
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, it was a short week. I hope you all enjoyed your Mardi Gras, caught a lot of beads and decided if you're going to give up something for Lent. You can always try that New Year's Resolution you already forgot about.

We had some sad news in our OJJ family. Swanson had one of our own pass away, counselor LaWanda Guice Newell. I heard Swanson did a beautiful ceremony and the funeral services are tomorrow in Tallulah. At times like these, it reminds us to appreciate everyone for the wonderful gifts they bring into our lives. Also, we should not forget how this affects the youth too. Take a few extra minutes with them, ask them how they are feeling, and let them know they aren't alone.

I went to a press conference today at the Governor's Mansion. He announced some reforms he's going to be trying to pass through the legislative session. The adult criminal sentencing reforms include expanding drug court programs and would allow for the conditional early release of non-violent first and second offense drug offenders. He also discussed some juvenile reform measures. The first is around the informal and formal FINS programs to clarify guidelines governing when a child may be referred to FINS, create more separation between informal and formal FINS so informal FINS doesn't act as a pipeline into our system, and hopefully prevent formal FINS from being overused. The second juvenile justice proposal will create a structure for an integrated case management model for cross over youth and complete the continuum of care for non-secure, secure, and child welfare populations. We'll find out more details as the sessions gets closer. It starts on April 8!

I'll leave you with thoughts from the anonymous poet:

Been a long time and months gone by
Since the Anonymous Poet penned a line
A great thing happened at BCCY
ACA Accreditation and we know why!
The BCCY Staff and Angela Arabie
Worked very hard as we can see!!

OJJ stays on the move
There's no stoppin' them, they're in the groove!
Workin' and workin day in day out,
Accomplishments stay big and stout!

Although Leader Livers has broken her knee
That don't stop her as we all see!

Using crutches or walker or even a wheelchair,
It don't matter, cause she does care
Bout keepin OJJ on the very top!
Make no mistake Doc ain't gonna stop!

Without a lot of money, without a lot of cash,
Doc keeps it running without a big stash!
In spite of cutbacks and leaner times,
OJJ gets tons of stuff out of each dime!

Keep on movin and never delay
Keep on doin things the OJJ WAY!
With pride, hard work and tenacity,
OJJ stays GREAT for all to see!!

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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