

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.11. March 20, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

Well, y'all, time seems to be traveling faster than I can keep up with it— March marched in and is about to march right on out again. Seems like it was just Christmas and New Year's and now almost a quarter of the year has gone by. You know what that means— if it's spring, the legislative session is around the corner. Budget hearings have already started and it's our turn to present to the Appropriations Committee next Tuesday, the 31st. March might have come in like a lamb but that means for us, it will go out like a lion.

This week we said goodbye to two central office staff, Nurse Darlene Waters in Health Services and Dr. Rachel Thomas, the ESO in IGRC&T. We will miss them both, as they move on to other opportunities. Darlene is going to DHH where she will work in Health Sanitation. Dr. Thomas is assuming a vice president position at Xavier University in New Orleans, where she will work with grants and funding. I want to thank both ladies for their contributions to our mission and wish them well as they go down their new pathways and meet new challenges. Now, a prize to the first reader who decodes "ESO in IGRC&T." Contest not open to anyone in IGRC&T.

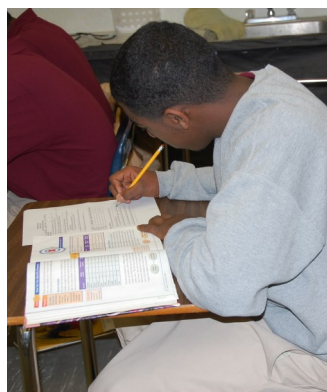
Some events this week sort of take your breath away. The crash of the German airliner and loss of 150 lives was bad enough. But to learn that the plane's co-pilot crashed it deliberately is almost more than anyone can fathom. Investigators are far from knowing what motivated the co-pilot but they have learned that he had hidden some illness from the airline. I'm sure we will learn more in the next few weeks, but it seems obvious that this person who literally held hundreds of lives in his hands, had serious problems that somehow no one appeared to notice, and there has been another mass murder by another person with mental illness. That tells us once again that sometimes the smallest changes in someone's behavior could be a clue to a serious problem. We need to be aware when our youth, co-workers, friends and relatives seem to be acting differently.

This week I had the opportunity to address the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents at their annual conference in Kansas City. In my capacity as ACA president, I was the keynote speaker on the leadership panel, and I told them about some of the initiatives that we are undertaking within ACA over the next two years as part of my platform, and discussed the concept of leadership. It was a good opportunity for me and I spent some time talking about the juvenile side of corrections, how it's changed over the years, and the current state of juvenile corrections. There were several questions at the end of my talk, so I think it must have piqued some interest. The weeklong conference was well attended by about 300 people from all over the U.S. In attendance were ACA Executive Director Jim Gondles and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Gondles, who serves as ACA's Director of Presidential Initiatives. She will be helping with many of the ACA initiatives that we want to take on over the next two years.

Speaking of sneaking up, Easter is next week. You know the year is passing by quickly when we get to Eastertime. That means that next Friday is a holiday when Good Friday is observed. The old farmers always wait til Good Friday to put in their crops, after danger of a last frost is past. With temperatures in the 40s last night and tonight, and the 70s expected this weekend, I'm waiting to see if the farmers' traditional wisdom is accurate this year. A gorgeous spring weekend is forecast after this cool snap, and I hope that you will have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy it. We know it's going to be really hot, really soon, so a pleasant day is a treat.

Next Friday is a holiday, with no WUD next week, so I'll wish you a wonderful Easter right now. Wishing every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, a lovely weekend and a great Easter, with my sincere thanks for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



**Comments?
Send them to
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov**