
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Good afternoon OJJ employees. It is a rainy looking day here in Baton Rouge, but not so much rain today. We could use some more rain, except that I hate it that it is here for the first weekend of the Jazz Festival in N.O. and the Blues Festival in Baton Rouge. I am sure the shows will still go on, albeit in the mud. I might just put on my shorts, t-shirt, rain boots, and hit one of those two venues. In that "get-up" I will also wear a hat and sunglasses as a disguise. I wouldn't want anybody to recognize me. I might look a little "clicked" or "throwed off" if you know what I mean. I love both of those expressions, both I have learned since being back in our great state.

When the dark clouds roll in, I tend to get sort of lazy (sleepy) and maybe a little pensive. I was thinking about what to write for "WUD" (another acronym!) and I usually start by reviewing the week. And this week started with April 19th. As you may have seen on the news, it was the 15th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. And so it is I want to reflect a minute or two. I was only 4 miles from the Murrah building when the bomb went off. It shook our building for 11 seconds as if there were an earthquake. It killed 168 people, including 19 children. And it killed ordinary citizens who just happened to be going to get their social security cards or attending a training class in one of the classrooms, or doing some credit union transactions. It came out of nowhere. It still seems unreal to me. The staff reported in mass to the site to help anyway they could. They helped people to safety, and carried out victims. There were a lot of heroes that day. I know the people in Oklahoma are strong and are moving forward, but I wanted to just honor them with this message. Please keep all of those who are still scarred, emotionally and physically, in your prayers. Please pray that Americans will not resort to violence as differences are aired. That is the American way. Hopefully we are modeling that daily for our youth. Violence doesn't solve anything. It only makes matters worse. Please reinforce this with OJJ youth every chance you get.

Shifting gears just a little bit, the legislative session will soon be one third behind us for 2010. So far, we have had some interesting meetings, and it is good to see the support we are getting. The legislators I talk to have all been very complementary of you and the work you are doing. I want to thank you for that! Keep up the good work. We are making great progress, and we have so much more to do! It is very exciting. As we get news we will share it with you. At this point, it still looks like the Columbia facility is a go, as well as the Acadiana facility.

Until next week, have a great weekend. Enjoy a festival if you can stand the rain and the mud. And again, thanks for what you do every day to meet our mission.

Sincerely,

Doc

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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