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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, OJJ Family:

This is the 182nd edition of What's Up, Doc? So much BS, so much time. So, for three and half years, every Friday, I have written a little bit of something to all our peeps. So in rain, sleet, tornadoes, rising water, hurricanes, forty mile an hour spring winds, this message comes to you. Gauging from the executive team, hopefully you've read about 80 percent of them. Since they are around me all the time they think they don't have to read my What's Up, Doc? messages because they think they know everything that I'm going to say. But I throw them a curve every once in a while, like right now. On Monday I will ask them if they have read it and I will see how many of them say yes.

Which also reminds me, I think there's a little slippage in the mission. I have asked for it a few times and I see a lot of people immediately staring at their feet. Which usually means they've put it somewhere in the back of their mind, or under their shoe. But I want you to know why it's so important for us to know the mission and how we fit into it. Research shows that the top producing, best organizations, whether in the private or public sector, are those where everyone who works for the organization knows the mission and knows how they fit into it. Check out the books called from *Good to Great*, and *Built to Last* by Jim Collins. And, brush up on your mission, and next time I see you be ready. I hope it's on the tip of your tongue.

I just got back from the quarterly Juvenile and Family Court Judges Joint Department Liaison meeting. The big topic was the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership system and CSoc, as the partnership was just implemented yesterday, with the launch of CSoc in five regions and Behavioral Health statewide. As I said I in the meeting, there are lot of questions and a lot of details to be worked out, as is the case whenever we flip the switch to a different way of delivering services. But the key is to work through those issues and keep the big picture in mind as we work out details and as the system grows. A year from now, two years from now, this will have a major, positive impact on the juvenile justice system. We believe more and better quality care will be accessed earlier in the lives of the youth and families who are in need of services. Overall it was a very positive meeting and the judges were pleased with the information that they obtained. So, time well spent.

We had a town hall meeting yesterday with central office staff. I enjoy the format where we can communicate current information. I will be making my rounds to the Probation and Parole Offices and all the facilities for town hall meetings in the near future.

I guess everybody saw that we had another school shooting in America. It seems that, as in most cases, hindsight showed that this kid was in trouble and people knew it. A picture surfaced of this young man posing with weapons. I hope that everybody sees that is a definitely a red flag. In all three high profile instances of horrific school shootings, there were pictures of the kids in glorified poses with weapons. I hope that everyone's senses are heightened to this phenomenon.

It's a very sad situation and our hearts go out to that community in Ohio. It seems that violence, particularly gun violence, is becoming or already is the number one public health issue in America. Recent data came out reflecting that Baton Rouge and New Orleans are particularly plagued with this problem. This is a very challenging issue and one that I'm sure law enforcement and elected officials are all working on as we speak. Our challenge as an agency is to do everything possible to redirect kids to solve problems pro-socially, as opposed to using guns or violence. We'll keep trying.

I've heard several people say today 'I can't wait for the weekend,' and I know the feeling. It means you've worked hard and been put up wet. So – thanks to each of you in every office and facility, for all your hard work every day to meet the mission. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Until next week, when Edition 183 comes out.

Sincerely,  
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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