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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Vol. 6, No. 25. February 28, 2014

Hello, Everyone:

It's been a fairly quiet week, for which I am grateful. Sometimes quiet is a good thing. Work continues at the Jetson campus on files and inventory of property. It's a massive task but we are making good progress, and I appreciate the extra time that staff are putting in to get the job done. Our PPOs have been manning the front gate at Jetson, but I think we will soon contract with a private security firm to do that, going forward.

This week Undersecretary Connie Percell, Program Manager Geary Williams and I have had meetings with staff at the Division of Administration and with Dickie Howze, the state's Chief Information Officer, about upcoming changes in information technology staffing and computer equipment. In a couple of weeks, all IT staff serving in executive agencies statewide will transfer to DoA, as the first step in creation of a new Office of Technology Services. I want to emphasize that none of us will see any changes in service delivery by our IT staff housed at the facilities or central office. The IT staff will see no changes other than where their paycheck is issued. Their positions will be transferred to DoA but the people will remain at their current duty stations, and nothing will change for them – there will be no salary adjustments or changes to lines of supervision, retirement eligibility, probational status, anything. The vision is to create a customer service-oriented workgroup that will offer a comprehensive and coordinated approach to information technology service delivery and procurement. We have been assured that DoA is committed to providing the best services possible and we will continue to receive all the support we need. Another plus for us is a planned upgrade of computer software and hardware. We are one of many agencies throughout the state that is dependent upon our laptops and PCs, and with changes coming in April from the software manufacturer, we will soon be operating with unsupported software. We are working with DoA and CIO Dickie Howze to come up with solutions that we hope will be seamless and will not cause any glitches in workflow. We will keep everyone apprised of progress in these areas.

As you know Mardi Gras is next week, followed by Lent. Many of us will celebrate Mardi Gras with the various regional traditions from massive parades to the traditional Cajun courier de Mardi Gras, but as we par-tee, let's be safe out there and come back on Ash Wednesday in one piece. Spring is still a few weeks off on the calendar but we're seeing a few buds on shrubs and bushes, so even with the freezing temps in the morning, the nice days may be here to stay.

All reports are that everything is quiet, with normal, routine operations at Bridge City and Swanson. My thanks to all the RDs and Directors Angela Sutton and Vickie Shoecraft and their staffs for taking care of kids and welcoming transferred staff. Change is never easy but you have all worked together to keep an orderly routine going, which is the best way possible for our kids to receive uninterrupted treatment.

Columbia had an interesting event this week. The facility received an American flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol. IS Investigator Ray Clary asked state Sen. Mike Walsworth if he could obtain the flag, and the senator arranged it through the congressional office in Washington, DC. Many thanks to Ray, and of course to Sen. Walsworth, for providing Columbia with such an honor.

And of course, my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you are stationed, for all that you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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