

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, our crazy August weather is in full swing. After suffering drought like conditions for most of July, we are now starting to get our daily dose of rain. And, to top it off, we have our first hurricane of the 2015 season. It is still a little too early to predict Danny's effect (if any) on Louisiana, but we are keeping an eye on him.

I spent the beginning of my week in Indianapolis at the ACA conference. The conference is always a good way to learn new information about our profession, as well as, an opportunity for our staff to talk about OJJ's success and innovation. The keynote speaker award winning author Pete Earley gave an informative address on the intersection of mental health and corrections. If you have not read his book, *Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness*, I highly recommend it.

Our ACA accreditation manager Angela Arabie and COO Ellyn Toney were up bright and early on Sunday for our central office accreditation panel hearing, which went off without a hitch. Ellyn and RD Carolyn Lewis also served as committee chairs during Sunday's committee meetings heading up the juvenile justice and probation and parole committees, respectively.

During the conference, OJJ staff participated as speakers/moderators in 6 workshops including:

SAVRY – Moderated by RD Carolyn Lewis with New Orleans PO Shawn Hebert and Lake Charles RM Stefanie Krygowski.

LAMOD – SCY Deputy Director John Preston and BCCY Social Worker Cody Smith

Staff Sexually Involved with Youth – Moderated by Ellyn Toney with Director of Investigative Services Chad Wells

Human Trafficking – Moderated by RD Carolyn Lewis

Juvenile Justice "Hot Topics" – Moderated by COO Ellyn Toney

Sex Offender Treatment – Sex Offender Coordinator Dr. Yolanda Crump

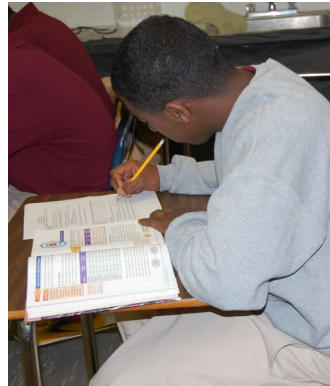
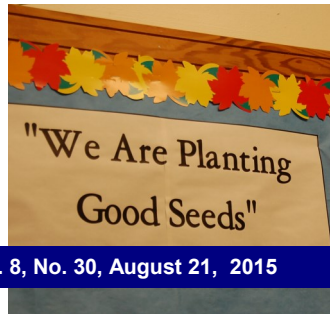
As you can see, the staff members representing OJJ stayed very busy during the conference. I am very proud of the time and energy that everyone put into participating in the program.

I closed out my week here in Baton Rouge at our periodic meeting with representatives from the juvenile and family court judges. As always, we had an open, straightforward dialogue on issues such as 14 day orders, age of majority and restraints in court. It is always nice to visit with partners that are engaged in better serving youth and share in our mission.

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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