

what's up, doc? ~~doc?~~ Ellyn

by Ellyn Toney, Chief Of Operations

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Hello, Everyone:

Another week down and slightly cooler temperatures are headed our way for the weekend! There are so many autumn activities going on around the state right now, from football games to festivals. I am looking forward to “Boo at the Zoo” tomorrow with my grandchildren. Little children, costumes, animals, candy – a scary combination, indeed!! Monday will be here all too quickly, so I encourage you to get out and make the most of some beautiful Louisiana fall weather! But whatever you do, remember, no burning! In case you did not know, we are under a statewide burn ban until we get some much needed rain.

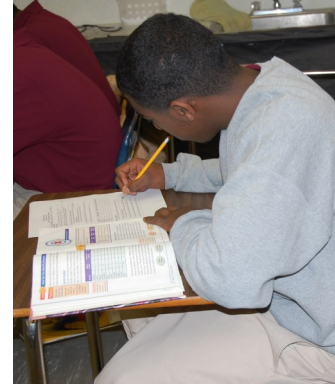
We have had quite a productive week at OJJ. Monday kicked off the Second Annual Louisiana Correctional Association Conference that was held in Lake Charles. OJJ was well represented at the conference, with many staff presenting at various workshops. Regional Directors Carolyn Lewis and Johnny Qualls gave a presentation on OJJ’s journey from a correctional model to the therapeutic model. PREA Coordinator Yezette White co-presented on the PREA audit process. Treatment Director Toya Pierce co-presented on mental health treatment in corrections. Program Specialist Patty Thomas gave a presentation on evidence-based practices. General Counsel Martha Morgan also presented an overview of the differences between juvenile and criminal justice. The workshops were well attended and we have had positive feedback on the information presented. As always, OJJ staff rose to the task and shined while doing it.

I met this week with CQIS’ Data Warehouse Manager, Will Paulson, to review and discuss OJJ’s recidivism numbers. If you have never taken the time to review our agency’s recidivism data, I invite you to do so. It can be found on OJJ’s website under the tab entitled “Data and Reports.” Did you know that, after being out of OJJ custody for three years, approximately 70% of our youth have not returned? This is exceptional! We should all take great pride in the fact that what we do each day helps such a large percentage of youth to succeed. This means we are truly meeting our mission.

Today, we celebrate Bosses’ Day. I hope that you took time to recognize your “boss” in some way. I know my staff (who are the absolute best, by the way) were too kind to me today. I use the term “boss” loosely, however, as I much prefer the word “leader.” Being in a position to supervise others is often a challenge; but, it is also an honor – one not to be taken lightly. Some of us have had a “boss” who demonstrated everything we promised ourselves we would never be if we made it to his/her chair someday. Others of us have had that rare opportunity to work for someone truly great – someone who led by example, inspired us to be better, challenged us to dig deeper and truly cared about the work and each individual staff. That, my friends, is a true leader. And, we do not have to be the one that signs the timesheet to rise to that level.

I’ll take a cue from our leader, and close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
Ellyn Toney



Comments?
Send them to
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