

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Wow, what a crazy busy week it has been. I just realized at about 11:00am that it was Friday and time for another What's Up Doc. Then it hit me -- this is the last What's Up Doc for 2015. We will have holidays the next two Fridays, so that means you will not be getting my regular weekly message.

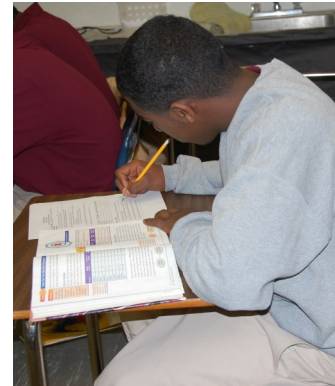
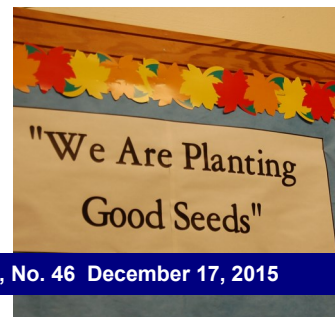
It is kind of hard to believe that another year has passed. Time moves quickly here at OJJ, if you blink, you will definitely miss something. We started 2015 as we always do, preparing for legislative session to make sure that everything is in place to have a productive year. We are closing out 2015 preparing for a new Governor. In between the two, a lot happened. We continued to host tours of Bridge City and Swanson showing off the therapeutic model. We said goodbye to a few colleagues who retired. We watched the new Acadiana Center for Youth come out of the ground. Central Office went through ACA reaccreditation. We worked with system partners on the community and state level to make sure kids are getting the services they need. We continued preparing for the implementation of PREA standards. But most noteworthy, you continued to make a difference in the lives of the young people and families of Louisiana.

Fittingly, I started my week in Washington, DC at the final conference of the Models for Change initiative. For almost 20 years, the MacArthur Foundation has funded projects all over the United States to reform juvenile justice. After a spike in juvenile incarceration in the 1990s, this group came together to make folks aware of some of the basic principles that we operate on every day at OJJ. Put simply, juvenile offenders are different from adult offenders. They presented the science and put forth best practices to rehabilitate young people including many of the things that we do here at OJJ – the SAVRY, data driven decision-making, treatment in the least restrictive environment, and appropriate, individualized community based services. Once again, OJJ is leading the way.

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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