

COVID-19 Update - April 08, 2020

Hi all-

We have lots of things in process, but little new to report. A couple quick updates. . .

**Board of Correction Meeting:** Earlier today, we provided an update to the Board regarding our COVID-19 efforts. It was another reminder of how much we've accomplished in a short amount of time, but it also is a sobering reminder that there's more to be done. While we updated them on COVID-19 preparations, we spent a significant amount of time talking about the level of effort that's enabled work to continue in different ways. In the past few weeks, we've facilitated 203 telephonic or video hearings with the courts, launched video visitation, had 465 staff sign telecommuting agreements and we're conducting more business over the phone, email, and video conferencing. It's very much a different operating environment. The Board expressed their sincere appreciation for how you've responded during this unprecedented time.

**Governor's Opioid Taskforce:** Bree Derrick represented IDOC at the Governor's Opioid Taskforce meeting today. What was of particular interest was a discussion on telehealth. A number of the behavioral health participants reported some interesting findings. Since using telephone or video, they've seen a reduction in no-shows and improved open communication and family engagement. Some of the judges reported similar experiences in the proceedings they've conducted over the phone. Anecdotally, some of our P&P staff have shared similar experiences in interacting with their caseload. I thought it was interesting information especially as P&P prepares to pilot a telehealth group in D4 tomorrow night. As we move forward, we should be mindful of how these opportunities can change how we interact with people and improve the quality of interactions when we can meet them where they are.

That's all for tonight. Thank you again for all that you do!

Thanks-  
Josh