

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, we made it through another week. I am closing my week out in New Orleans at the Association of Women Executives Annual Meeting. They are holding their annual conference right in our backyard. I have been a part of this organization since its inception, and I cannot tell you how much it has shaped my career. I would like to encourage you all to engage in a professional organization if you have the opportunity.

We all get so busy at work on a daily basis that we often get bogged down in the problem du jour. Spending time away from the office or facility to meet with other professionals and share knowledge and ideas is invaluable. It allows us to be exposed to innovation, as well as, provide us both emotional and intellectual support to just make it through the day sometimes.

Every month puts us closer to the opening of the Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie. We have walls and roofs up, parking lots being poured, etc. The reality of a new facility is coming faster than we like on some days. We had a bunch of folks head down to Bunkie on Tuesday for a job fair that the Chamber of Commerce pulled together just for little ole OJJ. We had over 400 people come into the Haas Auditorium wanting more information on working with us.

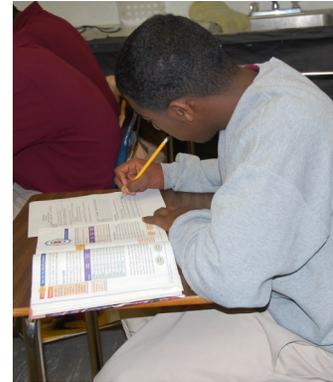
We had staff from the facilities and central office organized by job categories available to talk about what their jobs are like. We got overwhelming response from the community. They are definitely ready for the youth to arrive. RD Johnny Qualls and Sharon Graham worked really hard to pull the day off. The Culinary Art Youth from Bridge City packed up goodies to wow attendees with their sweet treats. Thanks to all the staff that travelled to Bunkie to represent OJJ!

We should start advertising and hiring the first phase of staff in the next month or so. It will be a three phase process of hiring which will take into account pre-service training and job shadowing. We will keep you all apprised of the process as it evolves. A big part of getting a new facility open is having veteran staff and trainers available to pass on their strategies and methods for meeting the mission.

Speaking of passing on knowledge, we should be rolling out our Leadership Academy in the next month or so. The Leadership Academy will be an opportunity for OJJ employees to apply for a program built on a curriculum to prepare future agency leaders. We are really excited for the opportunity and hope you will consider applying for the program.

Whew! Lots going on. But it is all exciting and moving OJJ forward into better meeting the 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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