
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

I'm sure by now you have all seen the press coverage by the Baton Rouge newspaper and television stations this week – six stories this week alone. That puts us right up there with the governor of Illinois!

I really appreciate the support of the members of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission, who spoke publicly to set the record straight. I hope by now you have seen the letter to the editor we sent today.

I will be the first to admit that we, as an agency, are not perfect. I expect we will have a number of articles written about us again in the future. One thing you can expect from me is that I will always be truthful and transparent. And, when I can legally speak out on behalf of our agency and our valued employees, I will do so.

We must be resilient and strong in our resolve to move forward. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by press coverage. We know we have a job to do and we know the direction we need to go. We need to stay focused on meeting the mission and helping the kids in our system improve their lives. So – don't take these things personally. We have to adjust to changes, but that does not mean we have to allow ourselves to be distracted or get off track. Let's all stay calm, focused and steady.

Changing gears – I hope you are having a great holiday season. If there is a silver lining in our economic situation, it seems to be that we are less focused on possessions and more focused on friends, family and those in need.

Thanks to each and every one of you in OJJ. You are doing a great job, and we as an agency have kept our focus – on meeting the mission and doing what's right for our kids.

As always – thanks for all you do, every day.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

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