
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues,

Hello to everyone. I am broadcasting this week's edition of *What's Up Doc* from the Probation and Parole office in Shreveport. Mr. Magloire is with me and we have been on the road for the last couple of days. We started off attending a meeting of the Louisiana Commission of Law Enforcement in Vidalia. It was being held in their new conference center. What a nice place! A great setting right on the Ole Mississippi. If we should have a statewide meeting we should look at that as a site. Vidalia is pretty centrally located for most of our staff.

We then proceeded to Swanson where we met with the State Fire Marshall, Butch Browning. Mr. Browning is helping with plans to turn some of the housing across the street into independent living for kids. (It's looking like we might accomplish this at very little cost! Great news!) We showed Mr. Browning around the campus and he was very impressed with the staff and kids of the facility. He was really amazed at how big of a campus we have, and the level of OJJ's responsibility.

Today, Mr. Magloire and I visited court for a while to check in with the judges. Later, we went for a "ride along" with probation staff. And, finally, we will finish up today meeting with LSU. Then I'm looking forward to a great weekend with my parents. I hope you all get to spend time with your families this weekend too.

As I read this morning's *USA Today*, I came across an article about advocating for children. This article reminded me how much OJJ staff advocates for the youth and families that we serve. We may not have the word, "Advocate" in our titles, but we *are* certainly advocates for kids. Plain and simple. All of us, in whatever roles we have in the organization, know that what we do is all about the kids. It is about what is best for the kids and meeting our mission. Our mission is not about "us." It is about serving youth and investing in their success while ensuring the protection of the public. A balanced approach. Doing what's right. Being good examples. Treating our youth and parents the way you would want you or your own children treated.

I am very proud of you and the work you are doing. Every time I have the privilege of seeing you do your work, I am so proud to serve you in my role as Secretary.

Please keep up the good work you do every day to meet our mission. You make me proud!

Sincerely,
"Doc"
Dr. Mary Livers

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