

# what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

No matter whether I am enjoying a “staycation” or going somewhere for a long weekend, my anticipation for the weekend is heightened the whole week before. I hope that you all have something fun planned for the Labor Day weekend. It is funny how the marketing folks, mainly from the northern part of the US, designate this weekend as the last week of summer. It really is lost on us here in Louisiana since most students have been back in school since early or mid-August, and we will likely be having summer-like weather for a couple more months.

I know that we are all concerned over the violence against law enforcement that has seemed to headline the news reports the past couple of weeks. Let’s just hold out hope that these incidents are just an anomaly rather than a coordinated targeting. Regardless, I do not want to miss the opportunity to remind everyone that while performing our jobs, as well as, in our personal lives, we all need to be mindful of our surroundings. If you should happen to stumble upon an unusual or dangerous circumstance, the best thing to do, is get out of the area of perceived danger, and call for police.

Looks like we may have a few office moves coming. We are working on finding new office space in New Orleans due to the landlord wanting to sell the property. I think we have until early next year to move, but if we find suitable space before then the move could happen sooner. Natchitoches’ lease is also up so we are in the process of considering options for relocation. I don’t think that we could have two more different real estate environments.

We are also hopeful that Shreveport will be moving to a bigger, more secure space within the State office building that they are currently located in. We will keep you posted as things get finalized. Just like everything, we have to follow a process that takes time.

We are making improvements to some of the cabins at Picard Center this fall. The Picard Center is going to be integral during the hiring and training of staff for the Acadiana Center for Youth. We will begin hiring the first group of upper management in September/October. The Picard Center will give us capacity to have lodging available to staff as needed for training, etc.

Between moving offices, renovations at the Picard Center and the construction of the Acadiana Center for Youth, I may need to go back to school for an architecture degree or get my real estate license.

School is in full swing . . . for little ones and college students as well. I know that there are probably many of you who are working to complete a degree or considering a return back to college. I want to encourage you to begin or continue on that track. It is often difficult to juggle a work and school schedule, but the end result is well worth it.

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. Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

Sincerely,  
“Doc”

*Dr. Mary Livers*



**Comments?**  
**Send them to**  
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