

what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

Just as I was getting ready to close out a nice quiet week, BAM (literally!). I guess someone thought my week was not exciting enough and decided to throw a little car accident my way to spice it up. Yesterday afternoon, I was rear ended while on my way to pick up my Mom for a doctor's appointment. I fared much better than my car. An initial assessment (by the tow truck driver) is that the car is totaled. Luckily, I seem to be free from serious injury. I ran by urgent care just to be sure, but for now I just have a sore back to show for the accident. I am taking it easy today and this weekend, you know how they say it takes a couple of days for the pain to set in after an accident.

It was business as usual this week at OJJ. We held our annual Safe Crisis Management (SCM) recertification training in Monroe this week. I know that sometimes people question whether we do too much training or whether it takes us away from working with the kids too much, but I think it is vitally important to meeting the mission. Both pre-service, which is essential to learning about how to work with our young people and families, and in-service training, which provides boosters and reminders to folks, which prepare us for the routine and not so routine experiences that we may encounter on the job.

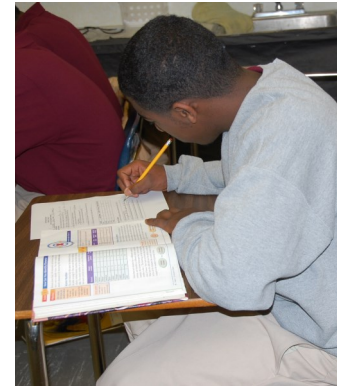
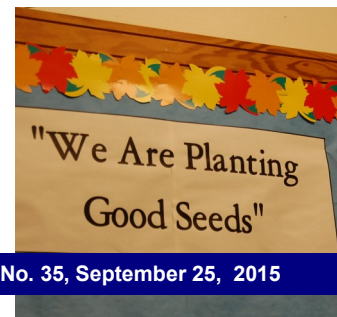
SCM is a classic example of this. OJJ adopted Safe Crisis Management (SCM) as its "use of force" technique in the secure care facilities almost ten years ago. Unlike its predecessor the Pressure Point Control Technique (PPCT) based on gaining compliance through pain, SCM is a therapeutic intervention program. SCM's utilization of the least restrictive alternative and positive behavioral interventions makes it a perfect fit for our secure care therapeutic model.

I want to send a special thanks to all of our trainers who took time away from their posts this week to get recertified. OJJ's training program is built upon subject matter experts such as you who are willing to return to your facilities and offices to pass on the knowledge base that you have gained. There is no better teacher than one that has actually "done" the job. You can give specific examples and scenarios for utilizing these skills.

We have had a whole lot of Pope Francis on the news and in the paper this week. He spent a good bit of time meeting with dignitaries and politicians in DC, but you could tell from the coverage that he gets great satisfaction and joy from greeting plain folks in the street. He had lunch with 300 homeless people and spent lots of time visiting with school children who gathered to see him. He has been labeled the People's Pope due to his accessibility and inclusiveness. Recently, he was quoted as saying – "We all have the duty to do good." The work that you all do at OJJ is evidence that good is getting done.

I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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