

what's up doc?

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



Hello, Everyone:

Well, it's back to a full work week, and I'm sure many of you are having a hard time adjusting to FIVE days of work, like I am. I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year break. It's always good to have a few extra days off to enjoy spending time with family and friends during the holiday season.

The holidays may be over, but Christmas songs are still ringing in my head, especially "oh, the weather outside is frightful," which it is. A lot of us had plenty to do to get ready for the cold snap, covering plants, bringing in tender potted plants, seeing to pipes and pets, it was almost as intense as getting ready for a hurricane. In fact, I had to remind myself that it was just COLD coming, not a big storm. But no snow. And "only" cold in the teens and twenties. A lot of places have temps and wind chills in the serious negative numbers. 50 degrees below zero is **COLD** no matter what. So, I'll count my blessings and be glad that we live in the semi-tropics.

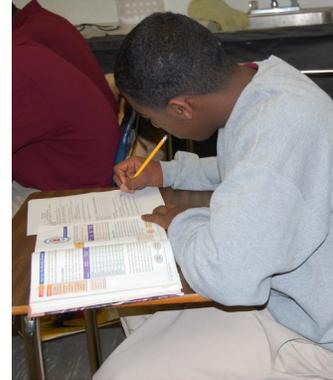
This is also a great time of year for housekeeping. I am having a really good time cleaning my office, especially the file cabinets and bookshelves, and passing "important" stuff along to staff. Some of them are ready to put a padlock on their mailboxes and when they hear my assistant, Nita, at their door to drop things in their door baskets and run, they are starting to rebel. It's all important information, it just does not have to be in my office.

Have you set any goals for yourself for 2015? Not resolutions, goals. The process is something like cleaning our offices - out with the old and in with the new. We need to have goals for ourselves - and for our kids - personal, professional and spiritual. It's important, because I think we all need something to shoot for and strive to accomplish. Without goals, we would all be drifting along without focus or purpose. Trying to achieve our goals is much more complex than just saying it. Life sometimes gets in the way of meeting our goals. Usually it's not a direct path, we meet challenges and delays, and sometimes we have to depend on someone else as we work toward meeting our goals. The important thing for most successful people and organizations is not to be too harsh and judgmental for lack of instant gratification of our goals. We need to focus on the steady path toward what we are trying to achieve. We can expect mild ups and downs. We can expect mistakes. We can expect distraction. But, we keep on going after them! We need to focus on our ability to accomplish things, otherwise we set ourselves up for failure, which is definitely not productive. On big goals, we need to realize that progress is incremental.

I've asked our executive team to tell me what our agency goals should be for the new year. Every year brings a new opportunity to set new goals and setting out on a new path as we strive to meet them. So, I hope all of you are actively involved in looking at your goals for the new year, personally, professionally and spiritually. "You can't hit a star by shooting at a stump."

Rain is predicted for the weekend, so I hope you will all stay warm and dry. Wishing every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, a great weekend, with my heartfelt thanks for all you do, year in and year out, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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