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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I know you are all working diligently at your computers, from the response I received yesterday to my inadvertent email to OJJ-Entire, asking you to contact me about “streamling” – and it wasn’t even spelled right! Many of you called and sent emails as soon as I hit the button. We had some nice conversations -until I sent another message owning up to my mistake. I was, dangerously, using my computer without my glasses on.

Y’all, I have noticed a lot of snake movement lately. I recently saw a snake in the road on my way to work and a friend sighted one in their pool. Well, one good story leads to another, and this morning I heard my third snake story. Communications Director Jerel Giarrusso recently chided her husband for having a “What’s Up, Doc? moment” when he reported seeing a snake in their pantry. Very early this morning, Jerel opened the pantry and came face to face with a long, skinny rat snake. She calmly called her husband, who graciously accepted her apology for the “moment” remark, and they managed to get it outside, where it slithered off in a huff. Beware of snakes – snakes are on the move this fall!

I am very excited about the celebrations going on throughout OJJ next week. The biggest event will be hosted by Jetson, and the staff and youth there are working very hard to prepare. The idea is to give credit to all the people who have been involved in the systemic reforms of the past several years, and to honor their contributions. We want our stakeholders, legislators, and state leaders to see for themselves what we are trying to achieve. We recognize that we are a work in progress (and as a dynamic organization, we always will be). Many good things are going on throughout OJJ, and we want to share that information and invite people in to see for themselves where we are going.

It’s not possible for staff around the state to join in the Jetson event, so there will be smaller gatherings at all of the regional offices and the two other facilities as well. We want OJJ staff and stakeholders in every office and facility to share in the celebration and to be honored for your part in helping to meet the OJJ mission.

I want to personally congratulate every one of you for everything you have done to support OJJ’s forward direction. I thank you all for your contributions and past achievements. With regard to OJJ’s future, I am encouraged that we will continue our progress toward continuous improvement. With all of us working together toward our goals, we can only get better.

Wishing you a wonderful (and hopefully snake-free) weekend – thanks for all you do daily to meet the mission. Enjoy our Louisiana football this weekend!

Sincerely,

“Doc”

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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