

---

## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

---

Vol. 5, No. 33. April 19, 2013

Hello, Everyone:

It's a bit ironic that all Americans are glued to the television on April 19 once again, to watch the events unfold about another bombing incident, this time at the Boston Marathon. It was on April 19, 1995 that the Oklahoma City bombing took place. So, here we are today, watching the authorities as they try to put the pieces together on who is responsible, and hopefully for the healing to begin. Senseless violence. So much senseless violence. And, of course we've seen the tragic headlines about the fertilizer plant explosion in the Texas town of West. One thing about the United States, when something like these bombings, and 9 -11, occur, it's all hands on deck. We'll do whatever it takes to find the perpetrators, and not give up until we get those who have committed these vicious attacks. I believe it's this relentless pursuit of justice that keeps this from happening on a regular basis in the United States. I hope it never comes to the point where we become desensitized to these occurrences, as has happened in other countries and cities. I know our hearts and prayers go out to all of the victims of this week's headlines.

It's kind of hard to talk about anything else, really, due to the overriding concerns on the news that continue to flow from the Boston area. But as much as that has dominated our hearts and minds for the last five days, business has continued and we have to stay focused on our mission. In that vein, I've been to the Legislature a couple of times this week. The Integrated Case Management bill, SB 107, was heard in Judiciary B and was passed out of the Senate, so it's on to the House for consideration. The FINs legislation was scheduled to be heard in committee, however it was pulled for further consideration. The Legislature is in full force and it's a very active time between now and June 6 when it ends.

I was able to make a quick trip to Jetson this week, along with Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton. It was good to visit with the staff and to see the youth in school. Things are going well there and I was quite pleased. Corrections Employees Week is fast approaching and I know plans are underway for our staff to be honored and be appreciated in recognition of the work that y'all do every day. I'm looking forward to getting out and about to see many of you as the events unfold.

Just giving you a couple of updates. The plans for Acadiana continue to move forward. Curtis Badon is keeping all the players at FP&C on target with deadlines. We hope that the construction bids will go out this summer and we'll be doing a groundbreaking ceremony this fall. *Yea!!* Along those lines, we're also excited about opening the Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia. We have targeted May 24 for the ribbon cutting and grand opening, and we are very excited about it.

I guess I'll end with a snake story. Last night I encountered a nasty little snake on my back patio as I was taking my dog Daisy out for her last bathroom break. When we went out, from of the corner of my eye I saw a suspicious looking thing that was out of place. I'm very glad I had turned on the back lights, normally I don't do that. Daisy trotted on to where she was supposed to be, and I grabbed a shovel and cut the little serpent's head off. Let me tell you, that head jumped around for 15 minutes looking to bite something. One dead snake later...I can't say I went to sleep very fast after that. Now I'm worried about where its mama is, because it was a small snake. So, watch out for two-legged snakes with backpacks, and the slithering kind of snake as well. It must be that time of year.

So, y'all stay safe this weekend, as you enjoy this crazy weather, with my thanks to each and every one of you, in every OJJ location, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

---

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