
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 6, No. 32. April 17, 2014

Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's a short week, as I'm sure you all are aware, with the Good Friday holiday ahead of Easter Sunday. I hope that all of you will be able to spend time with loved ones during this long holiday weekend.

We had an excellent training program and tour of Bridge City for our Community Liaison Council members from all three regions of the state this week. The Community Liaisons engage with us as a part of the community and help OJJ bridge the gap with what they are doing through their own networks in the communities. The members are active in their respective communities and have great ideas, a lot of important connections and the desire to help us meet our mission by supporting our youth. We realize that we are a part of the community and that the success of our young people depends on broader community support if they are to keep from going deeper into the system and becoming repeat offenders. We appreciate participation in this training session by the liaisons, as they are all very busy people who took time away from their schedules to help OJJ to meet our mission. Many thanks to the staff who worked to make this program a success, DAS Beth Touchet-Morgan, RDs Johnny Qualls, Carolyn Lewis and Susan Miller, and facility directors Angela Sutton and Vickie Shoecraft. Many thanks also to Mark and Alice Steward of MYSI and the Casey Foundation for their support.

At last the bid process to build the long-awaited Acadiana facility in Bunkie has begun. The request for bids has been released and the pre-bid conference is set for early May, which is just around the corner. I'm really looking forward to getting construction on that project under way.

Congratulations to the winner of last week's trivia question, what was the week's national observance. The winner is **Pathina Anderson**, Social Service Counselor Swanson-Monroe, who correctly answered National Crime Victims Awareness Week. Perfect that a counselor got it!

The OJJ trivia question for this week is: what was the legislation that enacted juvenile justice reform in Louisiana, and what year was it passed by the legislature?

Well, the old folks and the Farmers' Almanac advise not to plant spring vegetables before Good Friday in case there's a cold setback, and they have a point. Don't put those sweaters away yet, we have a nice weekend predicted, but it may be snowing up north and out west and those weather systems tend to move. South. So we may just get what those wise old folks call the "Easter Snap." Me, I'd wait before setting out those delicate little vegetable starts.

I'll close now, with my sincere thanks to everyone throughout the agency, in every location, for all you do every day to meet the mission. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday weekend and a Happy Easter.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary