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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Vol. 4, No.1. August 26, 2011

Hello, Everyone:

WOW! WOW! What a week! We have had a lot of things going on. How 'bout that Jetson Center for Youth? 100 percent and 100 percent! Director Daron Brown proudly told me that it is his recollection that no juvenile facility in Louisiana has ever gotten 100 percent in an ACA audit - so congratulations to Director Brown and the Jetson team for a job well done.

The auditors were very complimentary of the Jetson staff and their relationship with the youth, the cleanliness of the physical plant and our programming. As you all know, a facility is not accredited without a lot of hard work and dedication of the whole team. We are very grateful to all who made the audit a success, and especially to the ACA auditors, Jeff Rogers, Dan McGeehee, and Barb Dennison, who had a lot of good suggestions to the staff on how we can improve - and that is always something we strive for.

Regarding Bridge City, we decided to postpone their ACA audit until the staffing levels improve. I'm sure many of you are aware that we have a number of vacancies in the JJS series, and in fact, many of our staff from other facilities and Probation and Parole are stepping up and helping with coverage. My sincere thanks go out to everyone who is pitching in and giving up their weekends and evenings to ensure that we meet the mission at Bridge City. We have an aggressive plan in place to hire a large number of staff to fill the vacancies and we are going to run consecutive training classes at Bridge City until we get the staffing levels to where they need to be. My special thanks go out to those JJSs at Bridge City who continue to be dedicated to the mission.

We will not fail our youth no matter what it takes because that is who we are and that is what it takes. We have a history of doing whatever it takes, and that is exactly what we will do. We look forward to inviting the ACA auditors back soon, when our staffing levels are where we need them to be.

Moving on to local and national news - thank goodness we do not have a hurricane bearing down on Louisiana, but we do have a whirlwind LSU-style. If somebody doesn't think that life can be changed in a heartbeat, I bet those football players wish they had not broken curfew and had a do over! Bad choice! Jordan Jefferson apparently had 49 pairs of shoes, and we have only 31 days in a month! With at least \$100 for a pair of shoes - you do the math. He had more shoes than Imelda Marcos!

Talk about turning a negative into a positive, the earthquake in DC cured a man of his deafness - and of course, we can believe anything as long as it is on the Internet!

We are wishing our neighbors in the east well, what with earthquakes this week and a hurricane this weekend.

Well that about wraps it up for this week. Wishing you a quiet and hurricane-and-earthquake free weekend. My thanks to each and every one of you on the OJJ team, wherever you work and however you serve. It takes a team to meet the mission, and my thanks to you all for meeting our mission, every day and everywhere.

Sincerely,  
"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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