
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 3, No. 11. October 15, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

Happy Bosses' Day! It's a good thing that "Hallmark" created this day to stop and, hopefully, appreciate the boss. Bosses – I guess everybody has to have one. But here's a word to all the bosses out there: this day is really not about you, it's about all those people who are going to come in to say "Happy Bosses' Day." Without them, you wouldn't still be the boss. So if your staff has remembered you today, enjoy the moment, but never forget – it's them who carry the water, who make you successful or not. So, speaking, as, I suppose, the "Big Boss," I appreciate all the OJJ bosses who take the responsibility to provide the kind of leadership that all of our staff deserves.

I hope all of our OJJ supervisors are putting the good of the agency first, are striving to be the best that you can be. I hope all of our OJJ supervisors care about their staffs. Caring about your staff means communicating, being honest, modeling the way, inspiring a shared vision, challenging the process, enabling others to act and encouraging the heart. Sometimes leadership means providing discipline, or giving unwanted feedback, but that's how we get better, as individuals and as an agency. So again, Happy Bosses' Day a day early. Whoever thought about putting Bosses' Day on a Saturday? It's TGIF-BD here!

On another note, Dr. Ed Latessa was here this week to give a presentation at the LDAA (LA District Attorneys Association) training session. I was able to spend some quality time with him and listened to his presentation, which went very well. You may remember that Dr. Latessa speaks on "*What Works in Reducing Recidivism.*" He is a nationally-known expert and director of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. His workshop explores the principles of effective juvenile justice programming and emphasizes the value of using evidence-based practices to plan, administer and evaluate programs.

Work continues on the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC). As we have mentioned before, I am working with my counterparts at the Department of Children & Family Services (formerly (DSS), DHH and the Department of Education, to develop a statewide, coordinated system of care for at-risk children and youth, and their families, to help them function better at home, in school, in the community and throughout life. Too often, children with the highest level of need are removed from the home and placed in residential settings with the highest cost and the worst outcomes.

Now, time to wish each of you a lovely weekend, with my thanks for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov