
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I guess you may have noticed that I haven't mentioned LSU in the last couple of columns. Us LSU fans have been silent twice – first after the Alabama game and then of course, the Arkansas game was right behind that. So I guess all you ULL fans are still celebrating LSU's losses. I guess I really didn't expect LSU to be that good this year, and I was right at the beginning of the year. But they started improving and when LSU beat Ole Miss, it gave me a false sense of confidence that they might beat Bama. I actually found two tickets to the game, and I went to the game – I'm glad I went but I just don't know if I'll be back any time soon. That extra 20 thousand people in the stadium made a big difference – it makes the whole experience too challenging for anyone over 50 (ha ha). So I'll be watching football on TV pretty much from now on.

The Bayou Classic will be played next weekend and it should be a great game. Both Southern (8-3) and Grambling (7-4) have really good records this year, not to mention their bands – sometimes the battle of the bands is more exciting than the game. ULL is having a good year as well, so we'll be pulling for the Ragin' Cajuns (7-3) this weekend.

The PREA Steering Committee met Thursday to discuss the latest national and state PREA activities. We received an update on progress in our secure facilities and contract non-secure facilities. We have 2 active PREA grants, and Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney reported that we just received a third grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to focus on trauma-informed care, the next critical step in raising awareness of the effects of trauma as it relates to criminal behavior.

The ICJ state council held its quarterly meeting at central office today. ICJ is the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (though most people call it "compact"), a collaborative agreement between all states to transfer and supervise youth on probation and parole, runaways, absconders and escapees. Every state has a council, which meets to discuss new rules, changes and updates to the system. The Louisiana council includes judges, a representative from adult ICJ, a victims advocate and several members of the OJJ executive team. Angela Bridgewater is the state ICJ Commissioner, and she assures that we remain in compliance with the national rules. Katina Broden is Deputy Commissioner, and she is responsible for making sure all cases are entered into JIDS. She works with the regional offices to transfer cases to the receiving state and works with other states on receiving cases to Louisiana.

I was in Shreveport this week to attend the J-Board meeting and the LCLE meeting the next day. The J-Board is really JJDP – the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Program, a subcommittee of LCLE. It's very beneficial to be able to network with others in law enforcement from throughout the state and interact with people who are the policymakers.

Central office had a town hall meeting and Thanksgiving luncheon today. I know many of our offices are having Thanksgiving events. I stopped by the Natchitoches office on my way back from Shreveport this week and heard they will have their luncheon Monday. Every year we have had budget cuts and freezes, and this year is no different. We will be counting our pennies and paperclips, but we still have a lot to be thankful for, and we should reflect on our blessings.

Since next week is Thanksgiving and only a three-day week, there will be no WUD. So I'll take this opportunity to wish you all, in every office and facility, a lovely Thanksgiving holiday with the special people in your lives, with my sincere 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