
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Happy Mardi Gras, everyone, it is carnival season - for a few more days anyway.

I hope everybody got their Valentine Day taken care of – I heard that one person here at central office was trying to find discount flowers on February 13. It sounded like he was in deep trouble. Or headed that way, anyway.

It has been a roller coaster week with many twists and turns – I guess it's just like that sometimes. I call our agency “the Little Giant.” We are relatively small compared to “big corrections” or DCFS or DHH, but we seem to get our lion's share of attention. And I can say this, that sometimes we get thrown under the bus without much warning or obvious reason. Unfortunately, no matter how much progress we make or how much improvement we gain, we are still at the mercy of whatever anybody wants to say about us in the media. Sometimes it's better just to not respond, although I always want to. So, my dear friends and colleagues, we will stay firm in knowing that we have had good outcomes; we know we are not perfect but we are going in the right direction, we will continue on and we will move forward.

Well, we are going to bury Whitney Houston tomorrow. And then all of the 24/7 talk of her struggles, her life, how much money she had when she died, speculation about what killed her, etc., etc., will all be over with. It is always sad to see someone with so much talent, at such a young age, to die prematurely. Life is truly unpredictable.

Many of you may know our attorney, Cynthia Eyre, through the many training she has done for employees all over the state, and all the work she has done in our legal unit to meet the mission. She is not only a bright, competent, hardworking professional, but she is also quite a character. She was offered a promotion paying much, much more than she can make here, I can't fault her for that. We will miss Cynthia, and we wish her well.

February is also Black History Month, and I know there are programs and educational opportunities being presented at all the facilities, and with our community-based kids. I look forward to hearing about the various activities around the state.

If you are planning on participating in any parades, please be careful, and get a designated driver, unless you are going to Church Point, then get a designated horseman. Hide your live chickens or they may end up in somebody else's gumbo.

I'm sure you all know that the regional offices and central office will be closed Tuesday for Mardi Gras, but as always, our secure facilities still have regular operations, and staff will be at work, taking care of the kids and helping them celebrate Mardi Gras away from home and the traditions they are used to. My thanks to everyone who will be working, because I know you will do your best to help make the kids enjoy Mardi Gras.

Thanks to each and every one of you, in every OJJ location, for all you do every day, parades or not, to meet the mission

Sincerely,
“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

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