
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 2, No. 26. February 12, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

You didn't think that a little snow would stop this week's edition of "What's Up Doc" did you? Certainly not. While it is a snow day here in Baton Rouge, and most of our OJJ offices around the state have closed, some of us did not get a snow day, and some of us are at work anyway. I have been putting off doing "What's Up Doc" until now because I am really tired of talking about bad news and delivering bad news. I am tired of the gloom and the depressing thoughts of our friends and colleagues losing their jobs. I'm tired of the mood swings we go through. I would imagine you are tired of hearing about it and thinking about it too. I mean, what do you say? "I'm sorry" doesn't quite seem adequate. And when my thoughts come back around, I keep going back to the same place: It is no one's fault. We had to make business decisions. Not everybody will understand what decisions were made or why. No one wants to see anybody lose their job. We didn't cause the economy to take a downturn. No one is to blame. It is what it is. We all regret that this is necessary. That's about all we can say.

Now, let me tell you a few things you may be wondering. This reduction in force (aka lay off) has moved forward. Those that have been affected by the action, have been notified. As far as the future, I really don't know. It depends on what happens in the legislative session. The Governor presented his budget today to the legislature. In summary, the budget recommended for us is a "standstill" budget, with a provision for us to also depopulate Swanson by 48 beds. This is what we had hoped for. If we were to get this budget approved, we would have the best chance of not facing other drastic measures in the future. So, keep your fingers crossed that we do well in our hearings and have good support from our many stakeholders. We are going to make it. We will because we have to. We will because we are strong, and we are mission focused. No ifs, ands, and buts about it. We will continue to move forward in the right direction. I promise you that.

So, on this "not really" snow day, I will sign off. Please keep your chins up, and your energies focused on the kids. They need us to step up, and show them the way.

Thanks for the work you do everyday to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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