

what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

What a week! The busy week is closing out with a beautiful Friday. First, I know this really makes everybody across the state crazy (unless you live in BR), but some of us had Monday off due to the Inauguration. It was a sunny, but chilly day, perfect for the official ceremony on the steps of the Capitol. It is official, we have a new Governor, and he has hit the ground running. The first day in office he expanded Medicaid. The next couple of days he was extremely busy hosting President Obama's visit here in Baton Rouge. Having a sitting President visit is a big deal. I know some folks were able to see the President or at least see his plane. That big plane is hard to miss! I have not spoken with anybody who actually got to see him, as I think it was really controlled. But the city was buzzing with excitement (and traffic).

We are hearing there will be a special session in mid-February to work on this huge budget problem we have. I know you are sick of it...and who isn't? Hopefully, one day, sooner rather than later we will not be facing these big hurdles. But for now, that is our reality. The price of oil is not helping any. Cheap gas is good on one hand, and not so good on the other. This is a good time for a road trip. (Got to stay positive!)

I was able to take a road trip to the Shreveport P and P office this week. The good news there is they will be moving to a new office space very soon - maybe as soon as February. It will be a huge improvement with better security, better space allocations, etc. Thanks to our colleagues in Facility Planning for supporting this move and providing a better work environment for our staff there. Can't wait for their Open House. RM Davis, RD Carolyn Lewis and I got to spend time with Judges Matlock, Stone and Young, as well as Ted Cox and Clay Walker. We had a great meeting and it was very productive and time well spent.

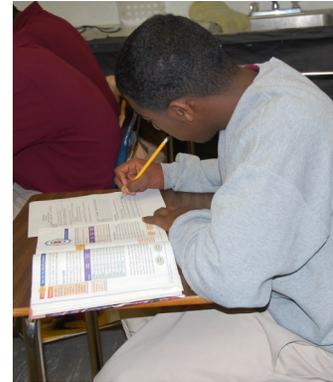
Bridge City hosted a tour this week. As you all know, we have a few new partners, the five Bayou Health Plans that have taken over Magellan's role. Representatives from Amerigroup toured BCCY to learn more about the work we do at OJJ and the needs of our youth. As usual, staff and youth were gracious hosts.

The nation will be celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday. This holiday is a great time to think back on the message of Dr. King - the idea that everyone, no matter what race - is due equal rights and treatment. That equality includes rights to everything from voting, employment, access to education, public transportation, and housing. We can all reflect on what has been achieved since the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s, but we should always be aware of the work left to be done.

I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers



Comments?
Send them to
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