
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

What a week. What a week!! Busy as usual, with lots of details.

We have signed contracts for all three facilities to begin the ACA accreditation progress – the clock has started and we have 18 months in which to comply with all the required standards. State Facility Director John Anderson will be focused on that effort and will be visiting BCCY, JCY and SCY to lend his expertise.

Congratulations to Swanson and Bridge City, which have both advanced to Level 2 in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) program. This means they have met the basic requirements for sample size and compiling data for their Performance Profiles. Level 2 will focus on critical outcome measures. Jetson will be back in PbS beginning in the October data collection cycle.

We continue to approve new policies that are important to smooth, efficient operations throughout the agency. A recently approved policy on use of interventions in secure care formally establishes Safe Crisis Management. SCM has been in place for some time and we are happy to have formalized this important component in the therapeutic model of secure care.

Do all of you know what a performance indicator is? I wouldn't expect a lot of people to know much about performance indicators – which are used to measure our agency's progress and success. The results are reviewed by the Division of Administration, the Governor's office, the Legislature and others to determine whether agencies are meeting their goals. We have the opportunity to improve these indicators to show the activities that actually measure our progress. Our performance indicators are included in our Strategic Plan (which you may know as the Blue Book), which serves as a guide to help us accomplish our mission. It's about time to update our Strategic Plan, and we will soon be asking many of you in the field to contribute your thoughts as we begin this process. By the way, you can view our performance indicators on the Division of Administration website.

Civil Service has recently enacted a rule change to the Performance Planning and Review (PPR) process that will affect us all. Your PPR will surely be completed timely from now on....because supervisors who fail to rate their employees timely will not be eligible for their merit increase. Heads up, supervisors! Head up, staff!

I hope that each of you who wants to take a few days off to spend with family, or recharging your batteries, has the opportunity to take that break. Amazingly, we are about halfway through summer, and that's when a lot of us like to take a vacation. Be sure to schedule that time away if you have not done that yet.....balance is so important to both our personal and professional lives.

Okay, all this information is not very inspiring. Sometimes we are just not feeling very inspired. I'm sure you know how that is. I hope next week will be better, and I promise to find some inspiring words to share.

As always, thank you for all you do every day, in every office and facility, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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