
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 5, No. 45, July 26, 2013

Hello, Everybody:

As many of you know, I'm on the road again, again, and again. I am so thankful for my iPad and cell phone. No matter where you are, city or rural area, you can stay connected and keep on working. And, I am also thankful that our horse and buggy days are long gone. Can you imagine how I would be feeling right now after traveling for five days in a buggy? And in this heat. It would not be easy on the hairdo. Can you imagine how the horse would be feeling? Could we be charged with cruelty to animals? This time our travels took us north. That's north Louisiana, (where it's still hot) as we went from city to city, town to town, for P&P Week recognition programs in Alexandria, Natchitoches, Shreveport, Monroe and Tallulah. Next week we travel the southern itinerary, and as you know, last week we covered southwest Louisiana. It's really great to get to visit with staff all over the state, as well as stakeholders and friends of the agency who have been coming out to help honor our PPOs.

No matter what location you work in, or where I visit, I find that everyone in OJJ has been busier than a bunch of bees. Speaking of bees – a soccer ball-sized swarm of bees kept a US Airways Express flight at the gate for several hours at Charlotte Douglas International Airport Wednesday afternoon. A beekeeper was summoned to remove the bees, who were apparently lost and looking for a new home. Then there was a fire, with flames shooting out of a moving walkway on a concourse, forcing an evacuation. And THEN three coyotes appeared on a runway and refused to move. That's right, you guessed it, no planes could take off. And in the spirit of never asking "what's next?" a plane that actually did get to take off on a flight to Rome had to be diverted back to the U.S. due to mechanical difficulties. The interim director (in the spot for just a week) of the airport said "Today has been a tough day." Kind of puts everything into perspective, doesn't it? Next time I think I'm having a rough day I'm going to chant "remember Charlotte, remember Charlotte." And the super good news for me is that my all travels this week have been on the ground, not in the air. And certainly not through Charlotte.

Is there really anything free? Next weekend is the Louisiana Sales Tax Holiday on Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3. We get to save the state sales tax of 4 percent - not a lot, but it can add up. Next weekend will be the time to stock up on school uniforms and back-to-school supplies. For details, go to the Louisiana Department of Revenue's website at <http://revenue.louisiana.gov/sections/publications/viewrelease.aspx?id=386>

Last week we said farewell to two central office staff members that many of you know and have worked with. Facility Treatment Director Annette Arthur departed for another position with DHH, and Education Coordinator Ella Fairchild retired with over 30 years of service to the children of our state. We will miss them both, and I want to thank both Annette and Ella for their invaluable contributions to our mission during their many years with OJJ.

What's brewing other than our coffee? Tropical weather, that's what. TS Dorian is moving along in the central Atlantic, Tropical Storm Flossie has formed in the Pacific between Mexico and the Hawaiian Islands, so I don't think that one will bother us. The "E" named storm is a mystery.... Now here's a news flash from the National Hurricane Center: **"NHC tropical cyclone forecast tracks can be in error. This forecast uncertainty is conveyed by the track forecast cone...each circle is set so that it encloses 67% of the previous five years official forecast errors."** Those of you who remember Katrina will remember a little NHC forecast error, so let's be sure we are all prepared for emergency situations until the hurricane season is past. (That's November 1, y'all! A long time to keep those canned goods on the shelf.) It's good to have a plan for all emergencies to keep our families safe in any situation.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer weekend, with my usual, heartfelt thanks to each of you in every OJJ location, for all you do in every situation, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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