

From: K.O. Berger

Subject: [juvenilelaw] OYA Covid-19 conference call report

Date: March 25, 2020 at 4:59:23 PM PDT

There are still no confirmed cases of youth with Covid-19 in OYA custody. The two that were tested came back negative. There are two additional youth in a different residential program that have been tested and they are awaiting results. One youth in a YCF is medically isolated because the youth came from a residential treatment program where a staff member had to get tested and the youth had been in contact with that staff member. The staff member is awaiting test results.

No OYA staff have tested positive for Covid-19. There are three staff who are awaiting test results (and are self-quarantining) and 8 staff who are showing symptoms (and are also self-quarantining). All non-facility staff are encouraged to work from home, pursuant to the Governor's order.

OYA had hoped to open school on April 1, but there is now a question whether they could given the Governor's order. Joe is meeting with the superintendent to figure out whether the order applies to schools within YCF. If so, they will be problem solving to get the in-custody youth education services.

OYA offices are closed to the public but open for business via email or phone. If an in-person meeting is needed, it is by appointment only.

All staff entering a YCF are now being screened. Screening is a written checklist that must be signed off by the staff member and all staff must wash their hands upon entering the facility. Additionally, there are other hand-washing stations around the campus that staff must use. OYA decided not to do temperature screening at the

recommendation of Public Health as the laser thermometers are not very accurate and when DOC was using them, they received a high number of false positive readings.

All community staff are encouraged to work from home and increase their contacts with youth and families by phone or video conferencing. The community staff are also working to connect families with community resources as needed by the individual families.

All residential programs have now been asked to suspend home visits and allow increased access via phone and Skype for youth and their families.

The youth at YCFs are still being provided enrichment activities, but those activities are limited to 10 or less (from the same housing unit) and social distancing rules apply.

To this end, the youth have generated a wish list of games, etc that can be purchased on Amazon. I will forward the email about these wish lists to both of the list servers, in case anyone wants to purchase items on the list for the youth.

OYA is also looking for on-line resources to aid in youth art activities.

OYA leadership group recently did a tabletop exercise to see where the breaks are in their response structure and that was very productive. OYA is working to strengthen their responses.

OYA has recently requested more PPE. All facility staff have undergone training and fitting for masks and other PPE. The request for increased PPE was so that it could be provided for foster parents. The resources that OYA has are those that were in their clinics.

OYA is working on a re-deployment plan - what to do when/if the number of facility staff sick calls increase to the level

that is too low to safely operate facilities. First community staff will be pulled into working at the facilities.

OYA has been working with public health re: their quarantine and medical isolation policies and procedures. They have made tremendous strides just in the last couple of days and are working on making sure the staff are trained.

There is likely to be a special session next week. It will be very narrow to put aside money for additional expenses. A soft freeze has been established for all positions other than facility positions. This does not mean they will not hire for non-facility positions, just that those positions will get extra screening as to necessity to fill the position now v. waiting for sometime to gain the financial benefit. This is in anticipation of a budget shortfall and required cuts, if any.

Residential programs are still doing intake of youth, unless they are full. YCF still have on-going intake of youth.

Respite for foster parents has been suspended, but individual circumstances can be discussed to develop a plan.

The timeline to get PPE to residential programs probably varies on where in the state the program is located as resources are being re-distributed according to need.

Residential programs can accept masks sewn by community members.

That is all for this week. There will be another call next week. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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