
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

There are only a few events in our lifetime where everyone can remember where they were and what they were doing when.... This week we recognized one of those days - September 11, 2001. Five Louisiana natives died during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., and thousands more from around the world. There were events and memorials around the country and I hope you took a moment to reflect on that day and the people who lost their lives. One particularly moving tribute I read about was from the Baton Rouge area firefighters. Firefighters from around the area completed a 110-story climb, one that their "brothers" started on Sept. 11, 2001. Each firefighter climbed stairs to the 11th floor 10 times, and bore the names of the 343 firefighters that died on Sept. 11. This represented the 110 stories of the twin towers that New York firefighters attempted to climb.

In addition to this event that weighed heavy on my mind this week, I also attended our central office training. **Director of Training Fran Martin** organized a very useful line up of presenters. We heard about PREA standards, travel guidelines, Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect, Staff-Youth Relationships and social networking issues. I also attended the quarterly Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board meeting and gave an update on OJJ and all our goings-on. As always, it makes me proud to review all the work we get done over just a couple months time.

I've notice clean-up after Hurricane Isaac has begun. And while the physical signs of the storm might be gone for most of us, we have several team members across the state who suffered severe damage to their homes during the storm. For them, Isaac has not left as they deal with the aftermath of insurance agents, contractors, landlords, living out of suitcases and all things that come with repairing your home after flooding inside and roof damage outside. Yet, with all their personal struggle, they come to work. We have such a dedicated group of employees; I am honored to work with you. If you work alongside one of these team members, please, ask what you can do to help. Maybe it's offering a ride to work or bringing them a home cooked meal, but we need to take care of our family. Also, a special thanks to the P&P staff who continue to help out DCFS at 2 of their shelters through the weekend. Your commitment to doing whatever it takes to help has not gone unnoticed!

Yesterday, I hit the road to Little Rock, Arkansas. That is where the Association of Women Executives in Corrections, AWEC for short, training institute and conference is. The theme is developing leaders, something close to my heart. So, I plan to come back with lots of new ideas to keep the staff busy and push OJJ even further along the path of reform.

My special thanks to every one of you who do your part in protecting communities, supporting each other and continuing to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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