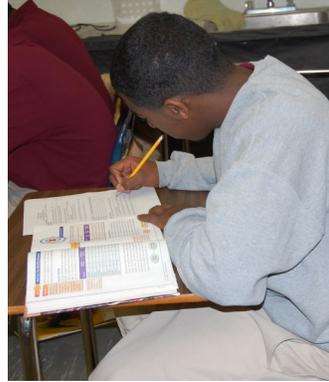


what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Are y'all ready for some football? I have not talked much about football this year with the Saints having a less than stellar season, but it looks like the Super Bowl is right around the corner. Folks were peeling off of the ACA conference last weekend to catch a glimpse of the AFC and NFC championships. It looks like it will be the Denver Broncos taking on the Carolina Panthers next week in California. This year the game falls right in the middle of Mardi Gras. Make sure to squeeze the game into your Mardi Gras weekend planning.

Even with the playoff games on, ACA managed to take center stage for me last weekend. Over 3,000 of your peers gathered in New Orleans to learn more about our profession and share best practices. As usual, OJJ was well represented during the conference workshops. I would like to thank the following staff for presenting/moderating at the conference.

Kids Say the Darndest Things – Moderator RD Michelle Thomas, Speakers John Preston, SCY, Charmaine Jones, BCCY, Cody Smith, BCCY, Denise Gasquet, BCCY, Detrick Massey, SCY and youth from Swanson Center for Youth and Bridge City Center for Youth.

Louisiana's Response to Youths and Adolescents Adjudicated for a Sex Offense – Moderator RD Michelle Thomas, Central Office and Speaker Dr. Yolanda Crump, Central Office.

Louisiana's System of Health Care Delivery for Youth – Moderator Kristi Nelson, Central Office and Speaker Denise Dandridge, Central Office.

What Works and What Doesn't In Reducing Recidivism – Moderator Ellyn Toney, Central Office.

HE/SHE, HIM/HER . . . Why Does it Matter? How to Effectively Provide Services to Transgender Youth in Secure Care – RD Carolyn Lewis, Speakers Toya Pierce, Central Office and Yezette White, New Orleans office.

The conference also had two high profile keynote speakers. Political Consultant James Carville, a Louisiana native, spoke on Monday about what else? National politics.

It was an honor to have Governor Edwards join us to introduce United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch who spoke on Tuesday. She updated the crowd on some of President Obama's recent directives concerning criminal and juvenile justice. AG Lynch spent quite a bit of time talking about the President's view of restrictive housing, announcing that the President has ordered that minors will no longer be placed in solitary at federal juvenile facilities due to the damage that it does to the mental health of youth. She also spoke of the importance of educating adults and young people in both the criminal and juvenile justice populations, noting that as a nation we need to do a better job of educating our kids to give them the best chance at success in the future.

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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