
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

What a week it's been! Just when we thought we were out of the woods after H. Gustav, along comes H. Ike.

H. Ike is going to cause a lot of high winds and flooding in Louisiana and we will most likely see heavy damage in the parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Allen, Beauregard, Iberia, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne and Vermilion. Our thoughts are with our staff and fellow citizens in those areas. Of course, we are very concerned for our friends in Texas and wish the best for them as they endure this storm.

Bridge City's evacuated youth returned there Wednesday after spending a week and a half at Jetson. BCCY is getting back into its routine. Jetson is recovering quickly from Gustav's damage. Swanson's normal operation has been restored. All regional offices are back in operation.

I am just so proud of OJJ - staff in every OJJ office and facility statewide pulled together as a team to support one another, maintain public safety and provide excellent care for our youth. Staff from Bridge City left their homes and families to carry out their duties. Jetson and Swanson staff put in long hours. Probation and Parole staff from around the state provided support at Jetson and at Department of Social Services Food Stamp and FEMA distribution sites. Central Office staff pitched in to support operations at Jetson and the shelter that housed evacuated staff and their families. The team's dedication to our mission, to one another and to the youth in our care was truly inspiring and impressive.

A significant number of our staff, and Louisiana citizens in hard-hit areas statewide, are still without power and services, and have suffered serious damage to their homes. Today we're facing more of the same. While some of us feel a little better, let's remember that there is still much to do. We will continue to reach out to one another, to our fellow citizens and to our sister agencies – we will be in a state of recovery for some time to come. I urge you all to continue to show the compassion, patience and professionalism you have consistently demonstrated during this emergency period.

One thing I can say for sure, we have an absolutely great, dedicated staff. We can be proud of who we are and the job we do, serving the citizens of Louisiana. I heard today in an OJJ statewide conference call, about staff from every office who donated their time and energy to others, some after evacuating their homes and closed offices. From Youth Care Workers on the front line and Central Office accounting staff, to POs and administrative staff in our Regional Offices, everyone stepped up and did far more than was expected. The results were truly outstanding!

I want to thank every one of you so much, for all you do, every day, in storms and not in storms, to meet the mission.

Can't wait to talk with you again next week – BE SAFE.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

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