
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

It's been fairly quiet this week except for lots of meetings, if you can call that quiet. The most enjoyable meeting was the Leadership Training held in Lafayette for the Central-Southwest District and other OJJ staff who were not able to attend one of the other sessions. We had a full house at the Lafayette Regional office - thanks to RM Michelle Thomas and the Lafayette staff for hosting the meeting. The group engaged in a great discussion about professionalism, and we had a presentation on the Performance Evaluation System that was very informative. We also discussed the new internal publication "Guidelines for Business Communication and Event Planning," and we engaged in a lively group activity centered around performance management. I felt it was a very good training session, and I'm looking forward to seeing more folks at the final training next week in Hammond.

We are anxiously waiting to hear if the governor signs HB2 – that's the bill that sets out capital outlay projects – and if he does, if the funding remains for the design phase for new construction at Jetson and Swanson. We can only hope, and I will keep you informed as we go along. But the groundbreaking for the Acadiana facility in Bunkie is on the calendar as I told you last week. That construction project on "Go." I can't wait to get that shovel in my hand.

Thursday I attended my first Sentencing Commission meeting as a legislatively-mandated member. Act 86 places three new members from juvenile justice on the commission, two voting, and one non-voting member. I'm the non-voter. Although I have participated with the Sentencing Commission informally in the past, the legislation acknowledges the role of juvenile justice professionals in the area of sentencing issues, and formally gives a voice to juvenile justice professionals in matters involving sentencing of offenders. We are very pleased that the legislature is taking a closer look at the relationship of juvenile justice matters to the overall corrections and public safety continuum.

Has anyone been following the World Cup being played in Brazil? I know someone is watching it – especially the die-hard soccer fans out there who are watching avidly. The rest of the world calls the sport "football" but American football is very different so we refer to the game as soccer. It's a month-long international competition by men's national teams from 32 countries that are members of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA). The championship games have been played every four years since 1930, except during WWII. The World Cup is the most widely viewed sports event in the world, more popular than the Olympics. The audience of the 2006 World Cup was estimated to be over 26 BILLION people, with about 715 million who watched the final match - a ninth of the entire population of Planet Earth. So I assume some of you are watching. Who are you rooting for - Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Croatia, Cameroon, Chile, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America or Uruguay?

Well, that about wraps up the week, so I'll close now, with my thanks to each member of the OJJ family, wherever you serve, for all that you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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