

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No. 15, April 24, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

Hope you have not put your boat in dry dock yet. Maybe we just need to build piers to moor our boats in the driveway. After the storms of the past week, I think a lot of us are living on beachfront property, and there's more rain coming our way.

Are you having ice cream withdrawal symptoms like I am? NO Bluebell anywhere in any store? I must admit, I'm really impressed with Blue Bell Ice Cream's commitment to putting the safety of their customers ahead of their profit. The company voluntarily recalled all its products made at all of its facilities because a few items produced in two plants were found to be contaminated with the listeria bacteria that can cause serious illness and even death. So Blue Bell stopped production and pulled all their products off the shelves, no matter which plant made them. The company apologized to customers, but I think what Blue Bell did was the right and honorable thing. They are losing a lot of money by not selling their products, but I predict Blue Bell will come back even stronger because customers will really respect the company for putting public safety first. That's a unique trait in our culture, but I think it's going to pay off for them in the end. I know I'll be filling the freezer with Blue Bell ice cream as soon as possible.

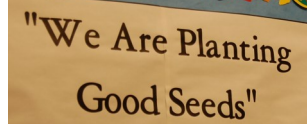
This week we celebrated our Administrative Professionals and I hope you all were able to show your appreciation to your admin staff. I'm sure most of you know very well that we would be lost without our admin staff keeping our offices running smoothly. I want to thank all the administrative staff in every OJJ location for all you do. Although you don't have direct care responsibilities, you make it possible for our youth to receive needed services. Any good manager is well aware that the important work you do is key to an orderly operation.

We also recognized National Crime Victims' Rights Week this week. Restorative justice is so important to successful the treatment for our youth, but it's also a good reminder of the need for a balanced mission. The public safety side of our mission is just as important as our commitment to our youth. At a Baton Rouge crime victims awareness event yesterday, we heard from the family of a seven-year-old who was senselessly killed by an unknown person. This gave us all an insight into the pain that families of victims suffer, how deep the cuts are, and how long it takes for the scars to heal.

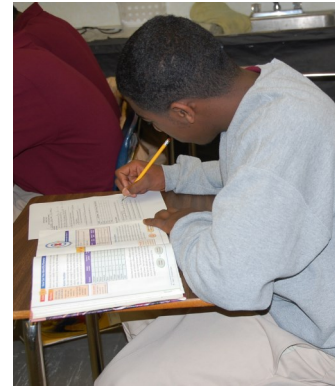
Today marked the last day at OJJ for one of our veteran employees. The New Orleans Metro office threw a retirement bash for RM Kelly Clement, who has retired after 27 years. Kelly spent many years in the Thibodaux office as a PPO and regional manager before moving to New Orleans to serve as RM there. He was instrumental in implementing the SAVRY statewide, and has made so many contributions to our agency, and the young people and families we serve. I want to personally thank Kelly for his years of service and dedication to the mission, and wish him many years of enjoyable retirement.

I'll close now with my heartfelt thanks to every member of the OJJ family, wherever you serve, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



"We Are Planting
Good Seeds"



Comments?
Send them to
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov