

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

I hope you all had a lovely Easter with your families and friends, complete with all the multi-colored eggs, chocolate bunnies and crawfish you wanted. Most of our Easter baskets are empty now, even the Peeps are gone. I just can't seem to develop a taste for those things so I gave them to the dog. Even the dog turned up her snout at the Peeps.

Spring means the legislative session is right around the corner. The session officially starts on Monday. We've had our initial budget hearing and will be called to Senate Finance sometime this month. We'll keep you posted. Just remember, it ain't over until the session is over in June.

Just a reminder, April 15 is more than D-Day for taxes, it's also the deadline for sending in your intent to retire if you are going to take advantage of the retirement incentive being offered as a layoff avoidance measure. If you are already eligible to retire, you may want to check with LASERS to see if taking the incentive would be of advantage to your specific situation.

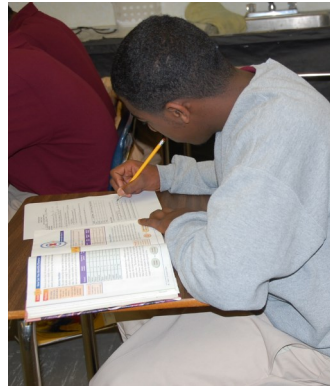
We had a very productive leadership meeting at the Picard Center in Bunkie Wednesday. We joined together to discuss issues of interest to the entire agency and work out solutions. Our regional directors and regional managers updated us on the work they are doing locally to address recidivism, and we discussed the leadership academy we are planning. We reviewed the Leadership Manual that we developed several years ago, as with all of our publications, we want to make sure it is useful and up-to-date.

Which brings me to another topic of discussion at the leadership meeting – succession planning. Every one of us moves on at some point in our career – we are promoted, accept another opportunity elsewhere, we retire – no matter how long we stay at the agency - at some point we all leave for another chapter in life. How are we planning for someone to take our places? That is not a rhetorical question – one of the things we must do as a supervisor is prepare for someone else to move into our position when we are no longer in it. We discussed the qualities we look for in future leaders, how we recognize and develop these staff members and how we provide them with the tools they need to accept the challenge of moving into leadership. (Hint: read the Leadership Manual.) Look for more discussion on this vital topic in the near future.

Right after the leadership meeting, Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton and I hit the road again, this time visiting community partners, facilities and OJJ offices in north Louisiana. In Shreveport we visited Rutherford House and had a great tour of the facility. Sean and RD Carolyn Lewis met with Bossier Parish DA J. Schuyler Marvin and Lee Clemmons, a member of his staff. We then went to the state office building in Shreveport to take a look at some available office space to see if it would be appropriate for our use. Then it was off to Ruston where we met with newly elected Judge Tony Rogers and District Attorney John Bolton. Today we were in Monroe, where we visited with elected City Judge Aisha Clark. Then it was off to tour Johnny Robinson's Boys Home, where we were able to visit with the staff. After a short visit to Columbia, we ended our travels with a visit to Christian Acres in Tallulah, before heading south back to Baton Rouge. It was a whirlwind trip, but it was great visiting with community partners and staff throughout north Louisiana.

I'll close now, with my wish for you all to have a great weekend – stay safe and dry, the terrible storm that dropped tons of hail, rain and tornadoes on the Midwest has made it down our way. My sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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