

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

by Sean Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

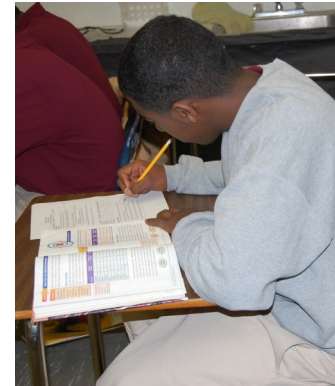
BOO!!! Happy Halloween to the entire OJJ Family. It's hard to believe that the fall season is here, and tomorrow is Halloween. The year is flying by so fast I can hardly seem to keep up. Before we know it we will be in a new year. At Central Office we are celebrating Halloween with what we call "Treats On Your Streets." Each department sets up a table full of all sorts of treats and food; and during lunch we go from table to table grabbing candy and filling our plates with things that are so good to us, but so bad for us. This year everyone went all out. The assortment of food was mind blowing. Candy, chocolate, donuts, chips, dips, sandwiches, chicken, fruit, and more. I guess that means extra time in the gym for some of us. It's all in good fun, and a way to unwind from the hectic daily grind of keeping the agency afloat.

This week I had an opportunity to spend Tuesday in Bunkie with Regional Director, Johnny Qualls, walking through the new Acadiana facility. It had been a few weeks since I visited the site, and was surprised to see the construction progress. The contractors are moving forward with all engines blazing. That campus has really taken shape and it looks like a campus on the cusp of completion. We now have roadways and parking lots, brick and siding, roof shingles, sheetrock and tiles. It won't be long before we begin transition into our new state of the art therapeutic facility. We left Bunkie and went to the Alexandria Probation and Parole office where I got to see a few of our probation and parole staff. Then Johnny and I spent the rest of the day reviewing a long list of things that must be done between now and when the campus is ready to open. Its mind blowing the amount of detail it's going to take for us to pull this off. Everything from selecting every piece of furniture, fixtures, equipment, and supplies; to posting positions, hiring staff, getting everyone trained, writing new SOPs, and coming up with a detailed transition plan of our kids from Bridge City and Swanson. I'm worn out just thinking about all that has to be done, and believe it or not, that is only the beginning. We are committed to doing whatever it takes, to see this dream become a reality. At the end of the day, it's all about doing what's right and in the best interest of our kids.

Undersecretary, Garry Williams and Deputy Assistant Secretary, Beth Touchet-Morgan, also had a busy week. They had the fortunate assignment of going before the Cash Management Review Board. This board met with all of the agency Undersecretaries to determine each agency's efforts in collecting all outstanding debt. Overall, we think we faired pretty well among the agencies in terms of having some of the lowest amount of outstanding debt. This is all in preparation of what will be an interesting mid-year budget cycle to say the least.

In closing I want to give a special thanks to all staff, and particularly to all of our Social Service staff in the facilities and community. You guys do extraordinary work providing services and support to our young people and their families. We are a better agency because of your efforts. As always, many thanks to all, for everything you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
Sean Hamilton



Comments?
Send them to
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