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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

Normally I would have said something last week about the things we have to celebrate, but I don't mix my apples with my lemons, and last week I had to talk about my lemons. Hopefully I made my point and we can move on.

So let's start out this week with a hearty CONGRATULATIONS to Community-Based Services (P&P). They had yet another 100 percent re-accreditation audit by ACA. We all should be very proud that P&P has maintained consistent high marks with ACA. Our auditors, Pete Shaw of Ohio and Mike Lazzuri of Virginia, were very complimentary about what we are doing in Louisiana and they were very impressed, from our assessments to our case load sizes and the quality of work being done. They said the 100 percent finding is unusual and impressive, and that good things are happening within OJJ as we work to meet the mission: assisting youth in becoming productive citizens. The auditors visited 3 field offices: New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Thanks to everyone who participated by gathering documents and spending time with the auditors. You're looking good out there! As you know, our 3 facilities have their initial ACA audits coming up this summer. So I know they are hard at work in preparation. We look forward to their good news to come.

Last week we had visitors from our sister agency, the Arkansas Division of Youth Services. They spent time in New Orleans, visiting the regional office and several programs and providers. Among the seven guests was DYS Director Ronald Angel. Mr. Angel said he wanted to visit Louisiana because we are neighbors and our goals are the same. In Arkansas they heard about the innovations we have implemented and progress we are making. Mr. Angel noted that what they have heard was correct based on their observations. They would like to return to meet even more staff. Good job, DAS Carolyn Lewis, RM Kelly Clement and staff.

Well, everybody in Baton Rouge is a little relieved now that the legislative session is over. Now is the time where we can adjust to the budget we received and make plans for the new fiscal year that starts July 1 – one week from today. Now we can dig in and get some work done without the extra pressure and demands of the legislative process.

And, now that the session is over, we can schedule some down time. Summer is here and it's time to take a deep breath, re-focus and schedule some time away from work. I hope that everyone has a chance to do that.

Don't forget to eat your fresh veggies. I love summertime and all the fresh vegetable stands. But you have to watch out and make sure that all the produce is homegrown. I know that, if you are like me, you've stopped at a stand only to find out it's stuff left at the back door of the local Safeway. Last year I tried to grow tomatoes and I had four tomato plants. They flowered but did not produce. So this year I reduced the crop to one tomato plant, and guess what? I got one tomato. And a bird got that one. So I'm, sticking to squash in the future. But I digress.

Here's one more bit of good news. The committee reviewing site proposals for the Acadiana Center for Youth has met twice and one more meeting is scheduled. We hope to announce the successful proposer very soon.

I will close with my thanks to every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, where good things are happening as we work to meet the mission.

Sincerely, Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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