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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I've logged a lot of miles this week and been pretty busy, but it's all good. Monday was a catch-up day after being gone all last week, but after that I've been flying low all over the state.

Tuesday I attended a LA MOD meeting in Alexandria that brought together staff from the three facilities, including directors, group leaders, Social Work Counselors and other staff. We spent time assessing where we are with the LA MOD process and determining our goals. We are really looking forward to continue improving. We had a good exchange of information and everyone said they gained a lot from sharing ideas with one another. Everyone at the meeting plans to go back to their own facility to include their staff in discussions and come back with goals for improvement.

Thursday I was in New Orleans to speak at the National/International Crime Summit. I try to take every opportunity to talk to people in the community about our mission and vision, and what we are doing here at OJJ. A variety of people was present from throughout the community, and they are interested in helping kids to become law-abiding citizens. Perhaps we can get some of them involved in mentoring programs. As always, when I meet interesting people, I get to follow up with new contacts.

Friday morning I was in Shreveport to meet with staff from LSUHSC to discuss medical and mental health services they provide at Swanson. Although LSU is currently providing these services at SCY, we will need to negotiate a new contract and there are new projects to discuss, such as the proposed new facility at Columbia, which we hope to open in January 2011. Both groups are excited to be moving forward.

This afternoon I met with the heads of several other state agencies about the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) that we talked about several weeks ago. We are working with DSS, DHH and the Department of Education to coordinate services. The project is progressing well, and we will bring you more information about it as it develops. For those of you who want to know more about this interagency effort, visit our website, and look on the lower left of the home page for the link to the DSS-hosted website on CSoc.

Speaking of the website, I would really like to hear from you to see if our website is meeting your needs, or if you see information that is out of date. We have set up a system for updating the website, but no system is perfect, so let us know if you have suggestions or see something that needs to be updated. Email [OJJ.PublicInformation@la.gov](mailto:OJJ.PublicInformation@la.gov)

"Get Caught Reading" is now launched at all three facilities – Dr. Calvin Mackie was at Swanson yesterday to bring our kids his message about getting ahead by reading and gaining an education. We are delighted that the reading program will be moving forward. Our kids will soon get caught reading a variety of books and engaging in discussions of relevant ideas.

Bridge City hosted another tour this week, this time for two federal officials from OJJDP in Washington, DC. Elissa Rumsey and Melodee Hanes said they found Bridge City to be absolutely amazing and they were very impressed. I am so proud of the Bridge City staff and the work we are doing. When we set our standards high, we learn and grow, and we get better every day. There is just no stopping us. The budget is not going to stop us. We have a mission, and we will meet it every day.

This week I met a lot of people. Whenever I have a chance to talk with people I try to give a little background on myself, and it occurred to me how much I love my job. Even with the challenges we face and the things we have to go through, I absolutely enjoy every day on the job. I sincerely hope that every one of you, in every office and facility, can say the same – that you enjoy your job – and my thanks to you all, because we **are** getting better every day, as we work together to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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