
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

It's been another busy week. It looks like the northern part of the state got their wish and people were able to recoup the sneaux days that we got in the southern parishes the week before. I hope all of you enjoyed your "slick" time. Many of us here in the southern region were hoping that we could cash in again, but to no avail this time. Who doesn't like a little extra time off every now and then? But we were back at work and it was busy – hectic to say the least – we've been very busy around here following up on projects and keeping things moving.

We met with Dr. Cecile Guin, Director of the LSU School of Social Work, and other LSU staff, who intend to apply for an OJJDP grant to conduct research in the girls' program at Ware Youth Center. Their specific area of interest is trauma-informed therapy, along with our La MOD approach to treatment. They are very excited about this project, as are Ware Director Kenny Loftin and of course, OJJ. We look forward to being very supportive of the process.

We have also been very busy with meetings about CSoC – the Coordinated System of Care - and this project continues to move forward. Speaking of CSoC, I was very proud of OJJ last week, when many offices were closed across the state due to the weather. There was a scheduled telephone conference call between our staff and some other agencies. All of our staff came into the call as scheduled, from home or wherever they were – to carry on the business at hand. No other agency did the same, and that speaks volumes to the caliber of the staff of OJJ, who have a strong commitment to meet our mission. I'm sure our staff would rather have been watching an episode of Andy Griffith or reading a book by the fire. My thanks go out to all those folks, and many others throughout our agency, who stepped up, even on a sneaux day. YOU ROCK!

Shifting gears, we had a supervisors training class here at central office, and I was able to come in and talk to the class briefly before the afternoon session. Everybody was awake – that was a good sign – and there was a lot of writing on flip charts around the room. That's usually a good sign too. I was glad to see Jetson Director Daron Brown and New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Manager Kelly Clement at the training. Besides the benefit of growing as professionals, another benefit of the training is that people are getting to know their colleagues in supervisory positions around the state.

Just to give you a heads-up: we are working on a Leadership Handbook that I hope will be of interest to our staff. Stay tuned.

As you may have heard by now, our Undersecretary, Alan Boxberger has left OJJ and gone back to the Legislative Fiscal Office, where he was when he came to OJJ. Alan decided to accept a promotion from his previous position there, and is returning to the promoted position. It is his dream job, and it offered him more quality time with his family. On behalf of the entire executive team, and I'm sure the whole agency, I want to thank Alan for his service to OJJ. His contributions left OJJ in a better place than when he arrived. We wish Alan all the best and extend our heartfelt appreciation to him.

We are very fortunate to have filled the position of Undersecretary so quickly. Our new Undersecretary, Connie Percell, will be here Monday. Please watch for a bulletin that will introduce Connie to the OJJ family. Thanks, Connie, for jumping on this horse!

Well, that about wraps it up for the week. The weather seems to be holding out, cold but clear, so everyone should be at their appointed workplace next week. My thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, wherever you work (including from home), for your dedication to meeting the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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