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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Folks:

As usual, it's been a really busy week, and I know that a lot of staff in the field have been helping us in gathering information. I know you have been working under quick deadlines as we asked for a lot of data, so you are suffering through the process just like everybody here is. Thanks for all your help in data collection and reporting needed information. We have a great team.

Speaking of great teams, I was reviewing *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* before it went out today. It just has a way of lifting my spirits. I read with great interest all the comings and goings and wonderful things that you are doing. It is truly heartwarming, especially reading about the success stories, the letters of thanks from our kids, the youth who stopped by to update his PPO on his progress, the PPO who got a church to adopt a needy family...Y'all are truly amazing – you are making a difference, more than you know at the time. So, keep up the good work. I know I am smiling, as I am sure many others are as well.

So, another thing that hit me like a skillet upside my head is what a great job everyone is doing on the ORM safety audits. I can remember not too long ago, thinking how far we had to go to get this right. Now I am hearing about a 100 percent score – Alexandria set the bar with a 100 percent score! Four other offices/facilities scored above 95; two scored in the high 80s. We are still waiting for a few more to be audited – New Orleans, Central Office, Shreveport, Natchitoches and Lake Charles. But, what I am seeing here is much improved over past years – there is attention to detail, emphasis on policy and procedure, and compliance with safety regulations. Thanks to all the administrators, and safety officers, and to Debbie Linder, OJJ's Statewide Safety Officer, for these achievements. Again, thanks to all of you for your hard work – keep your focus.

March Madness continues, except that it is now April. I thought there would be some good April Fool's jokes, but I think everyone is a little too gun-shy this year to try anything crazy. Maybe next year...

Deputy Undersecretary Marianne Buchanan has gone to the house, as they say. She has retired after almost 29 years of service to the state of Louisiana. Today was her last day in the office. We want to thank Marianne for her contributions to OJJ; she is a true professional. We will miss Marianne and wish her the best as she starts a new chapter in her life.

Seems like this issue talks about a lot of things I'm thankful for, and it's not even November. I am blessed to be able to thank such a dedicated team, in every OJJ location, for always stepping up, getting the job done, and, every day, meeting the mission. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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