
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 3, No. 36. April 21, 2011

Hello, Everybody:

Happy Good Thursday! Happy Good Friday tomorrow! Happy Easter on Sunday! I hope that we are all a happy bunch.

We've had some interesting things going on this week. We had four visitors from the Mississippi Division of Youth Services who spent three days at central office, learning about best practices in investigative services. Investigative Services Lt. Col. Chad Wells conducted the training, and taught our Mississippi counterparts about the procedures we have developed to protect youth and staff in our secure care facilities. Many thanks and congratulations to Chad, who "did us proud." We look forward to juvenile justice investigators from other states paying us a visit in the future.

NAAWS – the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents – held its annual conference at the Hilton Hotel in Baton Rouge this week. Some 250+ wardens from across the country were here for 3 ½ days. CQIS Program Coordinator Katie K. Justice helped out during the conference, and several members of our executive team attended workshops and helped with the hospitality. Our fellow agency, the Department of Corrections, did an outstanding job in hosting the conference. I attended a workshop and the crawfish boil, and was able to see several people from across the country at the event. It's always good to visit with friends.

And as always, meetings, meetings, meetings. Mostly about the budget this week....

To update you on the progress toward siting a secure care facility in Acadiana, we have taken a new approach and made it a competitive process among communities. We will soon issue a Request for Information (RFI) to invite communities to propose locations and partnership opportunities for the proposed Acadiana Center for Youth. We have talked to leaders of a number of communities to invite them to respond to the RFI, and several communities have expressed an interest. Communities will be sending application packages to us for consideration as we pursue a site for ACY. Stay tuned for the press briefing in a couple of weeks. I really feel good about our process, and where we are in that process. We are gonna do it – we are gonna build that facility to serve Acadiana youth!

I met with Stephanie Desselle from Leadership Louisiana today, an impressive group of leaders who make a one-year commitment to tour the state and participate in sessions to discuss education, workforce training, the economy and strategies for growth, history and politics, news media, arts and culture, criminal justice, healthcare, and poverty. The participants receive in-depth, strategic information about critical issues from leading experts as they travel about the state for on-site demonstrations and tours. Good news! Leadership Louisiana is interested in learning more about OJJ and the system in Louisiana. We have a tentative plan to present to them in September with a tour of Swanson. Fabulous!

Well that about wraps up our short week – wishing each of you in every OJJ location a wonderful holiday with family and friends, with my thanks for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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