
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Okay, so DAS Karen Stubbs and I were walking up that little street on the hill toward the State Capitol and we see two people that we needed to chat with. So we're standing there chatting, taking care of business, and Karen looks down at her feet because she thought she felt something on her foot. When she looked down it was actually something under her foot. When she picked her foot up she quickly hollered "**SNAKE!**" so all four of us jumped back into a very large circle, only to see the culprit slithering off away from us. Needless to say it was quite a shock - imagine seeing a snake at the Capitol. This was the slithering kind, and it caused quite a stir. The men that were posted to manage parking came running up to see what all the commotion was about, because four women continued to shriek for several minutes in disbelief at this close encounter. We even got Capitol security involved. The Wildlife and Fisheries department would be proud to know that the snake was successfully escorted into the bushes alongside Capitol Lake. I think the snake was more afraid than we were, and it did not look to be poisonous. So all ended well, with a story to tell. So, give us some of your snake stories - I know you must have some.

Well, I started this week off sick again. I can't seem to fight this pollen and the allergies very well. But I'm feeling better. Thank goodness it's the weekend. I was able to get out a little bit this week, besides the trip to the Capitol.

I was at Bridge City to give a tour for a reporter. The New Orleans Times Picayune is going to do a story on, I guess, the trials and tribulations of Bridge City. I guess we'll find out soon enough how it comes out. Having spent the day there, I know things are going well. And things are more calm than they have been in a long while, so we are counting on that trend to continue.

I was also able to go to Lafayette this week. I met with a judge there, but the highlight of my trip to Lafayette was a town hall meeting with the P&P staff. They are doing a terrific job in Lafayette. RM Susan Miller said their case load, which had stood at over 1,100, is now down to 804, due to their use of the SAVRY and the focus on the least restrictive interventions. They are seeing great improvement in their outcomes, and their custody level has dropped. I noticed that a lot of the staff was a little quiet, because they had been in PPCT class most of the day. Although some staff looked pretty worn out, we still had a nice chat and a lot of good Q&A. They say they are going to invite me back for a crawfish boil. I hope I do get that invitation, and I hope I can make it.

This is the time of year for a lot of walks and fundraisers for various health-related issues. Here in Baton Rouge the Department of Public Safety is sponsoring an autism walk, and there is also a walk for Multiple Sclerosis in Walker. So pick your favorite cause and get out there and walk.

At the very least, I hope you can get outside this weekend and enjoy the gorgeous spring weather, because it will be too hot all too soon. Enjoy your weekend, with my thanks, as ever, to each of you in every OJJ location, for all you do, every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

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