
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everybody:

Well, the Winter Olympics finally started. Is it just me or does it seem the ceremonies are more important than the actual sports? They spent quite a bit of money on music, astronaut costumes, special effects and fireworks. They had a little bit of an epic fail – only four of the five rings lit up. Oops!

We had another week of crazy cold weather here in Louisiana - some people in North Louisiana got a chance to spend some time at home this week. Of course, we will be back to warm weather this weekend so pull your shorts out again. It will be nice to be able to get outside this weekend and take a break. I need a break from my iPad. I found myself arguing with the “voice recorder” as if she could argue back, my temper rising, and her only response, “sorry I can’t help you with that.” Modern technology.

I got to speak alongside juvenile justice advocates at the Louisiana Interchurch Conference this week. It is always nice to get out and visit with folks that can give me ideas and feedback on the work we are doing with youth. There was a lot of talk about re-entry and aftercare, so I will get back to you with more on that later.

The PREA Steering Committee met this week at Central Office. Our first audit is fast approaching, we will have to have at least one of our facilities 100% compliant and audited by August 2014. It looks like our first audit will take place at Bridge City. So, over the next few months, we will have a command emphasis on getting them audit ready. Hats off to Bridge City for stepping up to the challenge!

As with all audits, they are a group effort. All staff will have to be on board to make this successful. The PREA audit process includes the review of policy, logbooks, and other records to ensure that each and every staff member understands their part in protecting youth from sexual abuse. Youth, as well as, JJS and treatment staff will be interviewed by auditors to verify that we are compliant with the PREA standards. Auditors will also spend time inspecting the physical plant for potential violations.

There is always a little apprehension and worry that comes with doing an audit like this for the first time. But, I know from experience, that we are up for it. I have seen that evidence in our past audits. But more importantly, I have witnessed firsthand the professional way that you interact with our youth and each other.

I hope you enjoy your weekend, thanks to each of you, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

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