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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, All:

I hope this finds you all well, and in good spirits. It has been quite a week again. It has been unusually hectic. And today has been especially hectic. I wanted to get this week's "What's Up, Doc?" out early, but as you can see, that didn't happen. I know you all have days just like that. I hope that we can get to a point where we can slow down to a fast pace. Right now, it feels more like a manic pace.

I think I want to comment on that a bit more. OJJ often gets criticized for not moving fast enough with reform. I have been looking for a mail order catalog where I can order a magic wand. And with it, I would just say: Poof! And there it would be. A reformed juvenile justice system. So, I asked Mark Steward where he got his from for the Missouri system, and you know what he said? There is no magic wand. It took Missouri 30 years to get it done. Well folks, we have been at this for 5 years now. I think we are all anxious for all the pieces to come together, all at once. But my many years of experience tell me that it just doesn't happen like that. The pieces are coming together, a little bit at a time. We are making progress. We are doing the right things. We are making a difference. We are moving fast. We will continue to move fast. We want to do it right and we want to do it now. We have good partners. The governor's office supports where we are headed. So, keep the faith ya'll. We know what we are doing, and we will get there. Not as fast as we would like, but we will get it done as fast as humanly possible.

Can you tell I had a rough week? I lost my 14 year old golden retriever, named Molly. Of course I have been sad, and it will be lonely without her around. But as I thought about my loss, I could only think about how the loss of a family pet can not come even remotely close to losing a family member. This week I learned that some of our OJJ staff lost loved ones. I hope that our OJJ family will keep those who have lost loved ones in our collective thoughts and prayers. They will need the support of their co-workers.

Okay, so I need to end with a happy note. How about a joke?

An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing. A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing?" The eagle answered, "Sure, why not?" So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it. Moral of the story: ***To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.***

Except for yours truly, of course. Thanks for all you do to meet the mission. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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