

what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.25. July 10, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

Well, we've been on the road again (cue Willie Nelson) - visiting regional offices and participating in the annual events honoring our PPOs. This week we've been in Shreveport, Monroe and Tallulah, and as ever, each program has been very well done and well attended. Next week is the official national recognition of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). With our 11 offices statewide, we always spend the month of July honoring our PPOs for their efforts in making our communities safer places to live, work and raise families. This year's APPA theme is "a worldwide force for change," and I have to agree. Our PPOs often move mountains, and heaven and earth if necessary, to provide services for our young people. It's always a pleasure to visit with staff around the state and with all the community partners who attend these programs to honor and recognize our regional office staff.

I have a new neighbor on Livers' Lane. Geary Williams has moved into the undersecretary position and the undersecretary's office. So now he's right next door. Cassandra Washington, who came from Bridge City, is the new deputy undersecretary. Congratulations to both Geary and Cassandra—I know both will do great things in their positions. Just in time to settle in before budget season begins!

Central office had its mandatory training this week, and while there's always a little grumbling about having to sit through most of a day of training sessions, we also heard from folks that they learned a lot and really enjoyed it. I don't usually single out any of the trainers (all OJJ staff) but we hear many compliments about Attorney Marston Fowler's ethics presentation—he really makes it interesting and fun.

Of course, with the retirement incentive, we are saying goodbye to a number of longtime staff, with a few more leaving before the end of the month.

Last week (there was no WUD) we had an LSU social work class tour Bridge City, where they were able to see the campus as they met with youth and staff. We heard good reports that the students were impressed with what they saw, and that is always encouraging. Some of those students may be in a future JJS class.

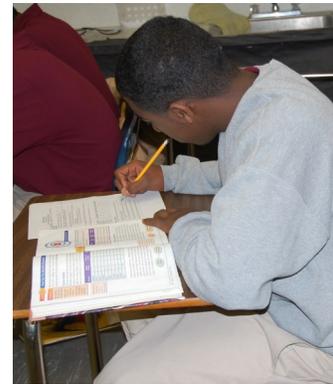
How about that women's soccer team win? The US Women's National Soccer Team walked away with their third FIFA Women's World Cup title after beating the Japanese team. Women's professional soccer has become a huge attention-getter on television and in fan engagement—the TV viewership was among the highest ever recorded. Congratulations to the women—and to all the young girls and women dreaming of future victory in athletics.

Hoping you all have a great weekend, including some ice cold beverages, because it's going to be a hot one! I'll close with my heartfelt thanks to every member of the OJJ team, in every office and facility, for all you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

"We Are Planting
Good Seeds"



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