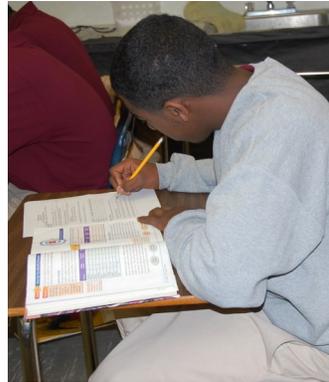


# what's up doc?

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

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Hello, Everyone:

I looked up today and realized it was March. This year is just flying by. And this somewhat spring weather has got my internal clock out of whack. The days are already getting longer. Daylight Savings Time begins next weekend!

And as you all know by now, the Legislative Session also got here early this year. We are staring down at the end of the special session. It ends on Wednesday, March 9. There has been some progress in moving both revenue generating and spending cuts through the legislative process. They are slowly chipping away at the current year deficit and making some progress on next year. I would try to give you more concrete news, but the situation is so fluid, it would likely be out of date in the next hour. So, we will revisit everything late next week and give you the next steps in the budget process for this year and next.

On Tuesday, we had a Leadership Meeting in Bunkie. We try to all get in the same room a couple of times a year. We spent a good bit of time talking about the budget situation, but we also tried to keep focused on some other initiatives that we have going on. We got updates on the Acadiana facility, movement of a few regional offices, pending Raise the Age legislation, and very informative presentation on our social services staff and the role they play at OJJ.

The meeting was also a good way to gather your feedback from regional managers and facility directors. Though distance separates many of us in the agency, we encourage you to pass on any questions or ideas concerning the budget situation or legislative session to your supervisors/managers. We welcome and value your feedback.

It seems that we have quite a competition for President going on. The media coverage has been pretty extensive (and at times, funny). I think they actually held the 11<sup>th</sup> Republican debate last night. I can't imagine that anyone said anything new last night, but I guess public discourse is a good thing. Despite the circus like atmosphere of the election, I urge you all to go out and exercise your civic rights and vote in tomorrow's presidential primary.

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?  
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