
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's the end of another long week. Most weeks seem to fly by and this one was no different. One problem though, was that two of my staff in the executive team meeting this week had nasty colds and they have given it to me. Thanks to **Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton** and **Health Services Administrator** (that's right, health) **Kelly Smith**, I have been coughing and snuffling all week. Well, maybe it's allergies, but it's more fun to call it a cold. We had several good meetings this week, conducted a big meeting at Bridge City and a tour at Jetson, and the new Regional Directors have been at central office a good bit this week getting acclimated to their new job duties.

We had the first meeting of the new advisory council for the Interstate Compact on Juveniles at Bridge City. The members of the council are **Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton; Angela Bridgewater, ICJ Commissioner; Suzie Durrett, Deputy Compact Admin.; Judge Thomas Duplantier; Jean Roan, community citizen; Beth Meeks, Executive Director of the LA Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, victim's advocacy; **Genie Powers, Dep. Secretary of Corrections; Revettea Woods, OJJ Attorney** and **Rep. Helena Moreno**. Others who attended were **DAS Karen Stubbs; Regional Directors Johnny Qualls and Susan Miller; BCCY Director Namon Reid; Asst. Dir Darrell Foster** and **Laquelia Smith, program coordinator**. We toured the facility, and it's really looking good. The young men were very cordial to our guests. We had an excellent lunch prepared by **Chef Sonnier** and his Culinary Arts students, and that meal was as good as any meal I've ever eaten in New Orleans, just outstanding.

DAS Karen Stubbs and I had a productive meeting with **CSoc Director Jody Levison-Johnson**, to discuss behavioral health and CSoc initiatives. I appreciate all the efforts that everyone is putting forth to iron out the details for this system to work. Some time ago, I managed to miss a meeting, so in my absence I was voted the chair of the CSoc Governance Board for the year. I firmly believe that as we get the program up and running, this will provide a great benefit to our families and youth.

We also conducted tour of Jetson for a new member of JJIC, **Ms. Tracy Woods** of Southern University. She spent several hours at Jetson and we did a thorough walk-through. It was beautiful day, perfect for a long walk around the campus.

We met with people from Facility Planning as work continues on our plan to replace Jetson, either with a whole new facility or through renovations to the existing buildings. It's a long process, but we are reviewing the study to determine the best course of action. Stay tuned.

We are celebrating "Pinktober – Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in a big way here at central office. The Morale Committee is operating "Geaux Pink - pink 'n' jeans Wednesdays" with the proceeds going to the Cancer Society for breast cancer research. I was happy to see that some of our male employees are participating, because breast cancer is not all about women. In rare cases, men can get it too, but more importantly, families/husbands/fathers/sons/brothers are affected, not just the cancer victim, when the wife/mother/sister/daughter/aunt/close friend has cancer. I'll gladly pony up \$5.00 and wear jeans on Wednesdays to help the cause. I think just about everyone has known someone stricken by cancer, it's such a cruel disease. Whatever it takes to stamp it out.

I want to give a shout-out to Jetson youth, **Keith B.** and **JJS Quienetha Williams**, who presented to a social work class at LSU. Although I was not there, I heard they did an outstanding job representing OJJ.

I'll close, wishing you a wonderful fall weekend, with my thanks to each member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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