
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

What's on everyone's mind here in Louisiana is the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The initial explosion was such a tragic event for the families who lost loved ones on the rig, and beyond the human loss is the tragedy we are now dealing with as toxic oil has reached our shores. This will prove to be a real disaster for Louisiana's wildlife and the coastal area, as well as our fishing industries. My advice to everyone is to go out this weekend and eat shrimp, oysters and crabs. We may not be able to afford them for the next couple of years.

Chief of Operations Ellyn Peterson and three of our Program Supervisors just got back from a training session in Kansas, to learn about programming that works best for juveniles. We were able to send staff due to a grant for funding for specialized technical assistance that we sought and received from OJJDP. If you are a director, assistant director, regional manager or field services supervisor, mark your calendars – June 14 - we will have a training session in Baton Rouge taught by Dr. Ed Latessa of the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Latessa is an excellent teacher and he speaks our language. We will send out a notice a little later, but I want you to save the date. The training session will be offered to program providers and stakeholders, including judges and District Attorneys.

This training will be valuable information to everyone as we move forward toward providing outcome-based services in the community. We are very excited about this shift in focus. I have been telling people that we've spent the last year focused on the secure care facilities, and that work continues. But this year our focus will be on community-based services, which will go a long way toward reducing our recidivism rate. I am very excited about our plans moving forward.

I was able to spend some time this week visiting the Slidell City Court and the Hammond Regional Office. It's always good to get out in the field and visit with folks. Regional Manager Julie Eudy and I had a very productive meeting with Judge James Lamz and I got to sit in on his court for a while.

It looks like a stormy weekend for most of Louisiana, and I hope you will make the best of it. These cloudy days are fine for taking a little nap and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee while you watch the rain come down and the wind in the trees. Every so often a rainy Saturday gives us a needed break from toiling in the yard.

Hoping you all have a wonderful weekend, and as ever, my thanks to each of you in every OJJ location, for the work you do daily to meet the mission.

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