
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

So far, so good, as far as hurricanes in the Gulf go. Thank goodness they have huffed and puffed but have not blown anything down yet. I hope our good luck holds out, but we continue to prepare for a major disaster just in case. You just never know when a storm will come our way. If that happens, OJJ will be ready.

I've had several important meetings this week as we continue to tackle some of our challenges. Many are follow-up meetings – so much of what we do is strategic, in that we get the best information available to us, determine our needs and come up with a plan to address the issues. But we are only as good as our follow-through.

One of the things that is, and can be frustrating in any agency, is that staff spend a lot of time, effort and energy on problem-solving and developing plans, but are lacking in follow-through. I know, personally, that a lot of things are like a hanging chad, but I try to make a particular effort to build in report-back dates and feedback loops.

Some challenges are not simple. Multi-faceted issues take time and effort. So we don't get a lot of instant gratification. However, we should all try to work as a team to make sure we are not wasting our time.

I like to hear from you, and I have not heard from many of you for a while. I'm wondering whatever happened to those questions about "whatever happened to...blah blah blah?" or "Where are we on such and such program?" Come on, you sleeping violets, send me your "what ever happened to...?" questions. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

The bad news this week is another oil rig accident in the Gulf, but at least no one was seriously injured or worse. It only goes to show how dangerous those offshore jobs can be. We are all glad that there does not appear to be another oil spill associated with this accident, but GOHSEP has re-mobilized to deal with this new situation.

Labor Day weekend is here – that last fling before summer is semi-officially over. I say semi-officially, because fall actually begins September 21, and it's still hot as blazes now, but it's time to put away the white shoes. I do not know who comes up with these social rules – probably the marketing people who want to sell more shoes. Well, my friend who reminds me of the Labor Day ritual will be going back to drinking whiskey in a couple of days. She'll drink whiskey until Memorial Day when she will ditch the whiskey and drink only beer...until Labor Day...Personally, I never thought that much about the rigidity of social customs, but it's interesting to see how some people mark the changing of seasons.

For those of you who will have a three-day weekend, please be safe and enjoy yourselves. For those of you who will be at work on Monday, my thanks for taking care of our kids.

As ever, 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

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