
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

By now, I am sure that most of you have seen the general notice indicating that OJJ is faced with implementing a reduction in force. This is very difficult for us as we have all worked side by side to move OJJ forward over the past several years. I certainly hoped that we would not be in this position, however, the agency must downsize to meet budget requirements. These decisions were extremely difficult, but they were necessary. And, despite these measures, you can be assured that OJJ will continue to provide appropriate services to the youth in our custody and under our supervision.

Sometimes, in our lives, things happen that we have no control over. Some of our staff will receive notices that they have lost their jobs. This is a loss. This is a shock. These are our colleagues and our friends and it is hard. I know. I too was laid off once in my career – and it was tough. I learned that while this is a blow, it is an event that can be overcome.

As we have discussed before, what's really important in life is not our job title. We're more than that. What's truly important is who we are as people, our family, our health, our values. When we face challenges that we have no control over, and when we are dealt a blow and a crisis is looming, we have to reassess where we are and make a plan to deal with it. We have to be ready to execute that plan. How we deal with a crisis says more about our character than any job we do or title we hold.

With all that said, my thanks to every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for the character that you display daily to meet the mission. I appreciate each of you.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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