
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 5, No. 36. May 10, 2013

Hello, Everyone:

Our focus this week has been on thanking all of our staff for doing an outstanding job. It has been an extreme pleasure for me to have attended four ceremonies celebrating staff. This week has been very significant: it was National Public Service Recognition Week, set aside by Congress; National Corrections Officers Week, recognized by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Institute of Corrections; National Nurses Week, recognized by the American Nurses Association, and Teacher Appreciation Week, recognized by the National Education Association and the National Parent-Teacher Association. I believe that covers everyone who serves within OJJ. As ACA Executive Director James A. Gondles, Jr. said, "Offenders need teachers, chaplains, counselors, health care providers and mentors." All staff at our secure care facilities are considered correctional employees, regardless of function or title.

We started off the week with a luncheon at central office. Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton and his staff put on a fabulous event with delicious barbecue and all the trimmings served by the leadership team. We had a baby photo identification contest, where pictures of staff as babies or very young children were shown, and we all had to guess who they are today. We had some really cute kids! National motivational speaker William Kellibrew, who has appeared on the Oprah Show, happened to be in Baton Rouge to join the celebration.

On Tuesday, I visited Swanson for their staff appreciation event. I got the chance to visit with many of the staff while they relaxed and caught up with each other. The youth enjoyed the day as well, playing football and volleyball. We appreciated the attendance of partners from local law enforcement agencies there to support our staff. Special guests included West Monroe Police Chief Jerry Stansberry, Caldwell Parish Sheriff Steven May, and representatives from the Monroe City Police, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office and the Caldwell Parish District Attorney's Office.

From there, we were able to go by to see Columbia, where staff is very busy putting finishing touches on the facility for the grand opening in a couple of weeks. We are all so excited about that – stay tuned!

On Thursday, we joined the staff at Bridge City for a wonderful event held under the oaks – it was a gorgeous day to be outside. I enjoyed my visit with the staff and the youth. Once again our local law enforcement partners were a part of the celebration. Thanks to Susan Lindsey, assistant to Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Captain Michael Alwert, commander of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's juvenile division, and Mike Glaser, our guest from Kenner Police Department, for joining us.

We closed the week with a program at Jetson. We were treated to a wonderful poem by Youth Broderick T., shared with you on a rare second page. It truly is proof that we can make a difference in our youth's lives. Local law enforcement partners Michael Shropshire from the Baker City Police and Robert Clement, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office braved the rain to join us for the program.

Many thanks to all the Probation and Parole Officers who came out at all three events to help serve food and take care of details. I know that the PPOs are looking forward to their own special APPA Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week coming up in July. While I am very gratified at the unselfishness of our staff, I am not a bit surprised. OJJ staff are some of the most unselfish, dedicated people I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

By the way, I know most of you have remembered, but there's one more group to be honored – Sunday is Mother's Day. I hope you already have those cards bought and flowers ordered. **Happy Mother's Day, Mama Doris!** However you celebrate Mother's Day (and I know there are some whose mothers are no longer with you, so I hope you are able to enjoy precious memories), I hope you enjoy your day, with my thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, for all you do, day in and day out, 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

Jetson Staff, You're Well Appreciated

Though your job may be stressful at times, you're well appreciated.

Not obligated to help our fellow youth, but you do, and you're well appreciated.

Even though I blame you for things because I'm incarcerated, you're well appreciated. I know because I'm that youth. I'm that youth that curses you out of frustration. I'm that youth that sags on a daily basis. I'm the youth that you struggle to re-direct.

But you still try and I commend you for that.

You never entertain our negative behavior and I commend you for that.

You try to help me when I don't want to help myself, and I commend you for that.

Nurses, cafeteria workers, counselors, recreation coordinator, and teachers, you're well appreciated. 7 to 3 staff, you're well appreciated. 3 to 11 staff, you're well appreciated, and all 11 to 7 staff, you're well appreciated. All group leaders and rovers, you're well appreciated. Administrators, you're well appreciated.

By Broderick T.

