

what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I think that it is pretty easy to say that the passing of one of our team members last Sunday was on my mind for most of the week. As I am sure that you have heard by now, JJS Myeshia Webb experienced a medical emergency while on duty at Bridge City Center for Youth. Her passing was untimely, which leaves family and friends left behind with the heavy burden of grief.

On Thursday, I travelled to BCCY to take part in a memorial service put on by the staff and young people. The BCCY “family” came together to honor and remember Myeshia in prayer, poems, and thoughtful words. The young people from her dormitory created posters. It was a dignified, solemn event that ended with all attendees releasing balloons in the courtyard in her memory. The service was a reminder of how precious life is and how unpredictable it can be.

We have been in close contact with Myeshia’s family this week, in an effort to offer them support through this difficult time. At this time, funeral/memorial arrangements have not been finalized, but as soon as they are, we will distribute the info out to the entire agency. I know that some of you have asked if there is something that you can do or might be taking up collections for the family. Thank you all for those efforts.

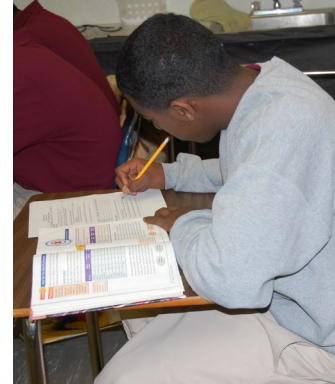
It seems that once again, our nation has been faced with another mass shooting. These tragedies seem to have become a part of the fabric of our society. Doing the work that we do, we are often exposed to young people who have witnessed traumatic violence. We see every day the effects that this type of trauma has on them. Let’s try to keep in mind that many young people and adults are struggling to deal with recent events in San Bernardino, Paris and Lafayette, even if their only exposure to these tragedies is through news coverage. The new year is not quite here yet, but I may make a “year end resolution” of trying to be mindful that these events may have caused unease among folks trying to manage their hectic, holiday schedules. A kind word to someone standing in line at the grocery store or a coworker can go a long way in times like these.

I am sure that you have all noticed that the new year will also bring us a new governor. Governor-elect John Bel Edwards is busy assembling a transition team made up of representatives from all over the state. A lot of planning and preparation has to take place for his administration to take over the day-to-day management of the state on January 11, 2016. We are looking forward to working with Governor Edwards’ transition team in the weeks to follow.

I’ll 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, “Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers



Comments?
Send them to
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