qualify with an increased range of programming possibilities. There are plans to make this choice available at other prisons as well.

E. Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF)

Memo from 6/28/2017, available on SIFC website, lists items authorized for purchase through this fund. Stakeholders, IFC’s and IAC’s, are invited to make requests. SIFC requested the prisons schedule joint IAC - IFC meetings to better make these choices. That request will be evaluated.