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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I started off this week in a good mood. Apparently, my assistant and I both started off in a good mood on Monday. We were both singing and humming the theme song from Rawhide. Don't know where that came from, but Nita and I both had fun recapturing that tune and some other TV favorites, like Sky King, My Friend Flicka, (the black and white version), the Rifleman, Tarzan, Our Gang, and last, but not least, The Three Stooges - Moe, Larry and Curley! How many of y'all have been to see the new, modern movie? I'm tempted to go see it but it will probably end up being ordered on Netflix. If any of you have seen it, please let me know what your movie review is.

You know, a lot of times we think there's nothing but depressing news, but more and more I'm finding headlines that make me laugh. Like this one from Ft. Smith, Arkansas: Man Holds Up Store With Hot Dog Tongs. Really? For 15 minutes, he tried to rob a store with hot dog tongs? Put some chili and mustard on that! And how about this one: Alligator Visits Port Allen Motel, Bites Guest. It appears the gator bit one of the motel guests, who tried to catch it before animal control workers showed up. Are you kidding me? This guy's been watching too much Swamp People! The guy said, "I couldn't believe there was something like that out there!" He had just moved here from Florida! Really? Florida has a football team named after Gators! As they say in north Louisiana, he is a bit throwed off.

Meanwhile, while all this was going on, OJJ continues to crank it out. Everybody's working hard in their specific areas. We are really shifting our involvement with CSoc, from creation and policy development to implementation. So now, it's all about operational challenges in the field, to iron out the kinks and do all the things that will make this thing work. A special shout-out to **Jacqueline Page**, who is on loan to DHH, working fulltime on behalf of OJJ, and to **DAS Karen Stubbs**, who has, to date, been our lead entity. Without both of these people's dedication, we would not be where we are today --- implementing.

Our supervisor training continues. I know there was a planning conference call this week, and I am very appreciative of the work that **Director of Staff Development Fran Martin** does to coordinate and support this supervisory training, as it is so important in developing our capacity for the future. Also, work continues on PREA, as the task force had its quarterly meeting this week, headed by **Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney**. We had a large staff group in this week, focusing on creative ways to move our youth out of detention and into treatment, in fulfillment of our mission, as efficiently as possible. The group included facility directors, regional managers and central office staff - thanks to all of them for their focus on this area. They are making some recommendations that we will be able to act on. It's all about continuous improvement.

We have some people on the move - **Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith** is going on part-time status, and congratulations to "new" Baton Rouge **RM Michelle Thomas**, who has been acting RM and is now permanent in the position. Of course, we heard the news that **Justice Kitty Kimball** is retiring in January, from the Supreme Court. While this is a huge loss for us at OJJ, she certainly deserves to retire and spend time with her family after 30 years of dedication to the State of Louisiana. All our best to Justice Kimball.

Wednesday is Administrative Professionals Day, and to all you supervisors out there, I would strongly suggest that you remember to honor the contributions of your administrative professional staff. If you do not, you may well hear your phones ringing off the hook, there will be no fresh coffee, you won't be able to find anything on your desk....your assistants will be MIA. With good reason. They keep our offices running smoothly and keep us all on track and there is after all, an open secret that those are the people who are really running things. My thanks to all of you Administrative Pros out there - thanks for all you do. (Hear that, Nita?)

And - thanks to each and every one of you, regardless of your job title, for all that you do, every day, to meet the mission.

"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov