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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

The juvenile PREA audit tool was released last week. OJJ has selected a PREA auditor and confirmed dates for audits of our non-secure contract facilities as well as our secure facility. Audits are set for Renaissance Home in June, Rutherford House in July, and Bridge City in early August. We have also been working with the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) Center, which will conduct victim advocacy training for some of our SART team members and staff from our non-secure contract facilities in May. In-service training will begin soon to train staff on the PREA audit process. Mock audits of our facilities are being scheduled and we anticipate the PREA Steering Committee members taking active roles in these audits. Congratulations to **Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney** and **Program Specialist Yezette White**, who have been certified as juvenile PREA auditors by the U.S. Department of Justice. They are two of only three people in Louisiana who are PREA-certified for juveniles. So, here are our trivia questions for the week: 1. Why does OJJ Standard 115.321(d) call for staff to be trained as victim advocates? 2. How often does a facility have to be audited for PREA? How many facilities have to be audited per year? I look forward to hearing from you, whenever you are reading WUD.

Well, it's been a week or so of special days, and at last, spring seems to have settled in to stay. We can get outside to enjoy family and friends gatherings and special events of the season, but get this, the weather people are forecasting a "cold front" coming though next week that will bring more rain and cooler temps. I hope you all enjoyed Easter and that you had a good supply of crawfish, if that's your thing. As predicted, the price of crawfish dropped a lot Monday, according to a member of my staff who ate Easter crawfish on Wednesday!

Wednesday was Administrative Professionals Day, and I hope you all remembered the administrative staff members in your life. Whether or not you directly supervise an admin assistant, there is such a person in your workplace who supports you and helps you do your job. I hope our admin support staff felt the love and appreciation that we all have for them.

Tuesday was national Earth Day, although the annual festival in downtown Baton Rouge will be Sunday. If you're not planning on going to New Orleans for Jazz Fest, Baton Rouge Earth Day is a good substitute with lots of music and events celebrating how we love and protect the planet we live on. It's a great event for kids and it's free! Two websites are <http://www.downtownbatonrouge.org/playEday.asp> and <http://www.laearthday.org/>

We are getting a lot of responses to our trivia questions, and one of the most interesting things is seeing when you are reading WUD. Proving that OJJ is a 24/7 agency, you are reading WUD at all hours of the day and night. I can't name everyone, but a quite a number of staff emailed me that the legislation that enacted juvenile justice reform in Louisiana was Act 1225 of 2003. I do want to mention one of the earliest responders – **JJS 2 Jennifer Bass from Swanson-Columbia**, who emailed at 11:55 p.m., and provided a detailed response including the fact that Act 1225 created JJIC. Jennifer also mentioned that the trivia questions "really let Dr. Livers know that the OJJ staff are playing a real part in the growth and development of the Louisiana juvenile justice system." Jennifer, I appreciate your thoughts and the fact that you know you play a vital part in meeting our agency's mission. Thanks to everyone who wrote to me – all correct answers, I might add.

I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve and at whatever time you read email. Wishing you all a wonderful, warm, sunny weekend.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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