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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, good evening - this will be a late edition of What's Up, Doc? because, quite frankly, the day passed me by and it wasn't until about 4:30, on the way back from New Orleans, that I told **Dr. Melancon**, "I haven't even done What's Up for today!"

Girard and I had been to a statewide judges' conference, where I had a chance to give them an update, but I digress. I must talk about how grateful I am for the New Orleans Saints. Maybe, MAYBE, we'll be able to see some real football played. So I'm sure you know what I'm talking about. I am just now able to discuss the LSU football game. I have been through all the stages of grief – shock and denial, pain and guilt, anger and bargaining, depression and reflection, the upward turn, reconstruction and working through, acceptance and hope. And then back to depression. I know, it's just a game. I know, it's not real life. But we take our football seriously in Louisiana. And this was not funny. Or fun. In fact, it was just downright embarrassing. I am now humbled. And I am not looking forward to facing my many friends across the country who know how proud we are of our LSU Tigers. I am humbled. There's always next year.

It's been another short week. And even shorter for me in the office because I was also in New Orleans for two other days this week. I had the opportunity to meet with major players in Louisiana juvenile justice to discuss an evaluation of where we have been and where we need to go. Stay tuned, as I think this will be important work and will help guide our efforts for the next several years. This evaluation results from a resolution by the state legislature that JJIC produce this report, so I'm glad that OJJ is part of this effort. The MacArthur Foundation is providing technical support to JJIC to produce the report. We look forward to the final product.

I also had the opportunity to go by Bridge City and spend a little time with **Acting Director Namon Reid**. The facility was quiet and everything looked good. It was good to see. I also spent some quality time at the New Orleans Probation and Parole office. It was nice to catch up with **RM Kelly Clement** on the good things that are happening in his area.

Happy holiday again this Monday, Martin Luther King Day. But for his leadership, our world would be very different. I do think we are a better country because of his leadership. He was a courageous visionary. Courageous visionaries are often targeted and persecuted for their leadership. But that didn't stop him from inspiring a movement to move our country forward. In many ways, he freed us all. Remember that he did this all under the banner of nonviolence.

Well, I'll close now with my thanks to each and every one of you, in every office and facility, for all that you do every day, to meet the mission, and to bring Dr. King's vision to our youth.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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