

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

We've had another short week but the four days since the MLK holiday have been jam packed with meetings. I do love a four-day week, but there's always at least 40 hours of work to be done, so we have to play catch up as best we can.

There was an important meeting Thursday with the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) Governance Board, to see what's happened since DHH decided to roll the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) which includes the CSoC program, into the five Bayou Health Plans. Bayou Health is the manner that Louisiana's Medicaid and LaCHIP recipients receive health services. Once it is determined that someone meets eligibility criteria, they are asked to join one of five managed care plans.

DHH announced late last year, that rather than designating Magellan as the State Management Organization (SMO) for the LBHP for another three years, oversight of all behavioral health services and providers will be transitioned to the five Bayou Health Plan providers by December 1, 2015. DHH is working on the transition process that will give the state some time to realign the process. I know that many of you have worked hard to collaborate with Magellan to get our kids services and placement since this new process started a couple of years ago. We are going to play an active role in planning and implementing this transition to assure that the needs of OJJ youth can be met. We will keep you apprised of developments and implementation dates as things become more concrete.

The ACA annual conference in Long Beach, California is getting closer, and I have to admit, I am excited about getting sworn in as the 104th president of ACA. Being president is not just an honorary title, it's a six year commitment and there is a lot of work involved with the business of the organization. First, you serve two years as President-Elect, a two year term as President, and the final two years as Past President. So there is a learning curve, holding the actual office, and a term as an advisor to the current leadership. I've been busy forming committees and naming committee chairs, as well as working hard to develop my initiatives. The things I am vitally interested in should come as no surprise to OJJ staff - correctional culture, mental health, restrictive housing, leadership and accreditation. I'll expand on each of these initiatives in later issues of WUD, but I wanted you all to be aware of the major areas that I will focus on as ACA president.

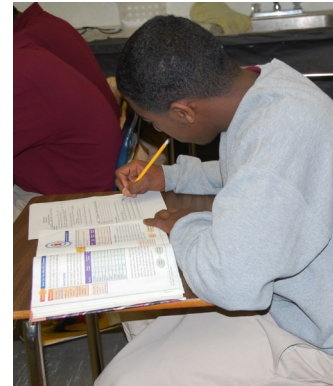
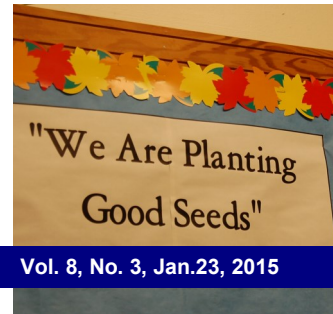
The new year brings lots of things to do, and one of them is tax preparation. That's possibly one of my least favorite things to do all year. I hope you all have yourselves organized so you can get those tax returns done fairly easily. It's not easy to keep up with all the changes and new laws - which is why I use a CPA to prepare my tax return. The W2 payroll statements are available now in LEO if you elected to receive it electronically, so you can get a start on your tax return now if you are so inclined. Otherwise your W2 will be mailed to you in a week or so and then you can start the fun.

I'll close for now, with my wish for you all to enjoy a wonderful weekend, with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ family, wherever you serve, for all you do every day, in every office and facility, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers



Comments?
Send them to
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