
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

First, I want to thank the PPOs from the Metro and Baton Rouge offices who have been working the DSNAP (disaster food stamp) distribution sites in New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and Baton Rouge. OJJ's PPOs have been providing security and keeping the lines moving as hundreds of people lined up for food assistance in the wake of Hurricane Isaac. Speaking of thanks for working through the hurricane, I received a gracious thank-you letter from State Rep. Chris Hazel, congratulating us for working at the shelter in Alexandria that housed evacuees from south Louisiana. Staff from the Alexandria Regional Office put in a lot of hours taking care of those folks – let me add my thanks to that of Rep. Hazel for your unselfish efforts.

Well, the first step in OJJ's reorganization has begun. Please join me in congratulating our new **Assistant Secretary, Sean Hamilton**, and our new **Regional Directors, Carolyn Lewis, Susan Miller and Johnny Qualls**. So you will understand where these positions came from, we took two deputy assistant secretary positions housed in central office and moved them to the Field. I envision that these Regional Directors will be in and around all the offices and facilities, and visiting our service providers in their regions on a frequent basis. They will not be spending much time in their offices. I really think this will improve support and communications between offices and facilities. Once the shift has been made, I think that more ideas will come forth for more efficiency and best use of our resources. I think there will be a lot of synergy coming out of the reorganization, as we blur the lines between areas.

I went to the last of the regional juvenile justice consensus meetings this week. A lot of good input was gathered, and the results of these meetings will be put together into a final report that will be submitted by JJIC to the legislature. The MacArthur Foundation will provide background for the report, which is required by legislation to detail where we are in the reform effort, what has been done and not done, and what our recommendations and priorities are going forward.

I've been on the speaking circuit lately, visiting Kiwanis Clubs to talk about our agency and our mission. Today I spoke to the Red Stick Kiwanis in Baton Rouge. **DAS Karen Stubbs** came with me and she was introduced as my "bodyguard." They only gave me 15 minutes to speak – it's really hard to get all the major points across in just 15 minutes. Since I have actually been asked to talk to a couple of other chapters of Kiwanis clubs, I guess it's back to the drawing board, because I have way too much material and not enough time. I guess that's better than being at a loss for words.

Keep your eyes open for a big award announcement on Monday. We have been recognized nationally – this is big stuff, so stay tuned.

On to other national events of importance—those poor NFL replacement referees! They just weren't ready for the big league. But come on, really, can't the NFL afford to pay them a little more, when they make a gazillion dollars on tickets, concessions and merchandise? The NFL almost blew it, but it looks like they corrected their mistake. The real refs are back out there – good decision, NFL.

For all you pork lovers out there, oink, oink, oink! You may have to switch to turkey bacon. Say goodbye to cheap bacon in 2013. We should have gotten rid of cheap bacon a long time ago. I say go for the whole hog. This news comes from no other than Great Britain's National Pig Association. At least in America we call it the National Pork Producers' Council. We know how to put lipstick on a pig.

Shifting gears, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Morale Committee in central office is engaging us in fundraising activities for the cause. I know there are probably some PPOs in the Lafayette and Hammond offices who will be doing the Komen runs – I remember their pictures from last year.

Speaking of Hammond, my "bodyguard" and I went to the Hammond office this week and met with a consultant and the leadership team in that area. I got caught up on the work they are doing there – what a great bunch of folks – highly motivated, smart, and dedicated to the mission. Thanks for the work you are doing, and a big thank-you for piloting the policy and procedure review.

Well, I'll close for now, wishing you all a great weekend, with my thanks to every one of you in every office and facility, north, south, east and west, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers* P.S. Happy birthday to my mother, Doris Livers, age – I can't tell you, because she would kick my b---

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