
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, One and All:

Well, it's Friday again – happy Friday everyone! It's been a busy week and I AM tired! I'm sure I'm not the only one singing those blues. But it's been a great week, and we had a lot of productive meetings. Such as a meeting with Dr. Edward Latessa, to plan the evaluation of our FastTrack Program; a meeting concerning our recidivism data; a meeting to review our prevention and diversion programs; a meeting with an architect to look at Bridge City's perimeter gatehouse design; a meeting with Jodie Levinson-Johnson concerning CSoC and a review of the draft report on Jetson's renovation vs. replacement.

As more develops from each of these topics, I will share the news with you, lest you think I just sit here in a rocking chair and daydream!

Just remember, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We had a small fundraiser here today – we wore our favorite team shirts and donated a couple of dollars to the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

It's also flu shot time. I wanted to get my shot today, as the shots were offered on campus, but I just could not get away. I'm going to have to go to Walgreen's to catch it, I guess. The shot, that is, not the flu!

We had a great training class yesterday and today here at central office. The classrooms were full of our staff from all over the agency – program managers and specialists, social workers and social services staff, facility deputy directors, secure care and regional probation and parole training coordinators, PPOs and direct care staff. This was a train-the-trainers class for mental health staff, based on the McArthur Foundation Models for Change Mental Health Treatment and Training Curriculum, and brought us the most up-to-date treatment information in the areas of juvenile mental health, youth trauma and family engagement. I want to thank everybody for coming and participating. The two trainers who came to teach were very complimentary of our staff – Dr. Stephen Philippi of LSU, and Gene Griffin, J.D., PhD, from University of Chicago. They complimented us on how engaged and motivated our staff are, and that's a nice thing to hear on a Friday afternoon. Special thanks to Program Manager Nancy Gautreau, Director of Staff Development Fran Martin, and Director of Treatment Annette Arthur, who planned and implemented this unique training event.

We truly have a great group of professionals who do a great job for our youth. Believe me, you are all making a difference. OJJ has come a long way in a short time, and there's no stopping us from reaching for the stars. We still have a long way to go, but as long as we continue to learn and strive to be the best, we can be proud of who we are as an agency, and the work we do with our kids. That's what it's all about. Thanks for all that you do, each and every one of you, everywhere and every day, to reach for the stars and meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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