
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, my travel luck must have been passed on to members of the executive staff. **DAS Karen Stubbs** experienced airplane problems and got stuck in Charlotte, NC without her luggage. Been there, done that. I understand she is now back safely and has returned to work. I am glad to have her back, with so much going on.

Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney also travelled this week to attend a PREA coordinators' conference. I understand her travel went smoothly and she'll be in the office on Monday. Also back on Monday is **Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith**. We are very happy that she is able to rejoin our team. I guess she just couldn't stay away. We are all glad she is back.

I know the reality of the consolidation has hit us this week. Members of our Office of Management and Finance staff are getting ready to report to DPS. We appreciate their service as team members of OJJ, and we wish them all the best. I know these changes are coming quickly and are very difficult initially. I sincerely apologize for how quickly this is happening with little notice to all involved. Thanks again to all.

Well, I got a good doctor's report this week. Now I have permission to limp along on my walker - I am no longer confined to wheelchairs. But my leg doesn't really want to walk just yet. I guess that's what physical therapy is for. So, at least there is progress. I want to thank everybody for their patience during this ordeal. I've been away from the office a lot with my broken leg, but business has gone on and gone on well. I'm sure it's not easy to work around a boss with a broken leg, particularly at a time when we have so much on our plates. I truly appreciate all of the help and understanding that has been shown by our staff.

I'm sure most of you have seen the video of the elderly school bus aide being bullied by several middle school students in New York. What bothered me most about that situation, is that certainly those kids were wrong, and it is a terrible commentary that kids feel like they can bully an elder, but the response by members of the public is that now family members of those boys are getting death threats. That just doesn't make any sense. How can you feel compassion for the bullied lady and then turn around and threaten the children's parents? Many people have said the lady should have filed charges against those kids. And – the school system is considering suspending the kids - for an entire school year. This may be an overreaction by the school system. And for those who thought the lady should have filed charges, can't people accept an intervention less than criminal charges and throwing kids out of school? I really feel there are far better ways to intervene than by kicking kids out of school and putting them into the juvenile justice system. I hope to see some commentary on whether verbal bullying (however distasteful) warrants charges being filed.

Well, it's the weekend and I hope that all of you will enjoy your time off, with my thanks, as ever, to every member of the OJJ team, in every location, for all that you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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