
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I'm just back from Nashville, attending the ACA Congress of Correction with fellow professionals from around the country. One of the good things about going to conferences is learning about what's going on in other states.

As we share experiences and commiserate with each other, we always find that someone else has more and bigger challenges. That is certainly true with juvenile justice systems all over the country. A number of state systems are facing massive downsizing and layoffs, and some states are ordering across-the-board staff furloughs.

The thing that struck me is that almost everyone that I talked to had the same attitude: as corrections professionals, we are all going to tighten our belts and do what we have to do to meet our mission. We will not be deterred.

At the conference central office received its accreditation after the successful spring audit, followed by a panel hearing. We are moving forward with accreditation for all three secure facilities. (Field Services was re-accredited last year.)

And then there was my crazy trip back to Louisiana. I missed my connection at the Atlanta airport and somehow the airline sent my carry-on to baggage claim. Can't figure out how they managed to do that. I had to chase down my carry-on bag, and rush to the gate to catch my next flight...which was *cancelled*. So, stranded in Atlanta, I spent the night at a fleabag hotel, with no luggage. Have you ever wanted to sleep standing up so you wouldn't have to touch anything? At some point, I knew the situation was out of control, so I had to accept the circumstances and make the best of them. Needless to say, I am tired, but very happy to be home.

Happy birthday to...*What's up, Doc?* We've been communicating via this weekly message for a year now, and I still hear from some of you on occasion. You let me know when I strike a nerve, so at least I know you read it every so often.

You make a difference for our kids! Thanks for all you do to meet the mission. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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