
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 5, No. 35. May 3, 2013

Hello, Everyone:

As many of you may know, most of the week we were concerned with preparing to testify before the Senate Finance Committee. It takes a lot of people a lot of time to put together all the budget figures, performance information and projections for future operations. As ever, our team was well-prepared and they prepared me well – since it's me in front of the microphone during most of the testimony. My thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for our presentation. The budget is still in the preliminary stages right now, so we don't have anything of substance to report yet. But one good thing that happened during our hearing that I'm happy to report to you is that OJJ was highly complimented by the Senate for doing a good job.

We had a town hall meeting here at central office this week, and I have to admit, the main topic of interest left me scratching my head. And a few other places. Thanks to Health Services Director Kelly Smith, we had an interesting speaker whose topic was none other than bedbugs. Kyle Moppert, Medical Entomologist from DHH's Center for Environmental Health Services/Office of Public Health, not only regaled us with a wealth of information about these little bloodsuckers, but he brought pictures! Big pictures projected on a screen, so we could not miss them – as he says we do on a regular basis, just about everywhere we go. One of the things I learned is that if you get an infestation of bedbugs, you are going to have one heck of a time getting rid of them. Another thing is that preventing them from infesting your home might be just as hard, because you don't know where they might be or where they are coming from. Bedbugs can be transported all over the world – for instance, if someone has been in New York City, and got bedbugs, and their luggage is placed next to yours on an airplane, the bedbugs can jump onto your luggage even though you were in Cleveland and nowhere near New York. Now I know more about bedbugs than I ever wanted to know. There are some things better left unknown. Well, now we also know where the old saying comes from, “sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite.” If you want to learn about these nasty little bugs, click the link below for information from the LA Bedbug Task Force (I am not kidding) for information, and yes, pictures.

http://dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/oph/Center-EH/envepi/Pest/Documents/MngngBedBugs2011_LwRs3.pdf

Yours truly has been asked by the National Partnership for Juvenile Services to be a part of a focus group to look at a toolkit, or desktop guide, the partnership is developing on youth in custody. I'm also working with the National Center for Youth in Custody, as a member of their advisory group. NC4YC provides technical assistance and educational webinars pertaining to issues for youth in custody across the spectrum – from detention to residential. If you would like to know more about these national organizations, please go online to visit their websites. Both organizations provide useful information.

Well, that's about enough interesting information for one week. Wishing each of you in every OJJ office and facility, all a warm and dry weekend, with my thanks 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