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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

We had a great leadership meeting in Vidalia this week. Leaders from all over the agency met to discuss a number of issues that concern the entire agency. We had some good presentations and discussion, and of course, it's always great to get everyone together in one place so we can share ideas and experiences. One of the things presented at the meeting is the new Restorative Justice Calendar, a group effort by DAS Beth Morgan and her staff, with input from Treatment Director Toya Pierce. The idea behind it is to provide a way to stimulate thoughts in our youth about how they can connect what they are learning with what is actually going on in the larger world and in their own communities. They can develop a sense of responsibility for how their actions affect others, especially those who have suffered negative consequences as result of their poor choices. The calendar is a great resource for kids in secure care, non-secure and supervision. I hope staff throughout the agency will use it with your kids. If your supervisor has not shared it with you yet, the calendar is posted on "Sharepoint."

Our legislative budget hearings are coming up in the next couple of weeks, and I tell you, that is always quite an experience. Even when legislators are being kind. We get grilled about how our money has been spent and what we plan to do with the funds for the next fiscal year. We have a very comprehensive volume of information about all things OJJ compiled by the executive team and supporting staff. Without that Briefing Book I would be lost. Thanks to everyone who pulled together information needed. It's a much needed annual ritual.

Well, we all "sprang forward" last Sunday and went through another ritual of changing every clock in the house just to get a little more daylight in the late afternoon. Which we would get anyway, if we were just patient and waited for the natural, "standard" time to take care of it. If we continued to follow standard time, today sunset would be at 6:08 p.m. Daylight savings time gets us another hour of light, til 7:08 p.m. Much as I thought I'd enjoy the extra daylight, as of now, the time change is not agreeing with me. I am up when I should be asleep and I am asleep when I should be awake. My body does not know what to do and really would like to be in Hawaii (where they don't do Daylight Saving Time).

I wanted to know more about Daylight Saving Time (not savingS) so I checked it out. DST was first thought of by Benjamin Franklin in 1784. In 1895 a scientist in New Zealand who did shift work proposed it. DST was adopted in parts of Europe in 1916 and in the U.S. in 1918. Most Asian countries don't follow it because they already have enough sunshine. You would think that all parts of the U.S would be on the same time, but no! DST is not followed in Hawaii, the island territories and most of Arizona. The Navajo Nation in Arizona participates in DST, but the Hopi Reservation, which is completely surrounded by the Navajo Nation, does not. Indiana was divided into areas that did and did not until 2006. Ohio also had cities that did and did not follow it, which caused a lot of people to miss planes connecting in Cincinnati and riots over bar closures. Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, which are really one city separated by the Mississippi River, like a lot of places in Louisiana, had different start dates for DST. Dairy cows still want to be milked according to their own clock, and roosters crow when the sun comes up, not when the alarm goes off. So, I'm not alone. Hawaii, here I come. (One can dream, can't they?)

Well, I'll close with my wish for you all to enjoy the weekend, with my sincere thanks to each and everyone throughout OJJ, for all you do, every day, around the clock, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

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Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov