

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Every week is busier than the week before, if that's possible. My staff think I need to ask Santa if I can borrow his sleigh so I can travel faster and solicit the help of the Easter Bunny to help me out with all the upcoming meetings and events

Tuesday was St. Patrick's Day and it was great fun to see everyone become Irish for the day by wearing o' the green. A few people around central office said they could not remember the exact day so they hedged their bets and wore green all week.

Construction on Acadiana is proceeding. We have been waiting so long for this important step toward regionalization, and it's exciting to see the progress. It's in full swing now, and the builder asked us to choose colors and select certain materials. Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton, RD Johnny Qualls and I met with the architect and picked out four basic colors that will be used to create distinctive areas across the campus. We will use green, gold, blue and a sort of khaki. We chose the bricks, shingles, wall colors and flooring, as well as the color pattern for the exterior siding material. We will keep you posted, and there will soon be a page on our website with photos showing the progress.

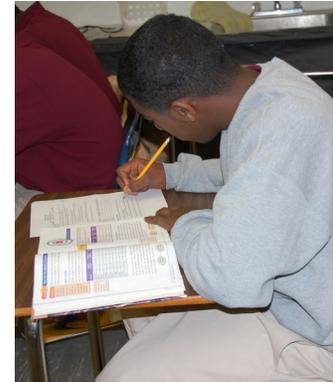
Another exciting project involves the Jetson site and Swanson Monroe—the architects have been chosen to create the design for rebuilding both facilities. They will design the campuses and the buildings, each according to the actual physical site. The design phase will take some time, possibly a year, and then each one will go out for bids for the construction phase. And then we build (once the money is available for construction). We now know how long the process can be, but at least we are moving in the right direction. It's very exciting to have these models realized — facilities designed specifically for the therapeutic model, that will be safe and attractive environments in which to live and work. I am so pleased and proud to be a part of this secure care transformation, as you all should be.

We were able to spend a day in the Acadiana area visiting several community partners Thursday. Many thanks to RM Michelle Thomas and RD Johnny Qualls for setting up meetings with new 15th JDC Judge Michelle Breaux in Lafayette, 16th JDC District Attorney M. Bo Duhe' in New Iberia and Iberia Parish Sheriff Louis Ackal. Both Judge Breaux and DA Duhe' are new to their positions, and we wanted to welcome them and discuss aspects of the juvenile justice system with them. We had a productive day, and the weather was perfect for a road trip.

March Madness has begun! And for LSU fans, unfortunately, it has ended already. I am sure that many of you are still crossing your fingers that your brackets hold up for a few more days.

Wishing you all a great weekend (it's supposed to rain, what a great excuse for watching basketball all day), with my heartfelt thanks to each member of Team OJJ, in every office and facility, for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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