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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

This week has just flown by! Have you ever wondered, what am I so busy doing? And I'm not the only one – everywhere I walk, everyone is busy, focused and getting the job done.

I am still spending a lot of time meeting and working on the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) project. I keep talking about it because this is going to impact how our kids are being served throughout the state as we progress. In some ways, it's just common sense, but in other ways it's so technical it makes my hair catch on fire.

I traveled to Alexandria Monday with DAS Carolyn Lewis for a meeting with Judge Patricia Koch and RM Johnny Qualls, relating to the CSoC concept. We are working on ways to provide services to youth through the avenue of Medicaid. It was a good meeting and Johnny will have a lot of follow-up to do, as we hope to get some things started there.

As we continue meeting with members of the community, Lafayette RM Susan Miller and members of her staff met with Judge Thomas Duplantier to talk about how we can be in the best position to convert our services to CSoC.

Undersecretary Alan Boxberger, Carolyn Lewis and I met with a major provider of services on how CSoC might impact their business model. I am taking every opportunity to convey this message to our providers: if their model does not include Medicaid-eligible services or they are not accustomed to Medicaid transactions, they have to do whatever it takes to get the expertise they need in this area if they want to continue to provide services to youth. Change is coming, and the changes are coming sooner than we thought. The state's fiscal crisis is accelerating the implementation schedule, and I don't want anybody to be caught flatfooted as we move forward.

Like any change, this will be a little scary, and we will make informed decisions as best we can. There is always some groundwork involved and we will have successes and we will have hiccups. After we get through all that, we will have done the right thing for kids. We will be working smarter and leveraging more federal dollars and using less state money. That is the vision of CSoC. So, hang tight – we will get the information to you on how it will impact you and your job as these changes become more specific to you and your area.

I hope you all had a great Turkey Day and that you are hitting those treadmills.

I also hope you had a chance to see the letter to the editor that I did in response to recent stories in the Monroe News Star. If you missed it, the letter is on our website.

I also want to mention to you that we will be having a Celebration of Change event at Swanson on December 17. I am really looking forward to it. There will be a lot of community members there, and I hope some of the people from the News Star will attend.

I'll close now with my thanks to each and every one of you in every OJJ location, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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