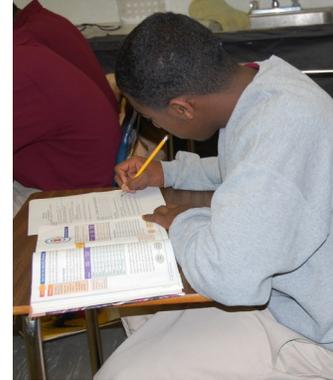


what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I guess my big news this week is that I have been officially re-appointed by Governor Edwards to continue leading our efforts at OJJ. I believe the credit for this re-appointment is owed in a great part to all of you. The good work that OJJ staff do to keep OJJ and juvenile justice reform moving forward, despite obstacles, has not gone unnoticed.

I spent some time meeting with the new administration this week, and I am looking forward to working with them. They were very supportive of our ideas on serving young people and families. I truly believe they want the best care for the young people under our custody and supervision and believe in our mission. The special session will be starting next weekend, so I will keep you all posted on what is going on.

I am getting ready for the Super Bowl and the new commercials that come with it. I am sure they will do something pretty cool with the Clydesdales again. I will be pulling for Louisiana native Peyton Manning to lead the Denver Broncos to victory.

We are having one of those weird years where Mardi Gras is colliding with the Super Bowl. It is supposed to be nice and sunny for Mardi Gras, but don't forget a coat, sounds like the temperature is not going to get very high. There are lots of parades and balls around the state this weekend, please be safe when you are out celebrating. Lent is just around the corner, so I guess that I need to figure out what I am giving up this year. I kind of like the idea of doing something more positive rather than sacrificing something. Volunteering, reading a spiritual or motivational book, writing a letter or visiting someone who is not able to get out or just focusing on being more courteous to those around us -- there is a lot we can add to our day to better ourselves and show consideration of others.

I wrapped up my week with Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton and RD Johnny Qualls in Bunkie looking at the new facility. Construction is coming right along and so is our hiring. We have hired the Director and Assistant Director and are working on filling out the rest of the top level administrative team. They will all be going through preservice training at Swanson and then returning to Bunkie to begin develop SOPs and post orders in anticipation of youth and staff.

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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