
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Now that we're in recovery phase from last month's storms, I hope that all of you are getting back to normal at home and at work.

I really hope that all or most of you have had a dad like mine – he's quite a character. One of the things he always said that stuck in my mind is this: "You'll never hit a star by shooting at a stump." We need to set our expectations high or we'll never get there. Aim high, reach for the stars – that's why we are trying to do everything possible to help the youth in our state succeed.

It takes us working as hard as we can, and also working together with our partners. Our partners include schools, and other agencies that work with and help children and families – Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Mental Health and Office of Addictive Disorders, Department of Social Services – Office of Community Services, the district attorneys and judges, non-profit organizations and the faith-based community.

I know that you are working every day in each of your offices, with staff from other agencies and I encourage you to continue to work closely with them and build bridges so we can bring needed services to our youth and families most efficiently.

Things are really moving along and looking good for us as we continue to forge ahead. Last week I attended a meeting of the LA Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Many of our partners were present, and I sensed a renewed energy and commitment to continuing our reform efforts. The Governor's Office has asked Cabinet Secretaries over the child-serving areas to meet and discuss cross-agency collaboration, and that first meeting is set for next week. And, we see a major improvement in service delivery, with Medicaid being extended to pay for Multisystemic Therapy for our youth and families in need of these services. This is a major step that will help us work on issues relating to mental health and our youth.

Personally, I have high expectations for myself. It is a high compliment to our staff, that we have high expectations of all staff who work for OJJ.

I think the biggest compliment you can pay a person is to expect great things of them. I expect great things from each and every one of you. I say that, because I know you can deliver.

Thanks for everything you are doing, every day, for our kids, our families and for one another. Looking forward to talking with you again next week.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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