
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

What a week it's been. We started the week first thing Monday morning with a JJIC meeting at the Capitol – in Baton Rouge. When the morning meeting concluded, JJIC members Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu (and several of his staff) and State Representative Bodi White, joined by several members of JJPL and FFLIC, and Yours Truly, embarked for Monroe on a very small airplane (despite a steady downpour) to tour Swanson. At Swanson we were met by the new director, Carolyn Atkins, and Interim Director Debbie Linder, as well many other members of the staff. Local elected officials who joined us for the tour included State Senator Francis Thompson, State Representatives Rosalind Jones and Frank Hoffman, District Attorney Jerry Jones and Ouachita Parish Sheriff Royce Toney.

We were delighted that two members of JJIC and other elected officials came to tour the facility and speak with youth and staff. They were able to see our operation firsthand, and the quality of service we provide to youth. Even after two solid weeks of rain, the campus was immaculate thanks to the work of staff and youth. It's always positive when elected officials have the time and interest to visit and see the good work we are doing.

On Tuesday, we met with members of the Vera Institute to discuss data indicators, thanks to the MacArthur Foundation.

Wednesday, OJJ celebrated our five-year anniversary at offices statewide to promote the good things we are doing for our youth, the strides we have made, and our vision for the future. No place could have been a better site for the biggest celebration than Jetson – so much change can be seen there. The campus was waterlogged from weeks of rain, but the weather cleared for the event and the campus sparkled. Many thanks to the staff for their hard work. Fabulous job!

I am very proud of the staff and youth at all of our facilities and in all of our regions. As I have said before, we are a work in progress, we are on a journey, and I feel good about where we are and where we are going.

Thursday, we held our leadership meeting with staff from around the state. Friday was spent at meetings outside Baton Rouge. Did I mention it's been a really busy week? Finally, the rain has stopped, the sun is out and good weather has arrived.

We have recently started having Supervisors Training meetings for supervisory staff all over the state. We have held two – one in Zachary, near Jetson, and one at Bridge City. We will follow with meetings in north Louisiana and at central office to make sure that all management staff have the opportunity to attend. We are getting positive feedback from the first two meetings, and we will continue to hold them throughout the year. Which brings me to a nice segue to wish everyone...

Happy Boss's Day to all OJJ staff who have the incredible responsibility to lead by example, demonstrate commitment to the mission and bring out the best in our staff. All of us have a job that requires us to develop the best in ourselves, our staff and our youth.

Happy trails – enjoy your weekend and the beautiful weather ahead. And, thanks for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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