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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

We've been busy as ever, but we've also been looking at our calendars and coordinating our dates so we can plan our annual fall Celebrations of Change. I always look forward to those events. I enjoy visiting with staff, youth, and the stakeholders and visitors who join us to celebrate the good things going on within OJJ. This year our Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice will be announced at the Swanson-Monroe celebration. We will soon send you those dates.

We are talking about conducting a series of juvenile justice forums in several areas of the state, and we're in the planning stage for the first one, to be held in Baton Rouge after the first of the year. (Whew – 2015. Where did 2014 go?) We want start with one event to test the waters and see where it leads us. Stay tuned for more information.

As with any organization, we have some staff changes taking place. This week we welcomed a new attorney to the Legal Services Division. Monica Gant Moton has joined the team, and we are delighted to have her. Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith will soon be moving on to an exciting new and different opportunity, and we will see a new face in that office. Kelly joined OJJ in 2010 as our first health services administrator, just in time to assist in writing the detailed RFP for the healthcare contract for our secure facilities. Kelly then shepherded the transition to Correct Care Solutions, a huge undertaking, and she did a great job. It takes attention to detail and specific knowledge of medical records requirements to make a smooth transition from one provider to another, and Kelly's oversight ensured that the continuity of quality care for our secure care youth was maintained. Watch for more information a little later on both of our new staff members.

Another change to note is that PPS Stephanie Krygowski will be detailed as interim regional manager of the Alexandria office, as Simon Sarpy returns to his supervisor position at Natchitoches OJJ. Many thanks to Simon for leading the Alexandria office over the past year.

Fall is not only football season, but festival season as well. After a long hot summer, cooler weather means it's time to celebrate. And in Louisiana, we'll throw a celebration around just about anything. There is a huge lineup of fall festivals all over the state that you can enjoy over the next few weekends. You always pass a good time at Louisiana festivals. Since many of the events celebrate food (what else? This is Louisiana!) there is always something really good to eat and drink, there's music, and that means dancing. This weekend you can enjoy the Good Ole Days Festival in Marthaville, in Natchitoches Parish, the Pepper Festival in St. Martinville on the banks of Bayou Teche, and the Teche Fest in Breaux Bridge. Just by the way, if you have not been to St. Martinville or Breaux Bridge, be sure to visit sometime – they are two of the most authentic small towns in Louisiana. Fall is also a great time for a home-grown road trip, too.

That about wraps it up for this week, so I'll close with my wish for you all to have a wonderful early fall weekend, with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, in every office and facility, for all you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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