

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.29 August 14, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

Well, don't know how many of you noticed, but last week slipped by without a What's Up Doc? As I am sure that you have all heard by now, two youth escaped from Bridge City in the early morning hours of last Friday. So needless to say, we all had a pretty busy weekend. Events like escapes are all encompassing while in process. Now that there is a little distance from the event, I can sit back and reflect. I am always so proud of the way that our agency comes together.

Upon notification of the escape, our team sprung into action and kept at it until the youth were safely returned to custody. There were lots of folks to recognize for their work, I wish that I could list everyone by name. But, if I did, I would surely go over my one page limit.

The Bridge City facility staff worked through the early morning on Friday to make sure all youth and staff were safe. Once the command center was setup they continued to support its efforts while maintaining activities with the youth at BCCY.

The executive team with the support of investigative staff, regional managers and central office directors kept a command center open until the second youth was apprehended late Sunday afternoon. We actually had two command centers, one at Bridge City and one in Baton Rouge. These centers received and documented information to aid in the apprehension of the youth. This is where we determined what the next step was to getting the youth safely back into custody.

Field staff also stood ready to support the effort. PPOs from across the state came to Baton Rouge and New Orleans to provide critical support in the community. They were out in these communities watching and talking to family members and any leads that were identified. They also helped in the command center and complemented the staff at BCCY during shift change, meal times and perimeter checks.

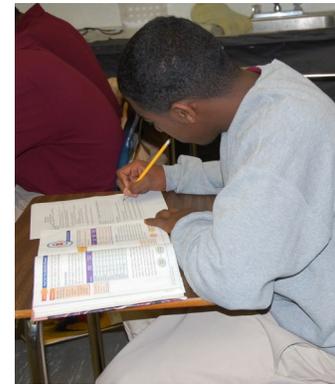
I wrapped up this week heading out to Indianapolis for the ACA conference. This is my first full conference as President, so let's just say, I was a little nervous. My nerves were further frazzled when I realized that my briefcase drove off from the airport without me. No worries though, an OJJ team member was kind enough to lug it over to me today. One more reason to be thankful for Team OJJ. Representatives from OJJ are participating in seven presentations at the conference this year. I will update you all next week on how it went.

As you all know, this summer has been full of folks retiring and moving around the agency. We try to keep you all informed of these changes via news bulletin. Just wanted to officially welcome Michelle Thomas into the Southeast Regional Director position. Johnny Prentice of the Hammond office assumed the Michelle's former Regional Manager position in Lafayette. In addition, John Baker assumed the Natchitoches Regional Manager position. Congrats to all on your new roles.

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
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov