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## what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, we have short week upon us. Today is Holy Thursday and tomorrow is Happy Friday, and an especially Good Friday. Yesterday at central office, our Morale Committee treated us to an Easter celebration, complete with mostly unhealthy food that was really delicious. Lots of chips, dips, crackers and little sandwiches, and a ton of sweets. We did not eat like rabbits, but more like pigs. If we were bunnies we would not be able to hop. We could not leap two inches off the ground. So, more like pigs, we just shuffled and grunted our way back to our desks. Fresh coffee could be smelled down the hallways where none is usually brewed after 2:00. We all needed a little help from the caffeine kick to get us through, but we made it, and today we're facing leftovers in the hall outside Ellyn and Jerel's offices. I've already seen some of our staff succumbing to the weakness of eating when you're not hungry. What could be better for breakfast than chocolate?

Okay, so you saw the snake story. I don't know if we can top the snake story in the news today, where a solo pilot felt something crawling up his leg and - you guessed it - snake in the plane. Did anybody see that movie "Snakes on a Plane?" It does not sound like something I would enjoy. Nooo thank you. I don't even want to think about it. Talk about skydiving without a parachute!

We continue to try to work out the kinks in the transition to Magellan and the System of Care (CSoC). Here at central office we were involved in several meetings with Magellan, and in fact we have another meeting this afternoon. I hope everyone will just remain open and focused on working out the details. We all knew from our own experience that when you flip the switch in transition, that's where the real work begins. So, thank you for all you are doing to make this work, as you continue to make me - and the entire agency - proud of how professional you are in these endeavors.

This afternoon, central office staff is getting training on the First Call emergency notification system. As you may recall, this is something we are pursuing in order to better meet our mission of protecting the public. This call system will allow us to better notify neighbors and businesses in case of an incidents of concern at the facilities.

You don't want to be crawfish this weekend - run for the hills or you're going to wind up in a pot. Crawfish boils are a tradition this particular weekend, with lots of get-togethers to celebrate Easter. Wishing each and every one of you, in every OJJ office and facility, a very happy Easter and a wonderful long weekend, with my thanks, as always, for all that you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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

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