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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

It is my hope and prayer that every one of you in our valued OJJ family weathered the ravages of Hurricane Gustav with no permanent damage. I know that many of you evacuated and travelled long distances to find a safe haven. Please be safe in your travels as you return home. If you have not made contact with your supervisor to check in, please do so at your earliest convenience.

I want to keep everyone up to date on our current status. As you may know, we evacuated Bridge City to Jetson last Saturday morning, well ahead of the hurricane. A seven-day plan has been developed and is in effect to provide staff coverage and keep everyone in place at Jetson Center for Youth until power and sewerage services have been restored at Bridge City and we determine there is no imminent threat from further storms now present in the Atlantic Ocean.

I truly appreciate the hard work put forth by the staff from Bridge City, Jetson, Swanson, Probation and Parole and Central Office. Staff are coming in, doing the job, accomplishing the mission. We've had no major incidents during this trying time, and very few minor issues.

Everyone is pulling together. I'm seeing fabulous teamwork and a lot of patience. All staff involved are doing a terrific job, keeping the kids safe and well cared-for.

We are not currently fully functional at Central Office. We are operating with a skeleton crew of essential staff, and will make decisions on a day-by-day basis. It could be as early as Monday when everyone is able to return.

Bridge City did not sustain any major damage. Jetson suffered mainly roof damage campus-wide. Holes are being tarped and small repairs are being made daily. (You can see some photos of the damage on the website if you have internet access.) Power was out at first, but has been restored. Swanson is fully operational with normal procedures in place.

Here is a quick update on the regional offices:

**New Orleans** - status is unknown, a report is expected this afternoon. **Thibodaux** - no power, property appears to be undamaged. **Baton Rouge** - no power, property appears to be undamaged. **Shreveport** – the office is open and running, no damage reported. **Natchitoches** – the office is open and running, no damage reported. **Alexandria** – the office is open and running although there are problems with phone service, and some leaks in the roof. **Hammond** – the office open with no damage reported. **Monroe** – the office is open, no damage. **Tallulah** – the office is open, no damage reported. **Lafayette** – the office is open, no damage reported. The **Opelousas** office and the area are hard hit. The office is closed and staff are reporting to the Lafayette office. **Lake Charles** – the office is open, no damage reported.

Stay tuned and stay safe. I look forward to normal operations statewide as I know you all do, as well. As always, thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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