

what's up doc?

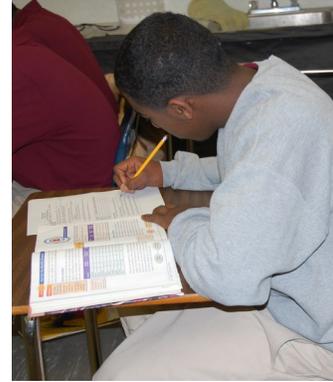
by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary



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Hello, Everyone:

We had the opportunity to present at a training session for judges in New Orleans on Thursday, presenting on LAMOD and the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. To discuss LAMOD, youth and staff from Bridge City spoke, and as always, the youth stole the show as they described life and their experiences at Bridge City. The third time is the charm, and I want to commend Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton and RD Susan Miller, who worked hard to prepare for the presentation. (They have made similar presentations to the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice and APPA.) The youth described and demonstrated the whole LAMOD concept and how and why it works for them, doing a check-in and circle-up. The judges were able to see what makes the program work and how the youth problem-solve with their peers and the staff. The event was well attended, and the judges were very engaged in what the youth wanted to tell them.



For the presentation on the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, ICJ Administrator Angela Bridgewater and Deputy Administrator Katina Broden, along with Judge Tommy Duplantier of Lafayette, explained what the compact is and how it works to the judges. It is important for judges to be aware of the many regulations regarding the Compact, which governs transfer of youth between states. The compact is designed to ensure effective monitoring of juvenile offenders who move across state lines, provide for the welfare and protection of the juveniles and the public, and serves as the only legal process for returning runaways across state lines. States may not permit juveniles who are eligible for transfer under the Compact to relocate to another state except as provided by the rules of the compact.



On a very sad note, we have had two deaths this week in the extended OJJ/Corrections family. Mark Carter, who served in the Baton Rouge regional office for many years as a PPO and regional manager, passed away this week. Please join with me in extending our sincere condolences to the Carter family on the loss of a dedicated public servant. Also, our heartfelt condolences to Corrections Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc on the loss of his son, Myles. Many of you have worked with Jimmy and know him well, and of course, we are all under one administrative umbrella. Myles was only 44, and had served as an adult PPO for many years. He lost a battle with cancer. Please keep the LeBlanc family in your thoughts and prayers.



Well, we have another long weekend this week, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King Day is always the third Monday in January, although his actual birthday is January 15. It goes without saying that Dr. King was a great American, a pastor, humanitarian and leader in the civil rights movement, who gave his life for his beliefs and unwavering adherence to advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience, based on his Christian beliefs. The United States of America looks a lot different now than it did before his efforts, and every one of us should reflect on the fact that we have all benefitted from Dr. King's work. I think this is a pivotal time in the history of our country to really think about Dr. King's message about non-violent response to problems in our communities. A day off is always welcome, but I hope that we will all take a few moments to consider why we have that day of freedom, and what it means to be truly free.



That said, I wish you all a wonderful weekend, with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for all you do daily to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Comments?
Send them to
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