

---

## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

---

Vol. 2, No. 42. June 11, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

Greetings from Baton Rouge. We have had a very good and active week.

Let me start off by thanking all of our staff who have been involved with our attempts to regain custody of two Bridge City youth. As you may know, we have been coordinating efforts to regain custody of two youth who left the facility last weekend. I feel strongly that it is our responsibility to maintain physical custody of the youth designated to be in secure care. As part of our mission we have an obligation to do everything reasonably in our power, working with other agencies and law enforcement, to regain custody. These youth are considered high risk for re-offending or they would not be in secure care. Our efforts will continue, so the Bridge City staff and Probation and Parole staff will stay focused until we are successful. In this agency, while some staff have focused on this issue, good things continue to happen and great things happen every day.

Today I was privileged to attend graduation at Jetson, where nine young men received their GEDs. What a great accomplishment that is for our kids. I was so proud of them, and some proud parents were there to witness their success. Baton Rouge Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden was the keynote speaker. Mayor Holden had positive things to say to the youth, and also about the facility. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard so that these nine Jetson youth could experience their graduation day - Principal Ronnie Knox, each and every one of the Jetson teachers, especially Andrea Barnardez, who was in charge of the graduation program, Director of Education Kim Mims and Ella Fairchild, Education Coordinator.

We also had a successful training program on the SAVRY assessment tool for facility staff. The use of the SAVRY was fully implemented throughout the state in community-based services in January of this year. The next step - Phase 2 of SAVRY implementation - is the use of the assessment tool in the facilities so we can have a continuous, consistent flow of information using the same tools in every location. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Patrick Bartel of Vancouver, Canada, to conduct the training. Dr. Bartel is one of the three co-authors of the SAVRY, so we can't get any better than that! I heard many good things about his presentation. Dr. Bartel is an expert in assessment and management of risk for violence with children and adolescents. He is actively involved in applied clinical research, has presented workshops at numerous international conferences, provides training to mental health and correctional professionals, and has consulted with and conducted risk/threat assessments for several school districts.

Well, as the country folks say, "Is it hot enough for ya?" Wow, it's hot. And it's not even "summer" yet, not until June 21. That's also the last day of the legislative session. So we have a lot to look forward to this month.

Well, I'll close by thanking every one of you, in every OJJ location, for all you do 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