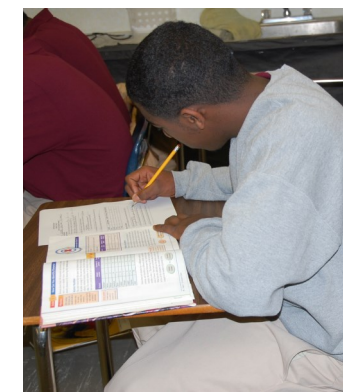
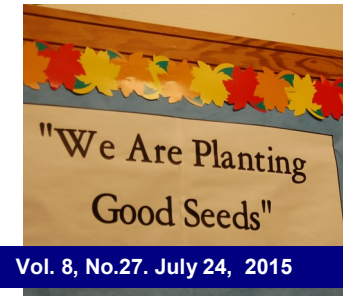


# what's up doc?

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

Vol. 8, No.27. July 24, 2015



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

Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's happened again—another incident of a mass shooting in a public place, and this time it was right here at home. Our friends in Lafayette are reeling from the loss of two beautiful young lives—two women who were just out for an evening, watching a movie with friends. It was just five weeks ago that we were mourning another loss in another community and declaring that we all need to stand together in healing, and look for ways to cope with the huge problem of mental health issues and public safety. Today all over the nation people are standing with all of Louisiana as we try to make sense of the tragic shooting in Lafayette.

RM Michelle Thomas performed a welfare check last night on all the Lafayette region staff, to confirm that they were not directly involved in the tragedy. This type of event shakes our sense of security and stability. We need to be mindful of the effect of trauma on people who are involved, either directly or indirectly. We should also take the time to thank the first responders and members of law enforcement in our community who reacted so well to this crisis last night.

I learned about the tragedy in Lafayette by watching CNN in my hotel room in Washington, DC, where I've been this week. As ACA president I was invited by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to go to DC where they hosted a summit that brought together the presidents of other corrections associations, including the Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC), the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), the American Jail Association (AJA), the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators (CJCA) and the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI). We convened to discuss mutual initiative and collaborative efforts for the corrections profession. The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) was also invited, but was unable to attend.

Being in Washington this week, I had to miss three of the last P&P recognition programs. I hate to miss, but Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton has attended them all, and this week he visited Baton Rouge, Hammond, Thibodaux and New Orleans. This week winds up the annual programs that recognize and honor our PPOs. This year's APPA theme, "a worldwide force for change," really does describe our officers and the work they do. I was sorry to miss the last three programs, but it goes without saying that I am proud of our PPOs in every office for truly being a force for change. And of course, thanks to our community partners all over the state who have joined us to attend the programs to honor and recognize our PPOs. All the visits have been very productive and we received a lot of good feedback. Similar questions emerged from all the meetings, and there are things we are going to look at here, and get back to everyone. I'm sure all of you are very concerned about the Lafayette community, and our thoughts and prayers are with our colleagues and fellow citizens in the city and state, as they deal with this terrible tragedy.

It's going to be another hot weekend with temperatures predicted in the possible triple digits and no rain in sight. Please stay hydrated and safe from heat injuries. Wishing you all, in every OJJ location, a safe and cool weekend, with my sincere thanks for all you do, every day and everywhere to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*