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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Another week, another WUD. Eleven members of the executive team got away for about 24 hours to meet in Alexandria. We arrived mid-afternoon Wednesday and worked into the evening. We started up again Thursday morning, and left to return to our offices at about the same time as we'd arrived, giving us over a full day to work. It was a good opportunity for us to step back and get updated on the various spinning plates we have ambitiously taken on. As a matter of fact, there were about 35 titles of projects that we checked in on. I am very pleased that in most cases, projects have been successfully completed. Some, as you might expect, have dropped off the radar for the moment. A couple are just unrealistic to accomplish at this juncture. We also talked about initiatives that are important to our success, such as Service Coordination, deployment of appropriate staffing plans and use of the SAVRY, just to mention a few. We spent a great deal of time creating our thoughts and vision for the Picard Center in Bunkie, as we are all anxious to take advantage of this great resource, to help us further our mission.

Yesterday was the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11 – I think we all know exactly what “9-11” means. Most of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing when we heard about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the aborted attack that took down an airplane in Pennsylvania. Right after the attacks, Congress passed a bill to designate September 11 as Patriot Day to remember the 2,977 people who died in the attacks. Beginning in 2009, in observance of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, September 11 has been designated “Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.” Our nation will never forget what happened on 9/11/2001 and we will never let our guard down. I think it is very fitting that on the eve of Sept. 11 this year, as a nation we addressed the issue of yet another terrorist threat by a group called ISIS. Although those actions are taking place far from our country, the group is a threat to all peace loving people in the world. We are not intimidated by the outrageous actions of international bullies and we do not give in to their demands. I hope each of you was able to spend a moment yesterday, in some way, remembering, serving others, or just being thankful to be able to live in our great country and to be an American.

Well, fall brings other health and safety issues as we enjoy the season. That means flu shots! They are already available at pharmacies and grocery stores, so we don't even have to go to the doctor to get one. Most health insurance plans cover the cost, so there's no excuse not to protect yourself and your family. And another thing – football! Yes, it's that glorious time of year again, and I hope all of you Tail-Gators will have a great time, with lots of food and drink, and will stay healthy. Those parties are a huge part of the fall scene, and spoiled food can ruin a great day. Keep unwanted guests like salmonella away with a good ice chest (or two or three).

Well, I'll close now and wish you all a wonderful early fall weekend, with my heartfelt thanks to every member of the OJJ team in every OJJ location, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, “Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov