
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

As most of you probably know, a Swanson youth walked away from supervision a week ago today. He was supposed to be on a re-integration visit with his mother in Shreveport, and made a very poor choice. Now, unfortunately for him, he is facing adult charges. My thanks to all of the staff who worked together to get our kid back into custody. Staff from Swanson, Shreveport Probation and Parole, Investigative Services and the central office executive team mobilized as soon as the escape took place and coordinated efforts, along with the Shreveport Police Department, the U.S. Marshal Service and the State Police. Together, we were able to apprehend our youth.

It is our mission to “protect the public by providing safe and effective individual services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.” We were certainly trying to take a step toward meeting our mission, and encouraging contact with the family and contact within the community. We obviously need to take a look at what happened and make a critical evaluation, so that we continue to meet the mission while at the same time providing important safeguards to the community. We will do an extensive after-action review and formulate policies to put better practices into place. Needless to say, all of us are relieved to have this incident behind us, and again, my thanks to all who contributed to the return of this young man.

Moving on, we had a Town Hall meeting at central office this week. From the feedback I’ve gotten, people really appreciated the communication. Communication is so important in all organizational units. I hope that all of OJJ’s leaders and supervisors are finding frequent and effective ways to communicate with their staff. We need to encourage communication as well, and we all need to remember that communication is a two-way street – it can go up, down and sideways. Without good communication, we all go sideways - right into the ditch. If you have suggestions or ideas for how we can better communicate, please share them. I’m sure that our supervisors (and I) would love to hear your suggestions.

As part of the Town Hall meeting, we kicked off our annual United Way campaign. I would encourage each of you to give a little something to United Way. It doesn’t have to be a lot. United Way supports many of the helping agencies throughout our communities, including some that we work with for the benefit of our youth.

On behalf of OJJ and our youth, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary/Facilities Philippe Magloire for his service to OJJ. Philippe has decided to move on to a new opportunity with Cook County Juvenile Services in Chicago. He has been with OJJ for five years and has made major contributions to our agency. I know Philippe will do a great job with Cook County, and I hope you will join me in wishing Philippe and his family well.

Today I am on an adventure with my mother and my aunt, taking them to visit with their sister in Texas. So far we have made our flights with no problems. I am thankful that I have not imposed my horrible travel luck on my senior citizen companions. I would appreciate your prayers for the same good luck on our trip back to Louisiana.

Wishing each of you a wonderful weekend, with my thanks, as ever, for all that you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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