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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Vol. 2, No. 21. January 8, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

I had a great visit this week to the Lake Charles office along with Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis. RM Ann Vick and her team are doing great work and we found them in great spirits, with caseloads of 19-26. The staff there reported that they love *What's Up, Doc?* so this edition is dedicated to them. Woo-hoo Lake Charles!

Of course, the Lake Charles staff has had to struggle with flooding from hurricanes, and now I know why. Looking out of Ann Vick's window, you can see the bayou meandering by. I am delighted that they are getting brand new office space – four feet off the ground – and they are getting ready to move in. I've been promised a special invitation to their open house and I will try to get back to Lake Charles to help them celebrate. Maybe while there I can ride with a PPO and possibly even pay a visit to the Calcasieu Parish court.

Come to think of it, I forgot to ask the Lake Charles staff about the mission. But I knew they know it because they talked about it several times without me even asking what they do to meet the mission.

Well, this week it was back to work after the holidays, and time has sure flown by. It's hard to believe it's Friday already. This cold weather has certainly gotten our attention. At least we did not have that thin layer of black ice that people were worried about. I know it's cold outside because I have a built-in Doppler Radar that tells me we have a few more weeks of winter left. It was just about this time last year that that I broke my arm, and it's been speaking to me...telling me it's cold out there. I just hope that oil stays above \$70 a barrel and that folks in the north are buying Louisiana oil and gas. Louisiana's budget projections are based on \$70 a barrel oil, and anything above that is good for Louisiana. Actually, I saw a report that crude oil is selling for just over \$80 a barrel. I hope the people in Minot, North Dakota, where it was 20 degrees below zero this week, have their supply of heating oil for the weekend.

There was supposed to be a judges' meeting here today, but they called it off in anticipation of the extreme weather. But we will have an opportunity to host a number of judges next week at Bridge City. Several judges will visit Bridge City and tour the facility. We are looking forward to showing off for them.

We are also starting to think about the upcoming legislative session and all that experience brings. Before the session, I am hoping to get out of the office and do some visiting around the state. I'll try to stop in and see everyone in the regional offices and sites as I am out and about.

I'm sure by now many of you have seen media reports about the U.S. Department of Justice report "Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities" that was released yesterday. It's a national report that speaks to PREA issues. Our big challenge is to make sure that everywhere we come into contact with youth, they are safe from sexual abuse and from being victimized in a sexualized environment. Please go to our website homepage under the PREA link to view the entire report.

Well, that should wrap it for this week. Please stay warm and well this weekend. Thanks for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov