
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

This edition of What's Up, Doc? is coming to you from Noo Yawk City – that's right, the Big Apple. Or the Frozen Apple - it's 26 degrees here with a windchill factor of 10 degrees. I had big ambitions and thought I could walk about 25 blocks to the theatre district to get tickets for a show. Yeah – I made it about three blocks before changing my mind and waving a taxi down. I failed to mention that I decided to take a few days for a little break. I attended the Models for Change Conference in Washington, DC, and thought, well shucks, New York City is sooo close, I might as well take a few days and go. I've been to New York two or three times and I love the city's energy, and the Broadway shows.

I got to see *Wicked* (The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz), and it was absolutely great, very entertaining, but with a deep message that I really appreciated. I also saw *Chicago*, the musical – this was a first for me, I had no idea what it was about. People in New York say it's a musical you can see over and over again. It is one of Broadway's best – a story about fame, fortune and all that jazz with great music and dance. Don't look for me in the crowd standing outside for the Today Show. I will not be there. It's way too cold and waaay too early. Today was my day to go to all the shops – not much for shopping but to stay warm. Then I am making the trek back to Louisiana to get home for Saturday evening. I am really looking forward to the OJJ Christmas party Saturday night.

The Models for Change conference, of course, was a MacArthur Foundation initiative. All the states that are involved with Models for Change are invited to Washington, DC every year to learn from each other about our projects and successes. Louisiana is one of the five original core states, and MacArthur has added other states in the second generation of MfC. We were asked to present a workshop on implementation and use of the SAVRY assessment tool. Orleans/Jefferson RM Kelly Clement, Dr. Gina Vincent of the University of Massachusetts and I made presentations, and the workshop was moderated by Dr. Debra DePrato, Louisiana's MfC Project Director. We had a lot of favorable comments from participants. Kelly and DAS Carolyn Lewis did an outstanding job with implementation of the SAVRY across OJJ's community-based services field offices, and we continue moving forward with implementation in our secure facilities as well. Another project we hope to work with is the National Youth Screening and Assessment Project, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, as we are redoing our classification policies, aligning them with our treatment model.

I understand that Sonja Anderson has done a great job decorating our Christmas tree. When I get back I look forward to seeing the Christmas spirit of the central office staff – and I am also looking forward to seeing everybody.

I hope you have been having a good week and that you also have a break planned for yourselves soon. Of course, check with your supervisor before you fly out the door! Ha ha, heaux heaux!

That said, I also wish you a great weekend (it's got to be warmer than NYC!). My thanks to each and every one of you in every OJJ office and facility, for all you do, every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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