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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello Ya'll:

I've been traveling this week. I went to the East Coast to a professional meeting, thinking there would be snow, and guess what? I didn't see snow until I got back to Baton Rouge! Some things just aren't to be predicted.

There is one forecast we can count on to be accurate. We have some very challenging budget days ahead of us. This should not be of any great surprise to us. We have been seeing this in the national headlines for months now. Our budget situation is critical, but we will do what we have always done as a nation, and as a state. We will live within our means. We will tighten our belts; we will push away from the table. We will get leaner. But we will survive, and we will still do what we are supposed to do. We will still meet our mission to protect the public. We will still provide individualized services for kids so that they will become law abiding citizens. That is what we do. We will continue to make progress. All improvements and progress are not dependent on money. There are many things we can do smarter. I challenge you all to think of how we can be smarter with our business practices.

There is one bit of good news I want to share with you. On next week's pay check, those of you who have earned up to 40 hours of k-time, will see payment for up to 40 hours of k-time on your paycheck. It is hoped that this will be a welcome surprise for you just before the holidays. Unfortunately, this will probably be the last time you see payment for k-time for a very, very long period of time. We, of course, wish we could do more, but it is just not fiscally responsible. I want to tell you this so you don't have any unrealistic expectations for the future. I hope this information will help you in your own financial planning for the future.

I will be signing off now, as it is time for me to wrap things up for this week. It is a privilege to serve as your Secretary. Thank you for the work you do every day.

As always,

"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

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