

**CALIPATRIA STATE PRISON  
INMATE FAMILY COUNCIL  
August 22, 2014**

In attendance: Chief Deputy Warden, Belinda Hedrick; Custody Captain, J. Kellermen; Visiting Lieutenant, Lt. J. Sigler; Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, Everado Silva; Visiting Processing Officer, E.S. Velasco; Visiting Processing Officer, R. Weller; Family Visiting Officer, J. Gonzalez; CCIII A Yard Substance Abuse, J Devenberg; Supervising Counselor, T. Rusit; Associate Warden, B. L. Paul; Community Resource Manager, C. S. Macias; IFC Members: Chair, Stasha Crawford, C Yard; Co-Chair, Chrissy Majano, A Yard; A regular meeting of the Inmate Family Council (IFC) was held and called to order at 1:00 PM at Calipatria State Prison (CAL.)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Taken
<p>Deputy Warden's Comments</p> <p>Old Business</p>	<p><b>Deputy Assistant Warden : CAL Updates:</b> CAL has started the Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) which is being held on Facility A, and currently has 24 students with the expectation of 48 more within a week with an overall goal of 96 total students.</p> <p>Facility A has been made an Enhanced Program Facility which entitles individuals having a few additional privileges to include: microwaves in housing units, additional TVs, self-help programs and access to purchase tablets (no internet access). The expected start date is September 1<sup>st</sup>. All inmates currently on A Yard will be allowed to be part of the program, and will remain on the yard as long as they have good behavior. As the program is behavioral based. If behavior is an issue, the inmate will be transferred to a designated housing unit within the A Facility, if behavior is severe the inmate is removed from the yard, transferred to another yard or to another facility.</p> <p>As of August 25, 2014, SOMS Go Live went into effect. It will take anywhere from 2-6 weeks to be completed. The C-files will be electronic and will permit quicker access to paperwork for the inmates.</p> <p>A team of volunteers conducted a workshop to speak with inmates who are affected by SB-260 Juvenile Offenders Law. There are currently 324 inmates identified at CAL. Due to A Yard being on modified program for the Southern Hispanic inmates, those that are included but weren't able to attend did receive information provided by the volunteers.</p> <p>Alternative to Violence Program (AVP) is up and running well on D Yard.</p> <p>CAL has been approved for the Intensive Drug Interdiction Program. CAL has the highest drug bust in California prisons. This program allows for 2 additional K-9's, new staff and Ion Scanners.</p> <p>Warden Montgomery and Deputy Warden Hedrick are now vetted.</p> <p><b>VISITATION UPDATES</b>  <b>IFC:</b> What is the protocol for Ad-Seg/Hole visiting?  <b>Lt. Sigler:</b> 1 hour, 1 day per weekend but should there be no one visiting after, they can stay longer.  <b>Deputy Warden:</b> 2 hours is the max.  <b>Lt. Sigler:</b> Non-appointments for "behind the glass visits" has an option to wait to see if an appointment doesn't show.  <b>Wheeler:</b> Appointments are made on Wednesdays and are scheduled until spots are filled.</p> <p><b>Processing Concerns</b>  <b>IFC:</b> Overall we want to express how much improvement has occurred during the processing of visitation. Since our last meeting, the staff has been pleasant, effective and efficient. Having a pleasant staff makes entering into the visiting process more comfortable.  What is the process for being processed in and afterwards being told to change by a different officer?  <b>Lt. Sigler:</b> That has been corrected. That visitor must be checked in by the same staff.  <b>CD Warden:</b> Thanked the council and stated that the staff works very hard and that she has been an</p>	

objective viewer to the visitation process.

#### **Kid's Corner Status**

**IFC:** What is the status of the Kid's Corners? Is it possible to put a gate around the area?

**Lt. Sigler:** The list has been submitted and currently pending. The staff donated items for A & B Yards to improve the appearance of the area. Gates would require removing at least 2 tables. This would affect the number of visitors allowed to visit.

**Deputy Warden:** A new budget has been approved and will be discussed with and approved by IFC before it is processed. We will discuss this in more depth at the next meeting.

#### **PHOTOS/BATTERIES**

**IFC:** What is the status with the issues with printers and batteries?

**Officer Velasco:** All yards have new printers but ink has been an issue. The cameras are going through batteries quickly. There is an issue with them. We are working with the distributor to figure out the problem. I always make sure that batteries are available for each yard.

**IFC:** Pictures tokens are running out quickly and some yards have gone 3 weeks without pictures.

**Lt. Sigler:** After doing an audit of photo tokens, it was determined that over half of all tokens are not being returned to the prison. We aren't sure if they are being taken home or where they are going.

**Deputy Warden:** We will evaluate the status that there have been no pictures on some yards for 3 weeks. That issue will be addressed and corrected.

#### **VENDING MACHINES/FOOD LIST**

**IFC:** Thank you, the food list is being provided at visit.

**Lt. Sigler:** The food list is offered to the inmate when they check in for visit.

**IFC:** The vendor is continually increasing the prices of the food in the machines yet visitor's amounts are the same. Are there any chances of an increase?

**Deputy Warden:** There will not be an increase.

**IFC:** It is at vendor's discretion to compensate for any money that is taken by the machines. Should a visitor lose \$8.50 (cost of the highest item in machine), that takes a lot from their budget during visits.

**Deputy Warden:** The Department of Rehabilitation has oversight of the vendors. We will provide you with contact information to address vending problems.

#### **FAMILY VISIT FOOD CONCERNS**

**IFC:** There have been some complaints on the food for family visiting, vegetables being wilted and substitution concerns.

**Velasco:** We have discussed with the vendor regarding these issues. It is very important that on the order form if substitutions aren't wanted that the appropriate box is marked.

**Deputy Warden:** Unfortunately, it is an issue with the vendor and must be discussed with them.

#### **WEDDINGS / SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

**IFC:** What is the status of weddings on A yard? Although there have been a couple of lockdowns, there haven't been any weddings occurring on the yard.

**Macias:** There is no delay on my part.

**IFC:** Correspondence has been provided stating that the solemnizer has requested a date for a couple and it took them a long time to receive a date although there have been no weddings on A Yard.

**Macias:** The solemnizer is provided a date as soon as it is requested.

**IFC:** Could there be more than two wedding performed on a Yard during the weekend.

**Sigler:** Weddings impact visiting when more weddings are performed due to the number of allotted guest.

#### **MAILROOM/LETTER QUICK**

**IFC:** What is the status of Letter Quick?

**CC Kellerman:** Letter Quick does have an expected end date of 8/31/14. At this time, we currently don't have a definitive answer. It is still pending. The Associate Director would like for it to continue. At this time, it has been extended for an additional 60 Days.

#### **GAMES**

**IFC:** We are waiting for a copy of the lists of approved games. Any updates on this?

New  
Business

Additional  
Questions

**Officer Velasco:** Most games are permitted as long as they are not gambling related.

**IFC:** Can we donate games?

**Velasco:** Yes, games have to be sealed. Games will be processed with the visitor the same day. Those who are donating need to fill out a (donation) form.

**SELF-HELP PROGRAMS:**

**IFC:** How does an inmate implement a self-help program?

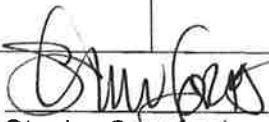
**Deputy Warden:** The program should not promote violence; there should a proposal and bylaws. The proposal should be submitted for approval by the Captain of the yard, then to the Community Resource Manager and forwarded to all applicable parties and finalized by the Warden. There has to be a staff sponsor available to supervise.

**FAMILY VISITS FOR LIFERS:**

**IFC:** Presented proposal to regarding lifers getting family visits reinstated to forward to the Warden.

**Deputy Warden:** Suspension of family visits for lifers was initiated by Sacramento not CAL. All concerns can be addressed to Sacramento.

**Next IFC meeting: November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**



Stasha Crawford  
Inmate Family Council Chair



WL Montgomery  
Warden, Calipatria State Prison