

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.17. May 8, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

As you know, we have continued honoring staff for Employee Appreciation Week (ACA National Corrections Officers and Employee Week and National Public Service Recognition Week), and Monday we went to Swanson to join in on the event for staff there. I'm always happy to participate when our dedicated, hardworking staff is recognized. The dining hall staff prepared most of the food for the luncheon, and LAMOD Coordinator John Preston finished with grilled meat. Employees of the Year were recognized— Monroe honored Employee of the Year James Wood in Staff Development; JJS of the Year JJS3 Jarvis Taylor and Manager of the Year JJS4 Detrick Massey. Columbia's honorees are Employee of the Year Social Services Counselor Jatansha Jackson; JJS of the Year JJS2 Darrius Burns and Manager of the Year JJS4 John Thomas. Congratulations to our honorees and to all of our staff for always striving to meet the mission.

Here at central office, we all have been cleaning, straightening up, dusting, mopping, tossing, and memorizing, in preparation for the ACA audit team's arrival Monday to begin the central office re-accreditation process. The floors are gleaming, everything is in its place. I can't believe it's been three years already, it seems like the auditors were just here, but our last re-accreditation really was back in May 2012. Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney, ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie and the CQIS staff have been working to get everyone and everything ready for Monday at 8 a.m. when the auditors arrive.

May 15 is Louisiana Tax D-Day. In case any of you have not yet filed your state taxes, you have until midnight tonight to get it done or face the music. Nobody likes paying taxes but it's a reality in our lives. So if you have not filed yet, and it's not midnight yet, I hope you'll take care of that and not turn into a pumpkin.

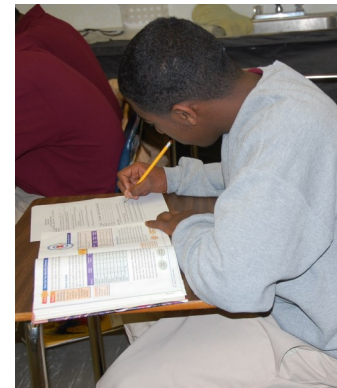
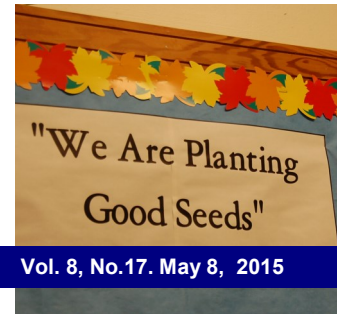
Construction continues on Acadiana Center for Youth and the buildings are coming along well. Engineer Curtis Badon was at the site recently and reports that the shingles are being installed on the outside and air conditioning duct work and leak testing is happening inside, while insulation of the structural beams is being done. The governor's executive budget for FY15/16 included \$3.5 million and 124 positions to open Acadiana, however, the House Appropriations Committee removed the funding and the positions. We will be contacting state senators and talking with members of the Senate Finance Committee to see about having the funding and positions restored so we can open the facility in May 2016.

I know a lot of people have friends and family in from places far and wide to attend graduations from high schools and colleges all over the state. What a wonderful time of year, when young people are achieving their dreams and parents and families are remembering their own glory days (as well as getting over the nightmare of paying tuition!). We all know that graduation is not an end in itself, but a beautiful beginning for the young people (and some not-so-young people) in our lives. I want to congratulate any OJJ staff who have a graduate in the family.

Just in time for the weekend, the rains have returned. Predictions are that the clouds are going to open up again today and tomorrow. I hope that won't affect your plans for your time off. Wishing every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, a wonderful weekend, with my sincere thanks and appreciation for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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