



Bruce Rauner, Governor
B. J. Walker, Acting Director

October, 2017

Inaugural LAC Professional Development Day at NEIU El Centro



(left to right) Front Row: Sidney Juarez, Miriam Mojica, Lourdes Rodríguez, Dulce Pérez, Karla Soriano; Middle Row: Silvia Fonseca, Daniel Fitzgerald, Norma Machay, Danny Silk, Marisol Medina, Milka Ramírez, Beatriz Ramírez, Jennifer Contreras, Maritza López, Julia Monzón; Back Row: Alex Medina, Yeni Rojas, Jose J. López



Hola Everyone!

My name is Juanita Calderón. I've worked for the state of Illinois for over 25 years beginning at the Department of Public Aid (now known as DHS) and now at DCFS.

Currently, I'm working in the Division of Clinical Services and Professional Development in Cook Central with the Integrated Assessment (IA) program. Prior to that, I was a placement/permanency worker in Cook North for 16 years. I am also a trustee for our Union-Local 2081. I'm passionate about family and people. Growing up, I experienced so many things that I wanted to help those going through

similar situations and show them that things can change and get better. I'm all for empowering others.

Being part of the Latino Advisory Council and serving as the current Chairperson is a responsibility I take seriously. It is an honor to represent you and the families we serve, to be a voice when rights are violated, to be a support when you need a helping hand and to celebrate all of your successes. As an MSW student at Chicago State University, I interned in the Office of The Guardian, Immigration Unit and with Clinical Services and became involved with the Council. I became aware of the challenges the Council has faced and the numerous recommendations that were and are made on behalf of the families we serve and our child welfare staff (DCFS and

POS). As a Council, we advise the Director on Latino/bilingual issues and continue to advocate when action has not been taken on issues that are identified and brought to us. The Burgos Consent Decree has been around for 40 years, our Council for 29 years and the struggle continues. We will continue to make our voices heard and advocate for equality and social justice for all.

Please know that I am available to lend an ear and that I will do my best along with LAC's executive board, the Office of Latino Services, the Burgos Coordinator and the Office of Affirmative Action to resolve issues affecting our clients and staff.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Juanita Calderón

Celebrating 40 Years of Burgos



THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH YEAR OF THE BURGOS CONSENT DECREE.

By Julia Monzón

What is Burgos? Information about the Burgos Consent Decree can be found on the D-Net under the Office of Affirmative Action.

The Burgos Consent Decree of 1977 is a federal mandate, which requires the Department of Children and Family Services to provide services in Spanish to Spanish speakers and those requesting services in Spanish. The consent Decree legally covers only the Cook and Aurora regions (which includes Will, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Grundy, Kendall and Kane counties) but its principles are applied statewide. The Burgos Consent Decree requires that DCFS and all of its vendors comply in providing services in Spanish to Spanish speakers. The Decree requires that Spanish Speaking children be placed in Spanish Speaking homes, that a Spanish Speaking worker is assigned to the case as the primary worker, that all

communication and written documents are in Spanish, and that an interpreter is provided free of charge. The Consent Decree requires all direct

service staff as well as their supervisors take their Burgos training annually. It requires that DCFS offices that service Spanish-speaking families be staffed with Spanish speaking direct service workers.

The Burgos Consent Decree resulted from a class action lawsuit filed against the Department of Children and Family Services and cites the case of the Burgos and Mendez families whose children were taken into custody and subsequently lost their language and were unable to communicate with their parents. Some might argue that the children never really returned home. The families received no information in Spanish, were not assigned Spanish speaking caseworkers and children were used to interpret. Although this sounds appalling today, at that time it was the norm. We have come a long way in 40 years regarding language and cultural sensitivity for all ethnic groups and we celebrate that progress as we look forward to the future.

NEW BURGOS PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE!



Use the CFS numbers to order.

- CFS1050-63-4 Burgos Poster-English
- CFS1050-63-4-S Burgos Poster-Spanish
- CFS1050-63-2 Burgos Brochure-English
- CFS1050-63-2-S Burgos Brochure-Spanish



LAC MEMBERSHIP

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POS Members:

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Yvonne Cordero
Maritza López
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Yeni Rojas
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Ex-officio Members:

José J. López, OLS
Lourdes Rodríguez, Burgos
Coordinator

Committees:

Child Safety & Permanency
Community Risk Reduction
and Staffing
Data Validity & Disproportionality
Strategic Communications
Latino Family Institute

Burgos Unit Highlights 2005-2017



- **2005** New Burgos Consent Decree Posters
- **2005** New Burgos Consent Decree Brochure
- **2006** On Line Burgos Consent Decree Training: Bridging the Gap created and goes LIVE with a trainer
- **2006** Updated SACWIS system adding fields for tracking of Burgos Consent Decree cases, LEP and Interpreter Needed.
- **2007** Governor's Office of New Americans Task Force
- **2007** Loyola University in partnership with DCFS: Working with Latino Families
- **2007** Language Determination Form and Spanish Speaking Child Placed in a Non-Spanish Speaking Home forms are converted to fillable templates.
- **2008** More than 50 forms are translated into Spanish and place in templates.
- **2008** State Services Assurance Act prepared for Governor's office and General Assembly reporting DCFS compliance with hiring 40 additional bilingual staff.
- **2009** Bilingual Needs Bilingual Pay Survey prepared for Central Management Services. Documents the number of bilingual staff at DCFS and number needed.
- **2010** Hispanic Employment Council
- **2011** Coding study conducted by Office of Quality Assurance and Burgos Coordinator on Burgos compliance in Investigations
- **2011** Development of new DCFS Bilingual Certification Exam
- **2011** Development of new Spanish Speaking Certification Exam for the State of Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
- **2011** New database in SACWIS monitoring Spanish Speaking investigations assigned to Spanish Speaking worker and non-Spanish Speaking workers.
- **2012** Language Interpreter Poster and Language Interpreter cards listing 14 different language and Language Line number for DCFS direct staff usage.
- **2013** Latino Family Commission
- **2013** The DCFS Service Plan is incorporated into SACWIS in the Spanish language
- **2013** DCFS Latino Family Institute is held at NEIU arranged by Burgos Coordinator
- **2014** Development of Burgos D-Net website on D-Net with resources for Limited English Proficient persons. Caseworkers, investigators and all DCFS and Purchase of Service staff have access.
- **2014** Café con Leche, Intern Support group created. Hiring of 16 Spanish Speaking Interns for Cook and Northern region.
- **2015** Burgos Coordinator got approval from then Director Calica in 2013 which led to the development of the Child Welfare Employee Licensure Program at NEIU launched in 2015. NEIU has 400 students as Social Works majors with eighty percent being Spanish Speaking.
- **2015** Title VI Civil Rights Compliance review for DCFS contracts
- **2015** Burgos Coordinator meets with Director and Deputies recommending creation of Intern Policy. Meetings held with Interns.
- **2016** Hiring of 54 bilingual Spanish Speaking staff.
- **2016** New State Central Registry outpost opens at 1911 South Indiana, Chicago with three Spanish Speaking workers, based on recommendations made by Burgos Coordinator meetings with the Director.
- **2017** Bilingual Spanish Speaking supervisor hired for new State Central Registry outpost at 1911 South Indiana, Chicago.
- **2017** Updated Burgos D-Net website on D-Net to include more resources, demographics and data links, including videos.
- **2017** New 40th Anniversary of the Burgos Consent Decree Poster and Brochures in English and Spanish.

Burgos Unit History 1975-2014



- **1975** Burgos vs. IDCFS Class Action Suit is filed.
- **1977** Burgos Consent Decree was entered by Judge McMillen
- **1979** Motion for a Rule to Show Cause Why State Defendants should not be held in Contempt of Consent Decree. This motion was filed April of 1979.
- **1982** March 3, 1982 stipulation to withdraw the contempt motion wherein IDCFS agreed to take several measures to address Burgos requirements including the following: recruit and obtain additional Spanish speaking foster parents, annual civil rights compliance, and vendor's compliance with the Consent Decree, quarterly statistical information and semi-annual written report to verify compliance actions.
- **1987** Burgos Coordinator position is relocated to the Central Office, within the office of the Coordinator for Hispanic Services.
- **1987-1989** Plaintiffs filed several Contempt of Court motions.
- **1990** Plaintiffs and IDCFS had the court enter an agreed order appointing a Special Master (Ruben Castillo) to prepare a compliance report.
- **1991** Special Master issued an extensive report on July 17, 1991, making numerous recommendations, including a permanent Court Monitor.
- **1991** Office of Hispanic Coordinator is split; Burgos coordinating function is moved to the Office of Litigation Management.
- **1991** Parties entered into the December 4, 1991 Agreed Order which resulted in the appointment of a permanent Court Monitor (Judge Ruben Castillo) on March 16, 1992.
- **1994** Judge Ruben Castillo resigns as Court Monitor.
- **1995** Layla Suleiman appointed as new Court Monitor.
- **1998** Court Monitor prepared compliance report.
- **1999** Burgos Compliance Work plan is finalized and entered in the Federal Court. Reporting to Federal court is closed. MALDEF is named the new monitor. Layla Suleiman is named as the Burgos Implementation Consultant and is on contract with the Department of Children and Family Services.
- **2000** Burgos Coordinator position is relocated to the Clinical Division.
- **2004** Burgos Coordinator position is relocated to the Office of Latino Services. Burgos Implementation Consultant contract ends.
- **2005** Burgos Coordinator position is relocated to the Office of Employee Services. Duties of Burgos Implementation Consultant are incorporated in the Burgos Coordinator position. Burgos reporting to MALDEF by the Burgos Coordinator ends.
- **2005** Burgos Coordinator position is relocated to the Office of Affirmative Action.
- **2008** Burgos Coordinator position is placed under Latino Services, Office of Affirmative Action
- **2014** Burgos Coordinator's position is placed under the Deputy of Affirmative Action.

Celeste Peña 1957-1998



Celeste Peña

By Julia Monzón

As we remember and commemorate the Burgos Consent Degree, I would also like to honor a person who contributed to making DCFS a better and more responsible agency. Celeste Peña was an amazing person. Some would call her a good Christian woman with indomitable faith, a dedicated social worker, a community activist, an advocate for clients and workers, but also a caring and loving friend. I first met Celeste in the 7th grade at Agassiz Public School in

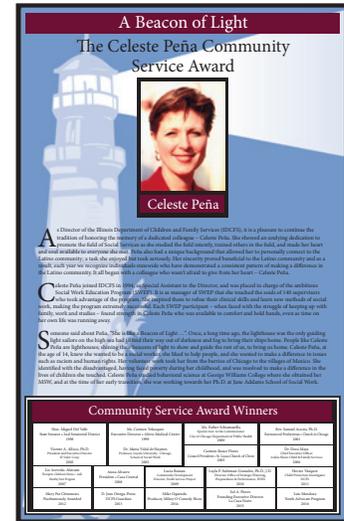
Chicago. Even then she was charismatic and influential and a champion for social justice and often stood up for children who were being picked on.

Celeste continued to exhibit this caring spirit throughout her social work career. At DCFS, she was instrumental in the implementation of the Social Work Education Program (SWEP) which allowed DCFS supervisors to obtain their MSW degrees. She provided ongoing support even after those in the program obtained their degrees. When she became sick with cancer she continued to reach out to others never focusing on her own self and what she was going through.

In September of 1997, DCFS honored Celeste in a special reception and an employee tuition assistance program bore her name for several years until it was discontinued. Celeste died in May of 1998.

Every year, the Celeste Peña Community Service Award is presented at the DCFS Latino Advisory Council's Latino Family Institute. To be eligible for this award a candidate must display the

following: a long and productive history of working with families and children, strong community development and involvement, inspire and promote educational opportunities, and be dedicated to promoting and enhancing the field of social work. As a Latina we lay claim to her as one of our own but Celeste's legacy extends so much further.



The Celeste Peña Community Service Award

Bi-Annual Joint Council Meeting

By Julia Monzón

The Bi-Annual Meeting of the DCFS Joint Councils took place on June 21st at 1911 S. Indiana Ave in Chicago. The Joint Council is made up of the Latino Advisory Council, the African American Advisory Council and the Asian American Advisory Council. Each of these groups advises the Director on child welfare practice issues that deal with minority populations across the state. They also touch on staffing needs and affirmative action and convene Institute Days in conjunction with DCFS Training to inform DCFS and POS child welfare staff of the latest issues and child welfare practices pertinent to their respective populations.



Tracey Marshall (left) and Juanita Calderón

At this meeting we discussed: the new Kingdom Summit Foster Parent Recruitment initiative, a recruitment video being produced by an outside group with input from DCFS Recruitment and Resources, the success of the African American Council

Conference, the Asian American Institute Day and planning for the Latino Institute Day. The Council also discussed retention and will be launching a Retention Survey in Cook County to be expanded statewide after the results are in. The Joint Council also discussed the topic of interns at DCFS and will continue to meet about the intern's concerns. Of course, one the highlights of every meeting is the opportunity to sample authentic ethnic food. We hope they enjoyed the Latin American food and look forward to sampling Asian American cuisine at our next meeting in December!

Latino Advisory Council Inaugural Professional Development Day

The Latino Advisory Council held its inaugural Professional Development Day in conjunction with DCFS training on Friday May 12, 2017 at “El Centro,” located at Northeastern Illinois University. The theme was a continuation of the 2016 Latino Institute Day, Honor Matters: Creating a Culture Where Everyone Thrives II. It was a great day and we are looking forward to the next one! For additional pictures please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/754658091340436/>



NEIU's brand new El Centro facility in Chicago



Alex Medina (left) introduces author and keynote speaker Danny Silk



Comedian/producer Mike Oquendo served as master of ceremonies



Attorney Marcelino Miranda from the Mexican Consulate explained new consular services



DCFS staff networking and learning "Honor Matters - Creating and Cultivating a Culture where Everyone Thrives II"

DCFS Youth Summit

By Jennifer Contreras

The DCFS Youth Summit took place on June 21, 2017. Youth throughout the Chicagoland area as well as the Northern and Southern regions came together to learn about the different opportunities available to them. Many employment organizations such as the Love, Unity & Values (LUV) Institute and Added Chance gave workshops on preparing for job readiness and seeking employment. The Added Chance program presented their upcoming orientation schedules and offered youth to sign up for orientation. The youth were eager to learn about this information and some youth, who are in internship programs with the LUV Institute were able to give their testimony on how happy they were to be a part of the organization. The presenting youth added how LUV allowed them to grow and become

independent individuals. They proved themselves to be dedicated and committed to their internship and have now been hired as paid staff.

Another exciting organization that presented at the workshop was Foster Progress. This organization invited youth to attend college road trips for the summer. Many juniors and seniors in high school took advantage of visiting several colleges/universities in Illinois. Some of the universities visited were: Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Judson University, University of Illinois Chicago and Loyola University. In addition, Foster Progress has mentors assigned to youth who assist them with applying for FAFSA and financial aid, DCFS programs and scholarships, college entrance applications and essays,

ACT and SAT tutoring, study skills and time management as well as career development and choosing a major. Foster Progress provides workshops for foster parents, caseworkers, youth and other support staff who can assist youth with applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Youth ages 13 years old and older had the opportunity to come together and learn about different opportunities for high school enrollment, employment, college readiness and many other programs that DCFS has partnered with to prepare our youth for successful emancipation. If you would like to learn more about these organizations please visit the following:

<http://www.asnchicago.org/addedchance>
www.luvinstitute.org
<http://www.foster-progress.org>

We Will Not Give Up Until You Succeed

By Jennifer Contreras

The National Youth Advocate Program's Constant and Never Ending Improvement (CANEI) Program is a 26-week, strength-based, in-home treatment program that teaches youth how to live in and respect the community they call home and to develop compassion and empathy for

the people close to them and for others. Through intensive, home-based services, group-based sessions and a multi-dimensional approach, CANEI youth transform themselves by cultivating a sense of self, purpose and responsibility. They positively reconnect with others and live productively and respectfully in their community.

The amazing thing about this program is that they do not give up. Once accepted into the program they do not drop youth for behavior issues or other setbacks. For more information contact Viviane Ngwa,; (773)596-9045 or vngwa@nyap.org

Meet Yeni Rojas



By Julia Monzón

Noticias is pleased to recognize the achievement of one our POS partners that participates on the Latino Advisory Council. Yeni Rojas, Foster Care Supervisor is a strong Council member and has served on several committees. Earlier this year One Hope United was recognized by the DCFS Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council for their 2015 Foster Parent Law

Implementation Plan in a public ceremony held on Friday June 16th at the Hilton in Lisle, Illinois.

Congratulations One Hope United!

We appreciate the work you do for Latino and all families in Illinois.

One Hope United, 707 E. 47th Street. Chicago, IL 60653, 312-949-5540, www.onehopeunited.org



2017 Illinois Latino Statewide Events

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ORGANIZER/CONTACT	FREE
OCTOBER				
Oct. 1-15 10:30 am	Bi-National Health Week Kick Off	Hispanic Consulates	United Latin American Consulates of Chicago	•
Oct. 6 8:30 am - 5 pm	DCFS LAC Family Institute Day	NEIU	DCFS Latino Advisory Committee	•
Oct. 13 9 am - 5 pm	Latino Behavioral Health Conference	Velasquez Technical Center	Latino Behavioral Health Committee	
Oct. 20 8:30 am - 5 pm	IAHSE 30th Annual Conference (tentative)	Hyatt Regency McCormick Hotel	IAHSE	
Oct. 25 5:30 pm	27th Annual Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Gala	Hyatt McCormick Place	Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	
Oct. 26 6 pm	Ayudando Nuestra Familia Fundraiser	Perillo Chicago 834 N. Rush St. Chicago, IL 60611	Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee	
NOVEMBER				
Nov. 4 6 pm	Day of the Dead Ball	1833 W. 19th St. Chicago, IL 60608	National Museum of Mexican Art	
Nov. 4 6 pm	19th Annual National Cuarto Festival	Harris Theater 205 E. Randolph St. Chicago, IL 60601	Puerto Rican Arts Alliance	

Service Milestones – Congratulations!

5 Years

Rubi Viveros
Gizelle García

10 Years

Mary Marban
María Quintanilla
Doroteo Ramírez
Esperanza Cantú

15 Years

Theresa Gonzáles

20 Years

Rosemarie Cruz
Rodrigo Remolina

25 Years

Beatrice Cueva-Cano
Angela López
Carol Kline
Juanita Calderón

30 Years

Marisol Davila
Mayra Burgos-Biott
Mary Martínez

35 Years

Lourdes Colón

40 Years

Evelyn Giménez



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NOTICIAS is brought to you by the Latino Advisory Council and the Illinois Department

of Children and Family Services. It is distributed to DCFS employees, POS agencies and agencies affiliated with DCFS. The newsletter includes articles pertinent to child welfare, Latino welfare issues, and DCFS/POS programs and strives to be an informative source for staff by providing updates on new child welfare initiatives as well as upcoming events.

It is our hope to continue providing staff with a vehicle for the sharing of information. A major part of this endeavor is you! We are asking for your input, submission of articles, and suggestions for improving *Noticias*. Articles related to your experiences with families and personal stories are also greatly appreciated.

Please submit articles, information about incoming events or news to: Julia Monzón, Strategic Communications Committee Chair
julia.monzon@illinois.gov
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Or to any of the **Strategic Communication Committee members:**

Julia Monzón, Co-Editor, Chair;
José J. López, Final Editor, Vanessa Castro, Article Coordinator, Jennifer Contreras, Contributing Writer, Nancy Rodríguez, LAC Chair-Elect

If you would like more information or would like to participate in one of the LAC subcommittees, please contact Juanita Calderón, LAC Chair at juanita.calderon@illinois.gov

Special thanks to:

Bert Tijerina, DCFS Office of Communications; José J. López, DCFS Office of Latino Services and Daniel Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Office of Affirmative Action

