
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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George's Restaurant bumper sticker:



Hello, Everyone:

It has just been one of those weeks. Y'all know that I am the unluckiest person in the world when it comes to flying, but even unluckier when it comes to my bags arriving. Remember I wrote to you from the airport where I was stuck a couple of weeks ago. Well, although I finally made my flight, my luggage did not. United Airlines lost my bag. They did not do a thing to help me, but 24 hours later I located it myself in O'Hare Airport. The airline is supposed to refund that \$25 luggage fee, and I am still fighting with them to get that back.

Not only that, it's really been a trying week. Do you ever have a week where nothing seems to go like it's supposed to? Little things become big things and pettiness becomes a major aggravation. Little stuff can add up to one bad day. Sometimes we see another side of people that we don't expect. But that's just life, I guess. I recently saw a bumper sticker that I'm told is a trademark of George's Restaurant in Baton Rouge: ***"Business is great. People are terrific. Life is wonderful."*** Some days you can say that out loud and mean it. This week I read it and said, "yeah, right!" I'm not sure for which reaction that bumper sticker is intended, but I guess it can apply to you in whatever space you are in. Oh, well, that's life. We always experience a few disappointments and there are times and even weeks when there are bumps in the road. But, we know the bumps are there to overcome, and it's not the end of the world. You deal with them and then get on down the road. Here's another saying: ***"If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging."***

I attended two meetings on the Coordinated System of Care. The project is moving forward phenomenally thanks to the people who are involved from the four coordinating agencies (Department of Children and Family Services, formerly DSS; DHH and Department of Education, and OJJ), private providers and other stakeholders. A lot of credit goes to Shannon Robshaw, Program Manager, who is doing a tremendous amount of good work. I've asked Shannon to attend our leadership meeting on July 28 and make a presentation about CSOC. I'm very excited about the upcoming leadership meeting. We have a lot of important topics to talk about and I am looking forward to a really productive day.

I was also able to visit with the supervisor/leadership task force who are representative of our probation and parole offices and the facilities to plan for leadership training for our supervisors across the state. This is being staffed by Director of Staff Development Fran Martin, and I appreciate the work they are all doing. I'm looking forward to seeing their plans, as we continue to invest in the future of OJJ.

Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith is working hard to coordinate the successful transition of medical services at Bridge City and Jetson to Correct Care Solutions (CCS), the company that will soon provide medical care for our youth. Kelly is also working to renew our contract with LSU in Shreveport to continue to provide medical services at Swanson.

And we do have good news – the oil leak in the Gulf has been plugged at last, and that is something we can all feel good about. I hope the device holds and the cap is permanent, so we can start the new chapter that we all know is necessary to return the Gulf, the environment, and all our people who depend on the Gulf for their livelihoods, to a healthy state.

Let me close with my wish for you to have a great weekend, and 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