
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 3. No. 1. August 6, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

First, let me say this. Have you ever gone on a trip and when you got home, you said you would never leave again? Remember last week I had hoped that I would not have any more airport blues to relate this week? Well! Of course my luck as a traveler continues. I thought I was on the way to breaking the spell when I had an uneventful flight from New Orleans to Chicago and even made my Thursday evening meeting in time. Great. The way home was another story. I arrived at O'Hare Airport in plenty of time for my flight, even with time to spare. The flight was delayed an hour, then another hour, then another hour...you get the picture. And why, you are asking? First, there were storms all over the Midwest. Okay. Then, I saw firetrucks on the runway, and I thought it was a drill, but no – a plane on the runway actually caught on fire and they had to deal with that. Just when I thought we could get going, there were helicopters all over the place and all airspace was closed to air traffic for two hours so that President Obama could fly into Chicago to celebrate his birthday. At least my luggage made it with me on both flights, but we got into New Orleans so late, apparently there was only one sleepy luggage handler and it took 45 minutes to unload. I did get home...in the rain...about 1:15 a.m.

The good news is that the ACA conference in Chicago was very good and well worth attending. I participated in two workshops and brought back valuable and useful information on PREA, and heard pertinent information on ways to better support our staff. In addition, I was a speaker for one session on "Bureau of Justice Statistics Findings on Staff-on-Youth /Staff-on-Inmate Victimization and the Implications for Women in Corrections." I also served as moderator for a session on "Re-inventing Yourself - Transforming Your Correctional Life and Expanding Your Niche."

Back on the home front, it's been one of "those" days...with not enough time today to address everything that needs attention. But I **will** catch up. So glad it's the weekend.

Here's an interesting observation. Today is the second anniversary of "What's Up, Doc?" We started these little chats on August 8, 2008 and that year we had 19 of 'em. A full year in 2009 saw 53 WUDs (there was one extra edition last year) and so far in 2010 we have had 32. That's a grand total of 104 What's Up, Docs, and counting. I figure I'm good for another seven or eight years, so that's only 364 or 416 more to go. There never seems to be a lack of new material so if you'll keep reading I'll keep writing.

Let me say again I am SO glad to be home. Lucky for me I don't have to leave again until Monday. That's right – Monday. I will be traveling with other department secretaries and staff to look at New Jersey's Coordinated System of Care. With any luck I'll be back when I am supposed to be, on Wednesday. So, if you are thinking all this travel is fun, let me assure you that I am going for work, with the intention of learning as much as I can and bringing back best practices to Louisiana.

So for now, my thanks to all of you in every OJJ office and facility, 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