
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I hope that I will not have any more airport adventures to relate to you next week. I'm on the way to Chicago for the ACA national Congress of Correction. By the way, I have still had no relief from the fiasco where the airline lost my luggage the last time I went to Chicago, a few weeks ago – and I'm on the same airline and same flights this time.

You may know that I ran for treasurer of ACA, and for those of you who are members and who voted for me, I truly appreciate your support. Also, my thanks go out to our colleagues in the adult Department of Corrections, and especially the Louisiana Association of Wardens and Superintendents (LAWS), who strongly supported my campaign. I was, in fact, elected to that office, and this is a great honor for me. I have been a member of ACA for 33 years, since 1977, and I have been very active in the association. I am grateful for all that I have gained and learned through my interaction with colleagues across the country. As professionals, I hope that you are all members of some professional organization. If you are not yet a member of ACA, it is definitely a good one to join. In any event, your professional development is important throughout your career. I hope you will join an appropriate professional organization and become active in it, so you can stay abreast of the innovative ideas and research pertaining to your area of expertise.

I visited Jetson on Tuesday evening and spent some time with the youth in Summer dormitory. I very much enjoyed visiting with the young men in that dorm and found it to be a very interesting experience. I'm thinking it was an interesting experience for them, too, because I was just visiting with them, no more. I also toured Area 1 with Director Daron Brown to inspect the area's readiness for hurricane evacuation. I saw a lot of progress and there is no doubt in my mind that Director Brown will get the job done.

Wednesday we held a leadership meeting here in Baton Rouge, and it was good to see everyone. The first half of the morning session was an overview of the Coordinated System of Care (CSOC) that we talked about several weeks ago. CSOC Project Manager Shannon Robshaw provided a good presentation on how the four state agencies, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS, formerly DSS), DHH, Department of Education and OJJ, are working together to provide more effective, comprehensive and cost-effective services for our youth and their families. If anybody is interested in CSOC, and would like to catch up on what's happening with the project, there is a link to the Coordinated System of Care on our website, at the bottom left of the home page.

Several of OJJ's leaders brought us up to date on their respective areas at the Wednesday meeting. Chief of Operations Ellyn Peterson provided information on the CQIS plan to take advantage of a moratorium on audits, to reinvent the CQIS process for performing audits in the facilities and in community based services. We heard from Undersecretary Alan Boxberger regarding our goals for the current fiscal year, and a re-design of our business processes. Our Assistant Secretary, Dr. Girard Melancon, gave an overview of the work we are doing to help provide vocational training for our youth in conjunction with the LA Workforce Commission's Workforce Initiative. If anybody wants more information about any of these topics, feel free to ask your leadership to fill you in or provide additional information.

I'm sure that I will have a good time in Chicago, but I will be glad to be back in Louisiana. Until then, thanks for all you do, every day and in every location, 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