
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

As many of you know, last weekend additional staff began providing support at Bridge City and Jetson. Staff from the field, central office and the facilities are able to cover shifts where we are shorthanded. We all realize the success of programs for youth tied to the therapeutic model work best when we have the proper staffing levels to support the programming. We will be working hard to fill the vacant positions at both facilities in the coming months, but your volunteering to help out is greatly appreciated while we get staff levels up to par.

Most of you also know that we had a JJIC meeting yesterday. We presented our newest numbers which show our population has decreased significantly over the past four years. We know these reductions are due in part to some of the special initiatives that our staff have taken on, such as implementation of the SAVRY and the service coordination model, as well as working with our national partners on the reform effort. The reforms resulting in lowered numbers also could not have been realized without the support of stakeholders such as the courts, the District Attorneys and local service providers. DHH and Magellan provided updates on CSoC and the Behavioral Health Partnership. Also, representatives from the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association provided information on the rollout of the local detention center standards.

At the meeting we heard from a couple of parents about some unfortunate incidents at Bridge City. I acknowledged these incidents, and we will be following up with the JJIC and advocacy groups on a variety of issues relating to these incidents. This will give us an opportunity to reflect on how we go about doing our jobs every day, and correcting those things that will allow us to better meet the mission on an individual basis, in everything we do, every day.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from LCLE to study our pre-service training materials. This week we met with national training consultants who reviewed and evaluated our training materials. We were very pleased with their work product and recommendations, and we are happy to report that the consultants felt that our LAMOD training modules could serve as a best practice model on a national level. Congratulations to all of the staff development employees who have contributed to creating the LAMOD training materials – You Rock!

Halloween was yesterday, and despite a steady rain, at central office we were able to trick or treat along our hallways with our annual Treats on Your Street event. Our thoroughfares are named Action Court, Juvenile Justice Junction, Livers' Lane, Saints Drive, Vision Road, Mission Boulevard and Takin' Care of Business Turnpike. Staff get together and decorate tables with lots of Halloween-y creatures and fall colors and they bring treats of every description for all to enjoy. We had a veritable feast of cookies, cupcakes, brownies, candies, hot dips and chips, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit, biscotti – if it tastes good and is not good for you, it was on a table and we ate it all up. It was great to come back to that sweet celebration after a day at the Capitol with JJIC.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and hoping you can get out to enjoy the great fall weather, with my thanks to each and every member of the OJJ team, in every office and facility, for all you do every day to meet the mission. And don't forget the time change this Sunday - fall back - for daylight savings time. We have to remember to set every clock back one hour.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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