

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

It is hard to believe but it is back to school time already. We are being bombarded with back to school sales. Frantic parents and students are looking for the perfect school supplies and backpacks. Finding the “right” backpack is a pretty big deal. It seems school supply lists have gotten very specific and sophisticated over the years. I can see how parents would be stressed out this time of the year. The start of school year seems to be creeping earlier and earlier in August. Where is our summer going?

It's the time of the year when I start to get nostalgic for carefree summer days. Remember when we used to play outside, all day, despite heat advisories, the threat of Lyme disease and <<gasp>> riding our bikes without helmets. I don't even think that I knew of Lyme disease when I was a kid. I just knew that ticks were bad and if I happened to come across one, I needed to get rid of it. The CDC released a report this week stating that Lyme disease is on the rise due to a U.S. tick epidemic. So I guess we should all be on high alert.

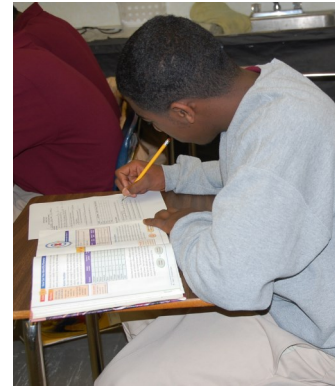
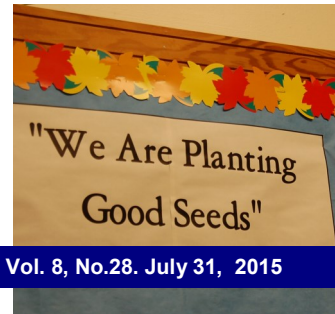
After spending most of the month of July travelling the state, I got to stay in central office this week to catch up with everyone. We hosted the Interstate Compact for Juveniles State Council Meeting on Wednesday. As usual, our staff were gracious hosts. I also attended the quarterly meeting of the Coordinated System Care (CSOC) Governance Board. As you all know, the CSOC is going to look a little different after December 1, 2015. DHH updated us on the integration process so far, but it looks like the next few months will be busy getting the Magellan network transitioned to the Bayou Health plans.

Collaboration with other agencies and organizations is key at every level in our agency. OJJ was recently asked to take a role in planning the Louisiana Corrections Association Conference to be held in October in Lake Charles. While OJJ operations are separate from adult corrections, we are still all part of the corrections profession. We have been invited to present on some of the innovations that we have put in place at OJJ. We will be presenting on PREA, mental health, Evidenced Based Practices, confidentiality of juvenile records, and giving a progress update on OJJ reform. We are also helping to facilitate locating a national expert on Trauma Informed Care, the next hot topic for both adult and juvenile corrections.

Lafayette also endured another pretty tough week. Mourning the loss of two lives and coming together as a community to heal after last week's shooting. The multiple prayer groups, vigils, memorials, and fundraisers are all a part of the process and serve as reminders of the importance and resiliency of local communities during a time of tragedy. Please keep those affected in your thoughts and prayers this weekend.

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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