
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I love having a week where I can get caught up on everything and still have productive meetings. I try to meet with stakeholders and influential people important to OJJ. This week I was pleased to meet with Attorney General Buddy Caldwell. He is a very interesting man with interesting ideas and insights into matters of criminal justice. I appreciate the time spent with him and some of his staff, including Kurt Wall, director of the criminal division, and I look forward to working with General Caldwell and other law enforcement officials.

I also met with the Sheriff's Association on matters of mutual interest and concern, including legislation which is pending in this year's session.

Speaking of working with law enforcement people, on Wednesday Baton Rouge City Police Chief Jeff LeDuff visited Jetson to bring an inspiring and powerful message to the youth. Principal Ronnie Knox presents monthly motivational programs with outside speakers, so the youth will hear from people other than their teachers and staff. Chief LeDuff pays a visit every so often and is always compelling, with his message about choices. He told the kids that they reside at Jetson because of a choice they made, but that does not have to define them. They can choose a more productive lifestyle by finding something they are good at and sticking with it, and staying focused. The chief described growing up in extremely modest circumstances where people laughed at his family... but now when those people call him, they have to make an appointment...and call him "Chief."

We are thinking about how we can create more opportunities for other law enforcement officials and stakeholders to help us with our mission.

This week we also had several internal meetings, and one gathered together the team concerned with employee disciplinary policy. It's been a year since we made changes to the employee discipline policy, so it's time to re-visit it. If you come up with any changes that you think will improve the policy, your suggestions will be welcomed when we roll out a draft of the new policy.

I hope you all had a happy Easter. If you have not eaten all those boiled eggs by now, please throw them out. A few years ago we had an Easter egg hunt and several weeks later the dog found something to munch on hidden in a flower bed...with blue egg shells strewn on the ground we had a pretty good idea what she had. Needless to say she stayed outside for a while before she was allowed re-entry to the house. Oh, and if you have not already done so, all egg salad should be tossed out, too, or it may toss you.

Well, folks, it's onward and upward. Wishing each of you a pleasant weekend, with my thanks to you all, in every office and facility, for all you do daily to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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