
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Sorry this is so late, I've been trying to do What's Up, Doc? earlier in the day, but this week has been a bear and today was no different. It's been a rough week from my perspective. Hopefully yours has been better.

A major factor that has made this week particularly hard for me is that 42 of our staff no longer have jobs with OJJ. All of us are impacted by this in different ways and with a variety of emotions. I hope that those who are most affected will find ways to celebrate their contributions and move forward in a positive way.

I want to thank the staff who did everything possible to minimize the stress during this time and carry out the plan with as much compassion and professionalism as possible.

Thanks very much to all of you who sent me supportive emails – your messages mean a great deal to me.

Okay, listen, y'all! We've got work to do! This year is going to be a great year for us. In spite of the recommended budget cuts, and in spite of the down economy, OJJ is moving forward. They say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Well, we're not going to die, we **are** a strong agency and we are going to become even stronger. The taxpayers are counting on us!

We are moving in the right direction. All three facilities are putting their energies toward establishing the therapeutic treatment model. This next year the facilities are really going to excel in their performance. We are pursuing ACA accreditation; policies and manuals are being updated; Service Coordination is almost complete; we are on track to implement the SAVRY instrument by January 2010 (only eight short months away!). We can feel the excitement of the good work you are doing. We've got innovative ideas for more efficient operations and being even better stewards of the taxpayers' money. We have approval from the Governor's office to move forward with the Acadiana regional facility.

Ladies and gentlemen of OJJ, we are like a fine wine: we're getting better every day. We are working smarter. The different aspects of our agency are working together as a team. Can you feel the love? And when someone asks you, "Are we having fun yet?" I hope your answer is yes.

And by the way, don't forget to laugh, have fun, and enjoy life. Don't let anybody steal your joy.

As always, thanks for all you do, every day, to meet the mission and take care of our kids.

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

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Sincerely,

“Doc” **Dr. Mary Livers**

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