
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

We had very sad news this week, that a colleague and friend was killed at his home. Tom Clements, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, answered his door and was shot by a gunman. The investigation is ongoing so authorities are not sure what the motive was, and there are a number of possibilities. An ex-inmate from Colorado is believed to be the man who shot Mr. Clements, and he was killed yesterday after a high speed chase and a shootout with police. Mr. Clements had been in Colorado for about two years, after serving in the state of Missouri for 31 years. He was well-known and well-loved as an inspirational leader. This terrible tragedy brings into focus the fact that we work in a business that has the potential to be dangerous, because we never know who we may be dealing with. I've seen threats made against staff by people other than our population of offenders – family, friends, neighbors – sometimes it's not who you might expect. We need to be very careful, and I'm sure most of you are aware of the security measures we all need to take as a precaution. Please send your thoughts and prayers to Mr. Clements' family; he will be buried on Sunday.

As you know, we presented our proposed budget to the House Appropriations Committee this week, and I'm happy to say I'm glad that's over! The committee members asked good questions and I felt that all the members of the executive team who responded did a good job in explaining our work and our programming. It takes a lot of people to put together all the facts and figures that need to be presented and I'm very pleased that our team always comes through. The session starts April 8, and there are still a number of steps and more budget hearings and legislation to go through. So, we won't know for a while what our final budget figures will look like. As soon as we know, we will pass that information on to you.

I met with the juvenile and family court judges association today. As always, it's great to hear feedback from them about their concerns and we even got accolades from a few. I love to hear that our team around the state reaches out to their local stakeholders and values those good relationships. Keep up the good work, everyone.

After the judges' meeting, I was able to stop in at the Hilton Hotel to see how the National Social Workers meeting is going. The annual meeting is being held in conjunction with National Social Workers Month. Thanks to all of our social workers, in the field and the facilities, for all you do to help our kids and their families. You really make a difference in their lives.

We have not mentioned March Madness yet but I bet a lot of you are following the tournaments. I really should not say "bet" because March Madness is considered one of the biggest gambling events in the country. The Men's Final four will be held in Atlanta, but did you know the Women's Final Four will be held in New Orleans?

This year seems to be zipping by, and it's almost Easter. Just a note – there will be no WUD next Friday because we will have the Good Friday holiday. So I'll wish you all a Happy Easter now. Do people still dress up on Easter Sunday? Remember when we all wore brand new clothes and had to stay neat and spotless all day? Us "older" folks remember when girls had to put on hats, gloves, and white or black patent leather shoes on Easter, not to mention fancy dresses with bouffant petticoats. And the boys were in starched white shirts and ties. Sometimes they wore suits, just like grown men. For those of us who are old and Catholic, y'all remember the beanies, berets, lace veils and crochet-looking doilies we wore on our heads? That was actually in the previous century, so I guess it's okay to say that's ancient history. I've polled some of the central office staff and they tell me some of the older ladies still dress "to the nines" for Easter, and the little girls who don't have a choice will, too. But the kids who are old enough to stand firm and refuse will probably not be decked out in vintage-style finery. No, those pictures are not me way back when, but that's what we used to wear.



So, although it's a week ahead, I'll wish you all a Happy Easter now, along with a good weekend to this week, with my thanks, as ever, for everything you do every day, in every office and facility, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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