
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 4, No. 26. March 9, 2012

Hello, OJJ Family:

Well it is spring time again. Spring time means sore muscles, “March Madness”, the legislature begins their work, JJIC, allergies and Daylight Savings Time.

Let’s start with sore muscles....I had some from just working in the yard. Time for Weed and Feed or forever fight the weeds for the rest of the summer. Now isn’t it pitiful that I was sore just from that? What a shame! I guess the only exercise I get consistently is walking from around my desk to the conference room. Connie Percell and I were going up the steps of the Claiborne Building heading to a meeting and we saw someone we knew coming gingerly down the steps. She was barely moving and all crouched up. We asked if she was o.k. and she said “yea, I’m just sore from running the other day.” That’s what the nice weather does for us. We get out to do things and think we are all that, and pay for it the next couple of days. So, keep moving and I want to hear about your sore muscles. It is good for us every spring! (Ha Ha).

“March Madness” is upon us. I was very proud of the LSU Women’s Basketball Team who made it to the SEC championship. We lost to Tennessee which is predictable because it appears we have it in our head that we are playing Tennessee, and they can’t be beat. Not by us anyway. Something tells me that Coach Nikki Caldwell will get that cleared up pretty soon.

We had a JJIC meeting yesterday at the Capitol. OJJ was asked for an update. I talked about our accomplishments and our challenges. A big challenge we are facing right now is the high turnover in our JJS staff. We met with Civil Service on Thursday to discuss what options we have to address our challenges. Executive Director Shannon Templet and the Civil Service staff have been very helpful with providing us with some great ideas, which we will be considering in the very near future. I look forward to working with them closely as we try to solve some of our workforce challenges.

I had a great time today at the Shreveport regional office where I participated in a town hall meeting. It’s always nice to hang out in the field and get to know everyone a little better.

Bullies. I have a very hard time with bullies. I suppose in some ways, saying I don’t like bullies, is being somewhat of a bully myself. So, I must be careful to find a way to love them, too. I guess that fairness is at the heart of my issues. I don’t think it fair for one person to pick on another who is seen as weak. Leadership in all of us should be tuned in to helping the least “perfect” among us. After all, what is perfect, right? The more different a person is, the more we should reach out to protect them and their uniqueness. We should be careful to not use words to hurt, or allow others to hurt with their words. This is especially true with adolescents. We know how important peer associations are with teenagers. I am saddened by a story of a young girl in Pointe Coupee who killed herself. She was bullied. She hated going to school because she was different. We must teach the kids that words do hurt.

Don’t forget to “*Spring Forward*” on Saturday night. I don’t like losing the hour, but I do like more daylight. And I like getting the hour back a lot.

So, thanks to each of you for all you do every day and everywhere to meet the mission. Wishing you a great weekend!

Sincerely,
“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary