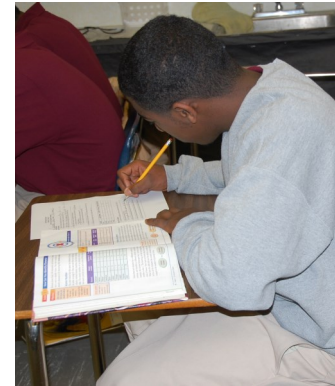


what's up doc?

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

Vol. 9, No. 10, March 24, 2016



Hello, Everyone:

What a week it has been. Isn't it funny how the weekends fly by in the blink of an eye, but on a short work week like this one, time seems to crawl? I know that most of you never really stop working due to home and family obligations outside of the office or facility. And in the middle of your "personal" weekend time, many of you are at home preparing for your next week in the busy OJJ world. There is no rest for the weary!

My short week started off getting ready to address the Correctional Education Association (CEA) Conference in Marksville. CEA is an affiliate organization with ACA. The conference seemed to be well attended. It was hosted by Kim Barnette and the Louisiana DOC staff. There were about 200 people in attendance. It is an honor to have our state chosen as a host and as an added bonus, these events bring in tax revenue! We need all the visitors to the state we can get, so good job to Kim and her crew! I also took advantage of having a couple of meetings in Bunkie while I was in the neighborhood.

I do have some good news for you going into the holiday weekend. The Governor held a press conference today to announce the budget reductions that will eliminate the remaining deficit for the remainder of this fiscal year. Based on his plans, OJJ will not have to impose furloughs or reduced work weeks between now and June 30. We are very fortunate in this regard. We have been working closely with the Division of Administration and are taking a lot of extraordinary steps to ensure we will end the year in the black. This would have not been possible if all of you had not been helping along the way. I know that you have all been asked to do more with less the last few months (and years). Thank you for helping out

I wish I had better news about FY17, but I do not. We are working on the details of what a 32% cut for next year will mean for our agency. The reason for this is simple. There is just not enough money to go around and keep agencies at their current level of operation. So, we will have to present a budget to the legislature on April 5 based on available money. Again, our Governor does not want to have to do this. It is the last thing he wants to do. But there is no choice. The details are not done. We have a short period of time to iron this out and once it is done, we will let you know how it will impact us.

I want to wish you all a peaceful, restful holiday weekend, and send out a special thanks to those of you who will be rearranging your personal and family celebrations to work with the young people in our care this weekend. 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
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov