

# what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I looked at my calendar this morning and realized that 2016 is in full swing. Our first full week back went by in a flash. It is sometimes hard to come back to work after the holidays, but my schedule this week has kept me jumping. On Monday, we spent the day in our regular internal meetings updating each other and setting forth plans for the work that is ahead of us. I am gearing up for what looks like will be a pretty busy legislative session (or sessions).

I am sure that many of you saw media coverage over the holidays describing the dire state of the Louisiana budget. There were even rumblings of layoffs and furloughs, which at this point is just speculation. We anticipate that in early February, a special session of the legislature will convene to resolve the budget crisis that the state faces. The annual operating budget process is one that starts almost as soon as the fiscal year begins. We started “building” the budget in August. Next comes the process of meeting with the new administration to determine what our final budget will look like when presented to the legislature. Then, the real fun begins with all of the hearings and questions from the Representatives and Senators. As always, I will keep you all posted as the process progresses.

This week we also got to spend a little more time with the architect’s working on designs for replacement facilities at Jetson and Swanson. We are at the beginning of a multi-year capital outlay process to replace the outdated facilities. The whole process for the Acadiana Center for Youth started in 2008. Nearly 8 years later in 2016, we will open the doors of the new facility. Whew!

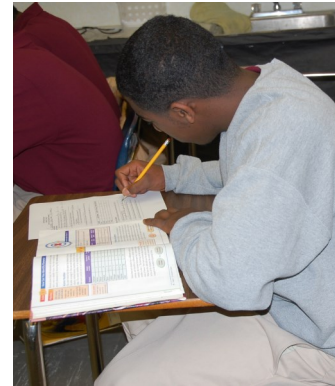
We wrapped up the week with our joint meeting of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the other child serving state agencies. The focus today was on the transition from Magellan to the five Bayou Health Plans. All five Bayou Health Plans had representatives at the meeting to present to the judges and of course, answer any questions that they may have. We will be soliciting input from the field in the next week or so on how the transition is going. As usual, the Judges present at the meeting – about 15 from around the state – spoke highly of OJJ’s PPOs that they interact with in their courtrooms and communities. Always good to hear folks brag on OJJ.

I know that some of you may have been on leave during the holidays and missed the internal bulletins. We lost another team member over the holidays. Jennifer Anderson, the social services counselor from the Baton Rouge Regional Office passed away on December 22. I want you to continue to keep Jennifer’s family, friends, and coworkers in your thoughts. She is missed by many.

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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