
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Whew! We made it through the legislative session, not a minute too soon for me. It's been a looong two months since the session began. I feel like I went through Legislative Boot Camp for Dummies.

As most of you know, every state agency faced budget reductions and OJJ is no exception. But that is not going to stop us or even slow us down. We are going to keep moving forward.

I would like to thank Gov. Bobby Jindal, the Legislature, and the members of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission for ensuring that juvenile justice reform was a priority this legislative session. Gov. Jindal and the Legislature helped bring our state one step closer to regionalization by committing funds for planning for a facility to be located in Acadiana to expand the continuum of care in that region.

In another giant step for reform, Baton Rouge Senator and JJIC member Sharon Weston Broome, authored the bill that allowed us to convert Jetson from a statewide Center for Youth to a regional facility to serve East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. Regional secure care facilities are good public policy. I am extremely proud of the staff for embracing this new model. The Jetson staff has been working extra hard to implement the treatment model to have better outcomes for youth. We will also be keeping the Jetson name, which we are very excited about.

OJJ will continue to work with our stakeholders and partners, including judges, district attorneys and sheriffs, to ensure that the needs of youth are being met and public safety is protected. We will have a number of opportunities this year for rich collaboration with our partners, to ensure the best continuum of care for kids and families in our communities.

It's all about meeting the mission. We will continue to do that, by working smarter and putting our resources to the best use possible. We will take this new budget year as an opportunity to step forward, continue the reform effort and take care of kids. We are a great team and OJJ is a great agency. I am very proud to serve with you.

Thanks for all you do, every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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