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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Wow! Was Monday a holiday? It seems so long ago. I hope all of you enjoyed your day off, and my thanks to those of you who were at work with the kids on Monday.

I made a presentation at the Judges' meeting yesterday and talked about the accomplishments we achieved last year. I shared data with them showing where we have gone and I specifically mentioned our plans to change the Code of Conduct policy and procedure. The reaction by the judges was very good. I will follow up with the juvenile judges' liaison group at the next meeting February 4.

Also this week, I met with the LA District Attorneys Association Juvenile Justice Task Force. A representative from DCFS was also there, and we had a good discussion about the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC). I also spoke with the DAs about the changes in our Code of Conduct/disciplinary process, and as we refine the procedures and conduct staff training, I will keep them up to speed on that issue.

As I mentioned to you before, as we are moving into the therapeutic model at all three facilities, we plan to revise the Code of Conduct to align with treatment procedures, based on evidence-based practices. We will be able to handle behavior problems using group processes and become less focused on write-ups and more focused on changing behavior. We discussed this issue at the recent leadership meeting, and everyone felt this change is consistent with our philosophy. The consensus was that we should move forward with the change to get away from using the disciplinary process for minor infractions. Staff engagement and group interaction are more in line with the direction OJJ is taking. When the changes have been implemented, our reports to the judges will include information about a youth's progress and the narrative will address the overall behavior of the youth.

I was in Hammond Thursday to visit the office, where all the PPOs were taking EPICS training (Effective Practices in Community Services) conducted by Brian Lovins, MSW, research associate and trainer on Dr. Ed Latessa's staff at the University of Cincinnati. I was able to speak with the class, and heard that the training was very well-received. We got a thumbs-up from the participants to move statewide with the training. Brian was very complimentary of our professionalism and was very impressed with the quality of our staff in Hammond.

Question to the P&P staff in Hammond: have you read my six-page letter yet? You will be tested on this...just kidding! I know you have a lot of catching up to do since you were in training all week. Say hello to the guinea hen for me. BTW, there will be a picture of the Hammond guinea hen in the next issue of The Inside Scoop.

My thanks to each of you in every office and facility, for the dedication you display and the work you do daily to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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