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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Another week has come and gone. I was on the road again this week. On Wednesday, we headed up to Monroe to visit with staff at Swanson. Swanson is very busy getting ready for their ACA accreditation visit in late July. The ACA auditors will also be visiting select regional offices for an assessment of our field services. I know that as usual you will all rise to the challenge. As you may remember, we are the third state to have their entire juvenile justice agency fully accredited. It was your hard work and dedication that got us the Golden Eagle, and I am sure that your continued dedication will allow us to keep it.

On Thursday, we had leadership training up in Monroe. We got together with about 35 of our staff to discuss issues around professionalism, performance evaluations, our new Guidelines for Business Communication and Event Planning publication, and some good old fashioned group breakout sessions. It is always good to see staff; and I appreciated hearing from you all in response to these topics.

We will be heading out to Lafayette and a Hammond in the next couple of weeks. I look forward to hearing more from staff in the rest of the state. Two-way communication is key to a healthy organization and vital to our mission. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to fully engage in this and other trainings that you may be a part of.

I finished up the week with a joint department liaison meeting with the Louisiana Council of a Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This is an opportunity that we have every few months to come together as Agency Heads to discuss the issues that are important to judges working with kids and families in the community. There sure is a lot going on. We will try to keep you posted on the items that will affect you all out in the field and facilities.

Mark your calendars for August 7 – We will be doing an official groundbreaking on the Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie. Last week, a construction firm was chosen. The construction process should take 18-20 months, so we should be in our new facility in early 2016.

Now that the kids are out of school, I have noticed that people are starting to take off for family vacations. Enjoy yourselves and make sure to "unplug" from work and enjoy the summer (and your family and friends) a bit. Also, don't forget Dear Ole Dad this weekend. I will be spending some quality time with my dear ole dad, George this weekend. I hope you get the same opportunity. To all of you OJJ employees that are Dads or Granddads, I wish you a Happy Father's Day!

I'll close with my heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, wherever you serve, for all you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission by helping our young people see they can succeed.

Sincerely,  
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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