

Tecumseh State Correctional Institution
Family Council Meeting
August 10, 2016

Facilitator: Associate Warden April Bulling-June 
Recorder: Associate Warden Secretary Becky Edwards

Welcome: Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and given a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting. This is the third set of Family Councils since they started in January.

- Visitors are allowed to come in for the Family Council meeting even if they do not have a visit the day of the meeting.
- Administration went through the notes from the last Family Council meetings and have been addressing the concerns mentioned.

Issues Discussed:

- Staffing at Gatehouse:
 - Comments were made about the staff currently posted at the Gatehouse as the staff has changed since the last Family Council meetings.
 - Some visitors are still having problems getting processed on time.
 - Not all visitors are treated with respect.
 - Gatehouse procedures should be followed consistently every time.
 - It appears that the male staff do not know the procedures. Some of the staff say they haven't been trained. When visitors point out to staff that they aren't following procedures, staff needs to be civil when corrected.
 - Visitors hear excuses from staff and staff aren't being consistent with procedures.
 - *AW Bulling-June explained that the Gatehouse post is a four-month rotating shift. Experienced staff that bid and win the post may get pulled to work other areas when needed, therefore a less experienced staff new to the post may be working. AW Bulling-June has worked as a pass clerk and knows the importance of consistency. She is working on getting the Corporal position made a permanent post.*
- Processing Visitors and Inmates:
 - Inmates are still arriving late to visits.
 - *Count may delay when the inmate arrives and sometimes other institutional situations may cause the delays. We are working hard on getting the inmates to their visits in a timely manner.*
- Vending Machines:
 - Two more vending machines have been added. More healthy foods have been added.
 - One visitor attempted to use the coffee vending machine and nothing came out, but her money was returned.
 - No food was in one of the sandwich vending machines.

- *AW Bulling-June will address these issues after the meeting today.*
- One visitor still hasn't received money back from the vending company from two different incidents.
- How often does the vendor issue refunds?
 - *A procedure will be put into place to get a list of visitors to the Business Office so their refunds can be issued to them sooner.*
- Microwave popcorn and burritos were suggested to be offered in the vending machines.
 - *Popcorn is not offered because if it gets burned, the smell will affect the entire visiting room.*
- Why can't inmates go up to the vending machines?
 - *An inmate's movement in the Visiting Room is restricted for safety and security reasons. A new procedure for this is being looked into.*
- Some visitors don't like the new tables as it eliminates space in the rest of the visiting room. Visitors are not allowed to cross-visit, yet the other visitors are "right on top of you". It is difficult to avoid talking to other visitors when they are sitting so close.
 - *The newest tables were just installed yesterday. Some families want to have meals together. We will look at other ways the tables and chairs can be positioned to allow for more room.*

- The newest visiting schedule is located on the NDCS website – Effective August 1, 2016:
 - *This schedule does not affect HU2/3 visitors.*
 - *No Monday visits are possible.*

- Clothing:
 - Visitors say there is inconsistency between different staff regarding the dress code.
 - *A workgroup has been formed between TSCI, LCC and NSP staff in order to form consistency between the facilities. It was realized that we are more relaxed than the other facilities. As the policy is being reviewed, changes are being made. The policy changes are still in the works.*

- Wall Mural:
 - Visitors would like a different background for family photos.
 - *The new vending machines have been placed in front of the mural. There is currently a work order in place to move the family photo location from the mural wall to the wall with the fire extinguisher. Different back drops are being looked into.*

- One visitor requested that jelly packets be offered.
 - *We will request these from the vendor.*

- Programming:
 - We've held our first 7-Habits graduation since last year and the next 7-Habits class will start in September.
 - Programming available:
 - MRT
 - SAU
 - Offered to Protective Custody inmates only.
 - Three other facilities are set up for SAU programming for General Population inmates.
 - GED
 - For both Protective Custody and General Population inmates.
 - ABC Education
 - Grant funded
 - 12 week core curriculum class
 - OSHA training (certification will be good for 3 years)
 - General Industries and Construction based
 - WRAP
 - Focuses on "Start from my past. Work to my future."
 - Realizes how the inmate is affected by their past experiences.
 - Taught by Kasey Moyer/Mental Health Association.
 - Requested to start with 10 inmates in Restrictive Housing Unit
 - Success Prep
 - Protective Custody/General Population 5-week course.
 - Focuses on where the individual is headed.
 - Class taught by former inmate who developed the course while incarcerated in Federal prison.
 - Self-initiated/volunteer course.
 - Offered at each facility.
 - How are the inmates chosen to participate in the programs?
 - *Two Unit Managers and the Associate Warden chose based on the inmate's Tentative Release Date (TRD), Parole Eligibility Date (PED), the number of class-one felonies the inmate has received in the past year, their demeanor on the unit, jobs they've held and recommendations from other staff members. We are trying to offer programming to each section of the institution.*
 - What about the inmates with long sentences?
 - *Inmates with longer sentences will be able to complete the programming and become 'Core Members', similar to student teachers. They will help with the programming after they have completed it. The Core Members will be chosen based on their demeanors, professionalism and amount of write-ups received.*

- CSI (Cornhusker State Industries) has contacted an outside entity and is looking at bringing an outside industry in to offer more jobs. This engineering-based work would offer a possible 35 additional jobs to the inmate population. These employees would also be OSHA certified.
- The Department is changing its philosophy to working with the inmate from day one and for as long as needed in order to give hope and decision to where each individual is going.

These Inmate Family Council Meeting minutes will be posted on the NDCS website and posted in the TSCI visiting room.

The next Family Council Meetings will be scheduled for next quarter and will be posted on the NDCS website.