



Vol. 1, No. 37. May 8, 2009

Hello to Everyone,

Another week has flown by....I hope you all have had a good week. I know we have had a lot to deal with. Besides our daily duties, we have contended with some unusual circumstances concerning the H1N1 virus. I must say I think we did a good job putting appropriate precautions in place, and making some critical decisions with safety of youth and staff in mind. Thanks to all of you for your diligence, your professionalism, and sense of duty. It is great to know we can all count on each other in the agency when we are faced with unpredictable situations. I want to also thank Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc and his staff at the Department of Corrections who provided us with valuable information and assistance. Thanks also go to Secretary Kristi Nichols and her staff at DSS. We have worked very effectively with our partners to what is in the best interest of our state's youth. Our own Glenn Holt did a great job coordinating our response, and is already working on lessons learned from this, so we can be ready for a possible occurrence of flu in the fall. Something to look forward to along with football season!

Mother's Day is this Sunday. Moms come in all forms: biological moms, adopted moms, step-moms, god-moms, aunts, neighbors, co-workers, and friends. I hope that all of you find some really neat way to honor the Moms in your life. I am very lucky as I still have my Mom and although she has struggled with brittle bones and some major accidents, she is feisty and full of life. I know you have heard me talk about my Dad, but I also have a special relationship with my Mom. She is my "steel magnolia." I hope I get just some of her mental toughness and her desire to live life to the fullest. And I know I inherited her love of a good party. My Mom has always been there for me. She is a kind and loving person. I think she taught me early in life to not mistake kindness as weakness. She loved, but she would make me pick a switch too, if you know what I mean. And my brother and I needed a good switching every so often. Those were the "good ole days" before we progressed to "time outs" and before bike helmets. My Mom sewed most of my clothes, too, until I got to be a teenager. It was then that she did what many women of her generation did, she joined the workforce. (Okay, enough reminiscing. By now I know you can probably guess my age!) I hope you can enjoy, celebrate, and thank the good moms in your life. We will also pray for those moms who have fallen short, who have struggled with addiction, mental illness, depression, or despair. We will pray for those whose families have been torn apart, and hope that continued strength will be a foundation for finding peace.

One last note on Mom's day: Special thanks go out to all the men at OJJ central office, who put on a great lunch in honor of our moms here at central office.

Now, I am going to find something fun for my mom and me to do this weekend. Surely we can find a party somewhere. Until next week, be safe, and be good to one another.

what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Sincerely,
“Doc” Dr. Mary Livers

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov