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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I am so sorry for this late edition of What's Up, Doc? – it's been a busy day with lots to do and lots of phone calls. It's been such a hectic week that my head is still spinning. My body is tired and my mind is manic! The Executive Team has also been really busy preparing for budget meetings and the House Appropriations Committee hearings. Most of you know that this time of year we jump through hoops to gather data and information so we will have answers to the questions that might come up. For those of you who were working on a quick turnaround to provide information – my thanks.

I don't know if you are aware how much goes into our preparation for these hearings. It's a massive undertaking. We kept the central office staff busy - I am proud of the Executive Team and those who support them for rallying around them and helping with our preparation. Once again, you displayed great teamwork, and my thanks go out to all of you.

We did have our hearing yesterday and it seems that most of the concerns and questions centered around the proposed elimination of the day treatment programs around the state. There will probably not be any more hearings for us until we go before the Senate committee. And, the real process hasn't begun – the regular session has not even started yet.

Somebody mentioned something to me about March Madness and I said that we were preparing for our budget hearings. My friend actually meant the NCAA basketball tournament! Well, neither LSU's men nor women's teams made it – none of Louisiana's teams were invited to the dance. But, there is still a lot of exciting basketball to watch. So pick your favorite team and enjoy the competition in the NCAA tournament. You might also catch some local baseball games, I'm sure that even Little League is entertaining, if you're not too busy pulling weeds out of your yard. And for you old folks out there, remember to bend at your knees, not your back when you are pulling those weeds. I don't want to see anybody at Lake After Hours.

So, if you're not watching March Madness, pulling weeds or visiting Lake After Hours, maybe you could just enjoy some down time. Take a good Sunday nap. Or nap at church. Or do a little grilling and sippin'. But if you sip, don't drive.

There's a lot of chaos both in the big world and in our own little world right now. Let's just enjoy the simple things in our lives.

And most of all, thanks to you, everywhere, for all that you do every day, to meet the mission of OJJ.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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