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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Thank goodness there's nothing brewing in the Gulf that could hurt us right now. Of course, that grumpy old man Isaac left us, went straight to Michigan and came back down, and is sitting right off the coast of Louisiana. It's not expected to do much of anything, but it is unpredictable. If it spawns into a tropical storm it will be named Nadine. We'll just keep on watching. Now there's a hurricane, Leslie, in the Atlantic, which seems to be going north, and a "himmicane" named Michael. It looks like old Mike is headed north too. Goodbye and good luck, Mike and Leslie.

Well, because of the hurricane, many of us really did not have a four day week, or a three day weekend. But at least we're all sort of getting back to normal. Hurricanes just take it out of you. Not only do we have all the work to do keeping the public and the kids safe, but we have our own mess to deal with. Most everybody is in fairly good shape, but there are still about 4,500 people around the state without power. It takes a long time for people who have water in their houses to recover, and unfortunately, we do have a handful of employees who are experiencing that. We want to support our staff who have experienced significant losses, so please give us your ideas.

As I stated earlier, we are trying to get back to normal and move forward. And I know staff at central office are anxious to catch up and get back to business. I know that is true at the Hammond P&P office, because **Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton, Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** and myself, had the chance to stop by there and visit with staff. Everybody I talked to had a lot of close calls with the hurricane. Many of the staff were stranded by high water, but nobody I talked to actually had water in their homes. But they were without power and were stranded on their property, surrounded by water. That's tough, folks, and scary. I'm glad the water went down, and the air is back on, and our folks are back to work, with stories to tell.

BTW, while we were in the area, the three of us also attended the Northshore Technical College ribbon cutting. What a beautiful facility, with a great mission. We learned that there are about 20 more new buildings around the state that are going to replace the technical colleges' outdated, old clunker facilities. Sound familiar to anyone? My attendance there strengthened my resolve to do something about getting out of our dilapidated, old school corrections facilities. And we all "went to school" on how to do a ribbon cutting, because we are going to have one soon at Columbia. Hopefully we will be cutting that ribbon in early 2013.

So, that's about all my space. Enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend. The NFL games have started, and there's college football all day long Saturday. Life is good. Special thanks to all of you for meeting the mission every day, and especially during the time of the storm.

I have not heard from any of you in quite a while. I'm not feeling your love right now, and I'm starting to think you're not reading these anymore. I look forward to reading some of your hurricane stories and ideas for assisting staff with hurricane losses. But, now, back to having a good weekend, until next time.

Sincerely  
"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov