
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:



Well, I'm getting pretty good at keeping on top of things from my bed at home, it's just like being in the office. I feel like Quick Draw McGraw (Anyone remember him? The cartoon horse who was an Old West sheriff, with an alter ego called El Kabong and a burro named Baba Looey for a sidekick?) I've got so many gadgets here, with my house telephone, my cell phone, my blackberry and the iPad, it reminds me of the famous newsman Hugh Downs who always closed his prime time show by saying "we're in touch so you be in touch." I'm in touch alright, whether it's the multitude of conference calls every day or keeping up with agency business and goings-on. I tell you, having a broken leg is not for the faint hearted. Actually, I'm starting to move around a little bit with the help of a walker and a wheelchair. I never thought I'd be using any of those things until I get REALLY old...but there it is...truth is, I'd rather be in the office with my walker than at home in the bed. Yea - I even got to get out of the house for a few minutes today.

Central office staff have been scrambling to get ready for our ACA audit next Monday and Tuesday. The auditors will be here bright and early Monday morning, and although I'm not actually present in the office, I know that staff have been cleaning and straightening up, tossing lots of unneeded stuff, dusting, and generally spiffing things up. The CQIS staff – **Angela Arabie, Lynne Geromini, Katie K. Justice, Debbie Linder, Phyllis Martello** and **Mitzi Sonnier**, have been burning the midnight oil to make sure all policies and files are in order, with the able assistance of **Belinda Thomas** from Jetson, who has spent several days with us to help with files and "sweeps" of the office to make sure that no contraband items are stashed in offices. I'm also very proud of **Chief of Operations/CQIS Ellyn Toney** for carrying on the day-to-day business required for the ACA audit. I know it's a lot of work in addition to our regular tasks, but it's worth it. OJJ is going for the ACA Eagle Award!

Speaking of Ellyn, she recently broke her finger, but she's been working hard despite her injury. So, OJJ Staff everywhere, please, no more breaks (except for coffee). We can tell you, it's not fun.

I know all of you have been hearing about possible changes in our staffing, and I know there's a lot of speculation, but I can tell you this – nothing has happened yet and no decisions have been made. So be encouraged, be of good heart, and don't be discouraged about things that have not come to pass. We have a mission to carry out and I know that you will continue to do that no matter what.

The weather is perfect right now, and I hope all of you will have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy it this weekend. Wishing each of you in every OJJ location a wonderful weekend, with my thanks as ever, for all that you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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