
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I had a lot of meetings early in the week - too boring for you to hear about, but needed nevertheless. But the absolute highlight of my week was the Leadership Team meeting we had yesterday. Yours truly gave an overview of the Coordinated System of Care that the four agencies have been working on – OJJ, DHH, DCFS and DOE. Like I told the team, CSoC will impact our world - it will be a sea change for service delivery for youth and families. (Hammond RM Julie Eudy tells us that “sea change” means a dramatic, striking change or major transformation, often for the better.) Get ready. New Orleans RM Kelly Clement gave us an update on the SAVRY, which has been implemented statewide in the regional offices, Bridge City and Jetson, and is being implemented now at Swanson and in the contract non-secure residential programs. A team of CQIS Program Specialists, Angela Arabie, Patty Thomas, Yezette White and Lane Plache, updated us on the CPC, the Correctional Program Checklist. Ellyn Peterson described EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) training that will soon be conducted at the Hammond regional office. We learned a lot about the process for youth coming into the OJJ system and receiving Community-Based Services. DAS Carolyn Lewis set the stage for RMs Susan Miller (Lafayette), Sue Larisey (Baton Rouge) and Patty Newman (Monroe), who described the processes for non-secure residential placement as well as probation and court issues. We learned much about secure care placement, operations and treatment from DAS/Facilities Sean Hamilton and his key staff. Perla Steele explained the process for bringing newly adjudicated kids into the secure care environment. SCY Director Carolyn Atkins, JCY Director Daron Brown and BCCY Director Linda London described the group processes that are the backbone of LaMOD, as well as what a day in the life of kids in secure care looks like. Treatment Director Annette Arthur concluded the segment with a description of some of the treatment programs available for youth. The afternoon working sessions on upcoming Code of Conduct policy changes in the facilities provided a lot of excellent suggestions on implementation of these changes.

I was really impressed with the expertise of our presenters and our leadership team. What was so valuable about the whole day, was that this was the first time in a long time that we have stepped back to see the big picture, how our initiatives are being implemented and connected to outcomes and meeting the mission. It was also uplifting to see the agency leaders communicating, sharing information and problem-solving. Real teamwork was displayed and the strength of our leadership team was very apparent. I feel very good about this group as a catalyst for moving the agency forward.

I hope that all of you have a chance to spend some time reading the letter you will soon receive, about 2010 accomplishments and our directions for 2011. I know it's long – trust me, it could have been much longer – I could have waxed on about what's been done and what is going to be done – but I spared you and kept it to just six pages. I hope you read it and share the information with co-workers. If you have any questions, please ask your leaders or email us for more information and we will certainly provide it.

We have a holiday Monday, and I hope you will remember that it's not just a day off. It's a day to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, and to reflect on his contributions and the sacrifices he made for our nation. I do hope you will enjoy the long weekend, and thanks to those of you who will be working Monday with our kids. I know there are activities planned for our youth to allow them to learn about Dr. King and sea change that he helped bring about in our country.

As ever, my thanks to each of you, wherever you serve in OJJ, for the work you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, “Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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