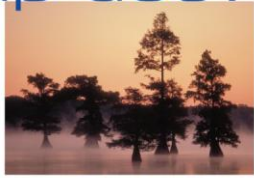

what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

Two hundred and forty-one. That's how many doors and gates there will be in the Acadiana facility when it's built. Engineer Curtis Badon has not stopped to count the windows yet. Stay tuned, as soon as he counts 'em up I'll let you know. I know you've been waiting anxiously to know how many openings there will be in the Acadiana facility since we talked about it a couple of weeks ago, and when I promise to give you information I try my best to follow through. ☺

Well, at central office we have been trained! Director of Staff Development Fran Martin put together a great lineup for our mandatory annual training, and we are now ethical, PREA and sexual harassment-trained, we can steer clear of blood-borne pathogens, inappropriate relationships with youth and their families, illegal drugs in the workplace, alert OCS to child abuse and neglect cases as mandatory reporters and we can travel the highways and byways of the state and fly the friendly skies according to the FY 2014 rulebook. Thanks to all the OJJ trainers and guest speakers who presented timely and interesting information, along with a few red faces as staff were used as humorous examples of what NOT to do in the workplace. (Thanks to the red-faced for being such good sports!)

Well, I'm on the road again, making the rounds of the regional offices as we observe P&P week. This week we were in Lake Charles and Lafayette for programs where we recognized our PPOS and the important work they do in keeping our communities safe and strong. We invited elected officials, judges, district attorneys, law enforcement representatives, community partners, providers and other stakeholders to join us in a program where we observed the American Probation and Parole Association's (APPA) Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week to recognize our dedicated and caring PPOs who work tirelessly to make the neighborhoods in their towns safer by assisting our youth in becoming productive citizens. PPOs are "changing lives, building futures," one kid at a time. I was happy to see that a number of local officials took the time to attend the two programs this week to learn about the services we provide and how they impact public safety. Thanks to our PPOs, a special group of people who are part of the backbone of the agency.

Last week I told you a sad animal story, but this week I have an uplifting story to share. The Lafayette P&P office recently adopted several dogs. (It was an informal adoption...) It seems that a staff member fed them one day and they never left. I have heard that during the week the dogs are in the back of the building, but on weekends, they move to the front of the building to guard it because they know employees are not coming to work for two days. Some employees stop by on the weekend to feed their "security staff." I guess this is better than any alarm system we could pay for. At least it's an alarm system that has some teeth. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.) I'm not a bit surprised that our staff has reached out to assist some unfortunate creatures. I think taking care of people and critters is just a part of our DNA.

Well, July is halfway over and you know what that means. Time to start school shopping! Before you know it, Big Yellow will be rolling down the street and the kids will be excited (at least on the first day) and parents will be excited too, but for other reasons!

I know I keep saying thank you for meeting the mission. I want you to know that I really mean it. I appreciate everything that is being done by staff in every OJJ location to meet our mission. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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