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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I ran out of room last week and we had some very important and interesting news to share. First, with mixed emotions, I have to announce the departure of DAS Karen Stubbs, who left OJJ for an opportunity at DHH. Karen served our agency for over two years with great dedication and amazing skills and insight, and she will certainly be missed. She left her mark on many of our programs and initiatives and she was adept at working with legislation and key stakeholders. Karen accepted a position at DHH that is essentially a promotion, with a new set of challenges, new skills and concepts to learn. I predict that she will soon become as indispensable there as she was here. I know her staff misses her dearly and so do I. But, Karen will always be a member of the OJJ family, and I hope you will join me in wishing her well and Godspeed in her new adventure. We will certainly be seeing her again in the future, at least for a visit!

Another exciting bit of news is that a documentary filmmaker, VSM Productions, from New York visited Bridge City last week and took a two-day tour of the facility, visiting with youth and staff and “becoming familiar with the atmosphere,” as she put it. VSM Productions produces documentaries of compelling social interest, from the viewpoint of a practicing psychoanalyst. She spent a great deal of time visiting with youth and staff and was very complimentary of the work we are doing, the demeanor of the kids and the milieu of the facility. She is planning a return trip in a couple of months to begin filming, first trailers to generate interest in the film, and then actually filming the program. The process will take as much as a year to film, as she will “follow” certain youth as they transform over time. She also plans to film training sessions for the staff to capture how they learn LAMOD and become part of the therapeutic process. We are very excited about the opportunity to work with her to open a window on the work we do and the transformational process of our youth, for all the world to see. Many thanks to our friend Mark Steward of MYSI for steering VSM Productions our way.

As you know, the legislative session opened this week, so we can expect some excitement as bills progress and the budget is crafted. No news for OJJ yet, of course, if there is anything of interest to OJJ I will keep you all posted. With Karen Stubbs’ departure, our legislative liaison position is vacant, so we have tapped Attorney Marston Fowler to assist in that area for this session. Marston has extensive experience working with legislative issues, so we are very fortunate that he can step in and hit the ground running.

There are some things that seem to come sooner than later and tax season is upon us. I hope you all have gotten your federal income tax return completed because Monday is April 15, and you know what that means! Tax deadline is nothing to play around with, because the IRS does not have a sense of humor. The good news is that once your federal return is done, your state return is pretty much done as well. We still have the weekend to wrap it up and hit the send button to file electronically, or for those who are IT-challenged, hit the mailbox before midnight.

Although we are experiencing very strange, cool weather for April, a beautiful weekend is predicted. I hope that all of you will have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy a lovely spring weekend, with my thanks to each of you in every office and facility, because you deserve the welcome break as you work hard every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,  
“Doc”

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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