
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

It's been another great week in OJJ's world, with two more visits to regional offices in northeast Louisiana and another successful ACA audit. O-J-J! O-J-J! You rock!

Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton and I travelled to Monroe and Tallulah for their recognition programs, and as ever, I enjoyed spending time with the staff in both offices. The programs were very nice, with good community support and attendance by our partners. RD Lewis and RMs Patty Newman and Ruth Stephens are very proud of the work their staffs do, as are Sean and myself.

This week ACA auditors paid us a visit to audit our Community-Based Field Services for reaccreditation. I'm sure everyone saw the news bulletin we sent out with the announcement of another successful audit, so I won't go over the statistics, BUT, I will thank everyone once again for the outstanding teamwork that got us such a great score. While the files were in terrific order (thanks to ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie and her team), in order for those files to reflect adherence to standards, everyone has to keep those standards in mind as a routine part of their daily operations. Thanks to our RDs and RMs for their work in pulling everything together for the audit, and especially for the work you all do every day. Thanks to each and every member of the staff for maintaining high quality standards in your work.

Some members of our executive team and I had the opportunity to attend a banquet to honor David Burton, the Beauregard Parish DA, as he was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame. You may all remember DA Burton as a past recipient of our Champion of Juvenile Justice Award. He has been a great supporter of a balanced approach in juvenile justice reform. While he has decided not to run for reelection, he will be serving in his last year as president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

It looks like Jetson is nearing the end of its cleanup phase. That has been a massive undertaking, and a lot of people have pitched in. We had files that had to be stored, archived or properly disposed of, equipment that could be used in other locations or sent to surplus, and general cleaning of every building on the site. Two thirds of a century's worth of stuff is not reallocated overnight, so my thanks to everyone who went above and beyond their regular job description. A special thanks to RD Susan Miller and Ex. Mgt. Officer Cassandra Washington for their relentless focus on getting this done.

We're keeping our eye on TS Bertha, who is still a ways out in the Atlantic and getting ready to move into the Caribbean. If the storm tracks as predicted, we won't get so much as a breeze, but it's worth watching to see what she does. I hope this doesn't turn into Big Bertha.

Can you believe some school districts are starting the "fall" semester next week? Where does summer go? This weekend is tax holiday weekend so maybe we can all get some state tax-free shopping in for school supplies and whatever else we may need or want.

I'll close for now, with my wish for you all to have a wonderful weekend, and thanks to every member of the OJJ family for all you do to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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