
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I want to share a nice poem written by a witty, talented member of our staff, who answered last week's What's Up, Doc? with these encouraging words:

When times look bleak, When times look grim,
We are not going to sink, We are going to swim!
No one will drown doing what is right... We continue to fight with all our might...
Because we want our youth to see the "Light"!
It's the OJJ way, that's what we do... The best in the nation... our youth and YOU!

Well, it looks like Spring has sprung at last. I can't believe it's just February 25 and it's already almost 80 degrees outside. If I still lived in Baltimore, the high today would be 43 degrees. In fact, heavy snow is blanketing several states in the Midwest and east to New York. And here's a news flash - forecasts say it **might snow in San Francisco** for the first time in 35 years. A cold front coming from Canada combined with a storm coming off the Pacific Ocean could drop 24 inches of snow in California, and the National Weather Service said that it might snow in San Francisco tomorrow. San Francisco's mayor told residents to brace for snow. They know even less about snow than we do here in south Louisiana, where our snowfalls are much more frequent, say every 15 years or so. Bottom line - I do not feel at all guilty for enjoying the warm sunshine.

I got my golf clubs out and went to the driving range this week. Needless to say, I have lost my rhythm and maybe even all my athletic ability, whatever I may have had. My ribcage is sore from hitting the ground so many times. You are supposed to hit the ball, not the ground. I suppose I will eventually get back into the swing of things.

We had all the Regional Managers here today for a meeting, along with the Program Specialists. They are working diligently on next year's contract services for the agency. As you know, we have a strategy for ensuring that all our community-based contract services are evidence-based. This will be reflected in the new RFP going forward, and addressed in future evaluations. I appreciate all the RMS driving to central office, and all the hard work they are doing in their communities. Our RMs and Program specialists are doing an outstanding job.

We held our post-POST training this week and I was able to go out to the training site to speak with our new officers. I really enjoyed the dialogue and we had a good discussion about their role as PPOs in OJJ. They had some very good suggestions for improving upon the training and we will incorporate their suggestions into our next training experience. Thanks to all staff who found time in their busy schedules to come and speak to the new staff. They really appreciated that - they told me so.

I hope you will get outside this weekend and enjoy the beautiful weather. Go for a walk, wash the dog, wash the car, cut back those crepe myrtle trees, start shopping for Mardi Gras festivities, catch a parade. No snow for us! As ever, my thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for the work you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov