

A publication of the DCFS
Hispanic Advisory Committee

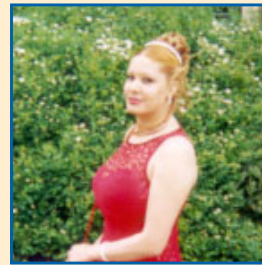
Noticias

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Bryan Samuels, Director

Fall Edition, 2004

Inside this issue:

- Page 2
Welcome from the
Chairperson
- Meeting with Director
Samuels
- Page 3
DCFS and the Chicago
Mexican Consulate Sign
Agreement
- Page 4
“Thank You” poem
The Victimization of
Children
- Page 5
Reestablishing Your
Roots
Noticias Survey Results
- Page 6
Joint meeting of the
HAC and AAAC
- Page 7
Family Support
Specialist Program
HAC Summer Picnic
- Page 8
Changes
- Page 9
Chicago Children’s
Advocacy Center
Youth Outreach Annual
Golf Outing
- Page 10
A Message from Service
Intervention
- Page 11
Hispanic Heritage
Month History
Finding Spanish
Publications





Welcome from the Chairperson

Madeline Gonzalez-Garcia

Since my first *Noticias* welcome message in the Summer Edition, the Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) has been working diligently to ensure that our children and families have access to quality services, and that our workers have the tools necessary to move forward.

I would like to highlight how we have accomplished this endeavor. First, *Noticias* surveyed workers on topics and articles that people would like to read about. Many topics relate to services for our Hispanic children and families. The *Noticias* subcommittee members meet regularly to discuss, write, review and edit articles.

Second, the Employee Subcommittee sponsored HAC's Bilingual employee gatherings. This subcommittee organizes events that bring us together to network and more importantly to enjoy camaraderie in a relaxed atmosphere. Their monthly planning brought us HAC's first sponsored picnic, which was a great event. Our hope is that word spreads and the participation by bilingual staff will increase.

The Youth Issues Subcommittee supports the DCFS Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and members regularly participate in their meetings. Subcommittee members have been contacting workers in an effort to recruit DCFS Latino youth to join and participate in this leadership/advocacy group.

Some of our members have also been collaborating with the DCFS SACWIS work group. This collaboration has requested our members input to review and resolve issues regarding the SACWIS service plan in Spanish. We are excited about participating in this process and the input from field service workers.

Thank you all for the tremendous service you are providing. This is a team effort because all HAC members contribute in one way or another to each of the committees. We recognize we cannot do it alone. We need your input and feedback. I encourage you to call me or any other member if you are interested in participating. It is team support that makes being Chairperson a rewarding experience.

Once again, thank you for your confidence and I look forward to moving ahead with our endeavors.

Madeline Gonzalez-Garcia
Hispanic Advisory Committee Chairperson

Meeting with Director Samuels

By Maria Ayala

On August 4, members of the Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) met with Director Bryan Samuels during our regular quarterly meeting. These meetings are designed to provide an update on the work of the various subcommittees, as well as to continue dialogue on issues impacting Latino children and families.

Subcommittee reports reflective of the current activities they are undertaking were presented. Sharing updates on the activities of these key HAC subcommittees has enabled open dialogue with the Director on how some of the committees such as the Employee, Youth, and Private Sector committees are instrumental in promoting culturally and linguistically oriented services to our families. We are especially proud of the efforts of the Youth committee to involve DCFS Latino youth in the Advisory Board and their support of the boards in general. Moreover, the committees presented issues relevant to recruitment and retention of bilingual staff.

The HAC and Director Samuels dialogued on SACWIS regarding the development of the Spanish version of the Service Plan. HAC members and other DCFS representatives have been actively working on making the Spanish version of the Service Plan compatible with the English version. The SACWIS Spanish Service Plan did not correspond to the English version generated by the SACWIS application.

In addition to sharing information and updates on the activities of the HAC subcommittees, Director Samuels saw the need for maintaining open dialogue with HAC members on Child Welfare issues as it relates to the Hispanic community. He thought more open discussions with the HAC members could produce answers and solution to questions, such as: What is the perspective of the Hispanic community? How can DCFS service the Latino youth differently? How do we convince the Latino youth to stay with DCFS until their 21st birthday instead of aging out of the system? and How do you enhance the system so that it works for the kids? Director Samuels proposed to allow time during HAC's quarterly meeting to dialogue about what he termed "the Big Picture".

HAC thanks the Director for giving us the opportunity to serve our clients and to reach out to more Latino DCFS families, while at the same time, supporting our own staff.

DCFS and the Chicago Mexican Consulate sign child welfare agreement

As many of you may know, on June 14, 2004, Mexican President Vicente Fox, Mexican General Carlos Manuel Sada and DCFS Director Bryan Samuels signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help protect minors who are Mexican nationals or of Mexican descent when protective custody is taken of such children. The Memorandum of Understanding is the first of its kind (child welfare/notification to a Mexican Consulate). This agreement conforms to the Vienna Convention, the Bilateral Convention and other historical agreements. A similar agreement lasted from 2001 until January of this year. The new agreement is in effect until January 12, 2007.



Mexican General Carlos Manuel Sada and DCFS Director Bryan Samuels signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help protect minors who are Mexican nationals or of Mexican descent.

Some highlights of the Memorandum of Understanding include:

- DCFS shall determine at the time of protective custody, or within 10

days of protective custody, if a minor has any Mexican ancestry.

- DCFS shall notify the Consulate in writing when DCFS identifies a Mexican minor in its custody, when the parent/custodian of a Mexican or Mexican American minor has requested the consulate be notified, or when DCFS learns that a non-custodial parent resides in Mexico.
- That the Consulate assist DCFS with obtaining documentation from Mexico for the completion of Special Immigration Juvenile Status applications and/or obtaining the Mexican birth certificates for Mexican American minors in DCFS custody.

- That the Consulate assist DCFS with obtaining appropriate home studies of potential families in Mexico from the Agency For Integral Family Development/ Departamento de Integración Familiar (DIF).
- DCFS and the Consulate shall work together to locate individuals who reside in Mexico and must appear in an Illinois court regarding cases of minors.

If protective custody is taken of a child identified to be of Mexican ancestry, the investigator or caseworker must complete a CFS 1000-6, Notification to the Mexican Consulate and submit the form along with a signed consent to release information to the Office of Latino Services. A check box is included on the CFS 1000-6 for cases where a signed consent is not possible.

CFS 1000-6
6/2004

State of Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services
Office of Latino Services

Notification to Mexican Consulate

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Illinois, Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), and the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago, the Department is required to notify the Mexican Consulate when children for whom the Department has guardianship are determined to be Mexican (born in Mexico or Mexican American eligible for Mexican nationality on the biological child of a Mexican national). Child Protective Services Workers and DCFS and DFS Permanency Workers are required to complete this form and submit it to the Office of Latino Services within five working days of identifying a child or youth who is Mexican or Mexican American minor.

CHILD INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Case ID _____
Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Date taken into Custody _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Case ID _____
Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Date taken into Custody _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Case ID _____
Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Date taken into Custody _____

(Add additional pages if needed)

PARENT INFORMATION

Mother's Name _____ Mother's Birth Place _____
Mother's Address (only if a Mexican National) _____
Father's Name _____ Father's Birth Place _____
Father's Address (only if a Mexican National) _____

CASEWORKER / AGENCY INFORMATION

Caseworker Name _____ Agency Name _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Agency Phone # (_____) _____ Supervisor's Name _____
Date submitted to Office of Latino Services _____

DCFS and DFS workers submit this form to Peter Porras, Office of Latino Services by faxing it to 312-328-2897 along with the signed CFS 600-3 Consent to Release Information. If the parent or custodian refused to sign the Consent, the worker submits the CFS 1000-6 Notification to Mexican Consulate to the Office of Latino Services with a checkmark in the space provided below.

The parent / custodian refused to sign the CFS 600-3 Consent to Release Information.

If protective custody is taken of a child identified to be of Mexican ancestry, the investigator or caseworker must complete a CFS 1000-6, Notification to the Mexican Consulate.

Other instances where the worker must submit the CFS 1000-6 include requests by the parent or custodian and when a non-custodial parent lives in Mexico. The Office of Latino Services will contact the Mexican Consulate and the Office of the Guardian. In most cases the worker will not need to contact the Consulate directly unless the Consulate is assisting the worker with home studies of families in Mexico. The investigator or worker must take the first steps to determine whether or not a minor in protective custody is of Mexican ancestry or is a Mexican national.

Additional information on the Policy Guide and the Memorandum of Understanding between DCFS and the Consulate General of Mexico is available on the D-NET under Policy Guide 2004.02 or on the DCFS web site at www.state.il.us/dcfs.

Thank You

When I was in the system for the first year
That was the time of my tears
The time I wasn't used to waking up without my mother
The time I was waking up with the mothers of others
I knew what was going on
They were making my mom disappear with no word
But it was wrong for them to let me grow up without her
They just didn't want me to get hurt
I learned that in my third year
And that was the time of my fears
When I was exposed to all the violence, gangs, drugs and guns
Everything down the drain with all the fun
Because of this I'm street wise
Not weak minded
I sometimes can tell by looking in someone's eyes
What happened in their lives
And how a person acts
You can tell if the person is wack
In the last foster home they put me in
They made me feel so down and dim
Like on my 15th birthday, it was fake
I didn't even get a cake
I mean everybody forgot about Jose
Man I hated being me
Now that I'm about to be 16 on 6/18
I look at everyone as a team
If DCFS didn't make their move with me
I probably would be smoking weed
Or would've ended up in jail
With no kind of bail
So I'm glad DCFS do what they do
If I could I would like to say
Thank-You

Jose- 16 yrs old

The Victimization of Children: A Developmental Perspective

By Angela M. Fadrugas, L.C.S.W.

The victimization of children can have both short-term and long-term effects. Research has shown that the type of victimization the child experiences depends strongly on the age and the level of development. Age strongly affects not only the likelihood of victimization, but also the likelihood that it will be disclosed. Risk factors for victimization of children include those characteristics of the children themselves, such as suitability as a target and ability to protect themselves, and the environment in which they inhabit.

How children respond to victimization depends on their developmental stage, specific capacities and vulnerabilities. Over the course of development, children both acquire and lose characteristics that make them more or less suitable as targets for various types of victimization. This also includes changes that take place in children's capacity to protect themselves. For example, teenagers are less likely to be physically abused. The earlier the victimization, the higher the risk that the child will experience subsequent victimizations, perhaps caused by the undermining of the child's confidence, assertiveness, and ability to assess trustworthiness.

Changes in a child's environment also have significant impact on the child's risk of victimization. The risk is higher in environments with more motivated offenders, and lower when there are more capable caretakers. Much of the physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and sibling violence of young children occurs in the home, often resulting as a lack of choice over autonomy and environment as they cannot regulate the motivated offenders over capable caretakers. As children acquire greater control over their

environments, risk factors become less about circumstances and more about personal choice, such as gang membership. A variety of developmental processes seem to affect these choices, including the formation of personal identities, acquisition of self-esteem, evolution of a style in interpersonal relationships, history of academic performance and prior experience of violence and abuse.

The impact of victimization can also be developmentally dependent. The impact of abuse and neglect depends on the development of social competence, autonomy, self-esteem, peer relations, cognitive and intellectual capacities, adaptation to school, as well as a variety of other areas. Furthermore, the severity of the impact is dependent on a number of factors: whether victimization is repetitive and ongoing; does the victimization dramatically change the nature of the child's relationship with his/her primary caregiver; does the victimization add to other stressors; and does the victimization, such as a date rape, interrupt a crucial developmental transition.

At the same time, development can be affected by both single episode victimization, as well as chronic victimization. A number of models point to pivotal tasks that children should accomplish at various ages, but there are sensitive periods during which developmental tasks or processes are particularly vulnerable to disturbances. Examples include interference with attachment, chronic dissociation, psychological alterations and cognitive development. Victimization is responsible for more serious impact on children than many other traumas such as divorce, disasters, poverty, illness and death.

Reestablishing Your Roots: You Can Go Home Again

By Jose Matos

The children who become a part of the foster care system end up having to face all kinds of trials and tribulations. This is of no fault of their own, but the result of unfortunate circumstances over which they have no control. It can at times become hopeless for these children. It is our mission as their advocates to take these times of despair and turn them around into times of hope.

Cynthia and Eddie have been foster children for some time now. They have experienced virtually all the different aspects of the system. They have been through some good and bad times. Now in their mid-teens, these two young adults never dreamed they could ever go back home again. Someone needed to remind them how to dream again.

The only fond memories Cynthia and Eddie had of their childhood was having been raised in Mexico. Once they came to the United States and became a part of the system, those memories of Mexico got lost in multiple placements, unfortunate disruptions and separations. The two teens came to a point where they had lost a sense of family. They had forgotten what it was like to have a feeling of belonging, a feeling of “familia.” All these two teens felt they had was each other. That all changed this past February.

Cynthia and Eddie had the opportunity to return to their homeland and reestablish their roots. Words cannot describe what a pivotal moment this was for them. They had not been to Mexico since coming to the states, over five years ago. The

excitement in their eyes before the trip was what makes being an advocate worthwhile. Cynthia and Eddie never thought they would ever have this opportunity. Like the saying goes, “Never say never.”

Cynthia and Eddie rekindled relationships that had long needed to be reestablished. They reconnected with aunts, uncles, cousins, and met family members they had never met before. They were able to have closure on the death of their father firsthand from family members. Most importantly they were able to rejoice in spending time with their grandmother who had raised them before they came to the states. Cynthia, Eddie and their Grandmother were able to mourn together the loss of their grandfather who never got the chance to reconnect with the teens. Once again, words cannot begin to sum up the love and sense of “familia” that was reestablished this past February in Mexico.

Cynthia and Eddie returned to the states with a newfound confidence and a sense of self-worth. They felt like they belonged now. They felt that somewhere out there was a place they could always go home to. Before returning to their home of Mexico, these two young adults had forgotten how to dream, but now they will dream more than they ever have before.

Jose Matos works for Youth Outreach Services.

Noticias Survey Results

By Patricia Lasoya

The *Noticias* newsletter committee wants to thank everyone who responded to the survey. We received 37 surveys between March and May. We are now preparing articles covering topics you selected and your suggestions will be used for future editions. The topics that most of you were interested in were those related to: 1) mental health 2) resources 3) parenting and 4) domestic violence issues. Thanks again for responding and for your suggestions. If you did not have time to send your survey you can still send suggestions and ideas to Mayala@idcfs.state.il.us.

Hispanic Advisory Committee Members

Executive Committee

Madeline González-García, Chairwoman
Miriam Mojica, Chair-Elect
Sylvia Fonseca, Secretary

Members At-Large

Carmen Alvarez
Maria Ayala
Joseph Becerra
Julia Camacho
Luis Carrión
Angela M. Fadrugas
Victor M. Flores
Juana Haywood
Enrique Howell
Isaac López
Kenneth Martín-Ocasio
Dora Maya
Asela Paredes
Cecilio Perez
Dahlia Román
Héctor Vázquez

Ex Officio Members

José Candelas
D. Jean Ortega Piron

Joint Meeting of the Hispanic Advisory Committee and African American Advisory Council

By Dahlia Roman

The Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC) and the African American Advisory Council (AAAC) meet twice a year to work on issues related to the children and families serviced by the Department, to aide in the development of service delivery, to review policies that affect the families and children we serve and to make joint recommendations to the Director in an effort to improve services.

On May 20, 2004 the AAAC hosted the meeting, which brought together both groups. Discussions took place around conference planning and ways in which both committees can continue to help one another. Primary focuses included: addressing the progress being made with respect to Incarcerated Youth, Staff Recruitment Efforts and Culturally Responsive Services in Central Region.

The work group addressing issues related to the Incarcerated Youth indicated that they have continued to meet in an effort to develop a report, which will be compiled with information gathered by the focus

groups. The purpose of this report is to provide a written summary of the results, along with recommendations that will assist the Department in developing and implementing policy, raising awareness, improving services currently provided, and strengthening our partnership with the Department of Corrections. A tremendous amount of information was gathered from workers and other focus group members who should be praised and applauded for their efforts despite the great barriers presented. Workers were able to provide valuable information, as they wanted to be heard and be able to reach this particular population of wards who already lack support. The group also reported that two members, Frances Elbert from the Division of Field Operation and Madeline Gonzalez-Garcia from the Division of Guardian & Advocacy are participating in the Department's Juvenile Justice Steering Group. They will continue to seek input from workers regarding any other issues or barriers that they have encountered as well as safety issues that need to be addressed.

Discussion also took place regarding the staff recruitment efforts and culturally responsive services/programming in the Central region. There continues to be a lack of workers and services

throughout the state, however, it is becoming more prevalent in the Central Region which has members very concerned with how these particular children and families will receive services that are not only appropriate to meet their needs but to also address the cultural, language and other barriers faced when working with this specific population of children and families. It was then determined that both committees needed to develop a work group to identify these issues on a more specific level so that those issues can be further addressed and more appropriate recommendations and solutions can be developed.

The HAC and AAAC are working together to address the issues that they both face in advocating for children and families as well as the workers who service these populations. The next joint committee meeting will take place in December 2004.



African-American Advisory Council members Valerie Davis and Michael Burns address HAC and AAAC members at the bi-annual joint meeting.



Members of the Hispanic Advisory Committee and the African-American Advisory Council discuss ways in which both groups can help each other and the children and families they serve.

The Family Support Specialist Program: Meeting the needs of Latino Families in the Northern Region

By Mario Barrales

Lifelink's Family Support Specialist program (FSS) was created in March 2003 as a valuable alternative to deliver in-home services to Latino families in the Northern region. Since its creation the program has met pressing child welfare and social services needs and has additionally assisted caseworkers in the delivery of comprehensive services. The program is comprised of a skilled team of professionals and paraprofessionals in the child welfare, human and social services field with a strong knowledge of available bilingual-bicultural community services, faith-based organizations, school districts, and institutions in the county they serve.

The FSS program focuses on family strengths to facilitate an environment where positive changes can take place and goals can be set and met through interpersonal development rather than compliance with directives. It also focuses on looking beyond what is available to what might be possible. This approach of imagining possibilities is essential when delivering services. Cultural sensitivity and child welfare knowledge in this context allows the active participation of the families served by the Family Support Specialist.

Among the services facilitated by the specialist are the supervision of visits between parents and children, support services of family reunification, the development of communication skills, education on how to access community resources, advocacy for the family within the community (e.g., property owners, utility companies),

parenting skills, education on immigration issues, and budgeting. Moreover, accurate clinical information and guidance is offered on issues like health care, hygiene, substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

The delivery of the Family Support Specialist services begins with a formal referral from a DCFS Northern region caseworker. The FSS program co-ordinator and caseworker together determine the goals for the client and the length, frequency, and duration of services. To ensure positive progress, the caseworker, FSS coordinator and FSS schedule a monthly case review meeting. Comparisons are made between the initial and accomplished goals to measure the quality and effectiveness of the services. Once FSS services are concluded the FSS coordinator surveys the caseworker, client(s), and FSS to record the outcomes.

Since its creation, the Family Support Specialist Program has experienced a wide array of challenges and opportunities. This has allowed Lifelink to continually improve the quality of services the Latino Special Services Program provides to Latino families in the Northern region and for DCFS. For further information contact Mario Barrales at 630-521-8204 or mario.barrales@lifelink.org.

HAC Summer Picnic

By Miriam Mojica

On August 7, 2004 the Hispanic Advisory Committee sponsored a summer picnic for DCFS bilingual staff to help promote staff retention. All DCFS bilingual staff were invited and encouraged to bring their families and a dish to share. HAC members provided hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

Participants were able to network, socialize and share with one another. Various workers from private agencies participated. We appreciated Jose Candelas, Assistant Deputy Director of Field Operations, who attended with his family.

Our next event is the Octavitas annual celebration. If you are interested in participating in the planning of this event, please contact Miriam Mojica at 708-338-6692.



Miriam Mojica, Victor M. Flores and Luis Carrion make sure the hot dogs and hamburgers don't burn at this summer's Hispanic Advisory Committee picnic. Attendees were given a chance to relax and network with other DCFS and private agency bilingual staff.

Changes

By Jean Ortega-Piron



Victor M. Flores, Carmen Alvarez, Madeline Gonzalez-Garcia and Miriam Mojica celebrate Carmen's eight years as the department's Burgos Coordinator

Back in 1996, a change occurred with the delivery of the Department's Latino services: Carmen Alvarez was appointed the Burgos Coordinator. In 2004, another change occurred: Carmen left the position of Burgos Coordinator to work on new challenges within the Department's Clinical Division as a Help Unit Administrator. Because of this change, I was asked by the Hispanic Advisory Committee to write this article about Carmen. I have thought long and hard about what I wanted to write about Carmen's work as the Burgos Coordinator and I have played out many different scenarios in my head. None seem adequate when trying to capture the essence of Carmen and the work that she did and continues to do for our children.

During the past eight years, Carmen's main focus has been with the Latino children and families that we serve. As the Guardian for all the abused and neglected children in Illinois, I have worked closely with Carmen on many of these issues and I believe our agency is privileged to have Carmen advocate

on behalf of all of our children as she is doing now in her new position. Throughout the years, Carmen has been called upon to perform a variety of administrative tasks within the Department and she has done so willingly and efficiently. Whenever she sees a need, she eagerly volunteers to fill the gap. Her contributions have been

crucial to the Department's work. Not only has Carmen fulfilled her responsibilities in a professional and diligent manner, but she has consistently juggled her personal schedule to meet the demands of the Department and the needs of our wards. She is a woman of obvious energy, intelligence and integrity. Carmen is also blessed with a pleasant disposition and a "can do" attitude.

The last few months of Carmen's time as Burgos Coordinator were months of transition, reflection and learning to let go. It isn't easy to let go, even when one decides it is time, and it wasn't easy for Carmen, but she recognized that in making this change she has afforded another Latino the opportunity for professional growth. Changes are inevitable in all our lives, but we are grateful that even with this change, Carmen is still with us advocating on behalf of our children and families.



Congratulations to our Bilingual Masters Graduates!

2003

Marisol Davila, MSW
Rebecca Crnovich, MSW
Pedro Mendoza, MSW
Maria Ayala, MS
David B. Martin, MSW
Arlene Rodriguez, MSW

2004

Clara Yanes, MSW
Miriam Mojica, MSW
Nancy Rodriguez, MSW
Milagros Rivera, MSW, JD
Richard Echevarria, A.M
Victor Aranda, MSW
Rodrigo Remolina, MSW
Ever Perez, MA
Rafael Serrano, AFO



The Chicago Children's Advocacy Center: "Restoring Hope Once Lost"

By Julia Camacho

Restoring hope once lost is the motto of the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, a private agency that works in conjunction with DCFS, the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the State's Attorney's Office (SAO), and the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. These agencies are housed together in a storybook-like building that sits at 1240 S. Damen. Perhaps you've noticed it on your way to Juvenile Court and wondered what it was doing there. It looks so out of place.

At the Advocacy Center, member agencies investigate cases of child sexual abuse and provide services for these victims and their families. The cases come from referrals made by the DCFS hotline, child abuse investigators and the Chicago Police Department.

Specially trained staff conduct victim sensitive interviews in which the alleged child victim is interviewed by a CCAC staff member as other members of the investigative team, DCFS, CPD, SAO, etc., watch from behind a two way mirror. This affords children a non-threatening environment in which to tell their stories of abuse.

The Center also houses a medical clinic sponsored by the Cook County Bureau of Health Services where specialized child sexual abuse exams are conducted. The clinic is child friendly and non-traumatic compared to late night emergency room visits. Other services offered by the Center include Family and Court Advocacy and Mental Health Services, which include therapy, referrals, assessment

and crisis intervention. The Center also houses the Pregnant and Parenting Teens (PPT) program, which provides therapy and referrals, and the Treatment Option and Prevention (STOP) program for sexually reactive children under the age of 13 who have acted out against other children. This program includes assessment, referrals and tracking. Thirty percent of the children served by the Center are Latinos and bilingual services are available.

For more information or for referral assistance, you can contact the Center directly at 312-492-3700 or through their web site: www.ChicagoCAC.org.

Private Agency Spotlight: Youth Outreach Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

By Isaac Lopez

Youth Outreach Services held its Annual Golf Outing on June 21, 2004 at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, IL. This year's event included 18 holes of golf at the only Pete Dye-designed golf course in the Chicago area. This year also included numerous contests such as longest drive, closest-to-the-pin and the hole-in-one contest, which would have given this year's winner a brand new 2004 Lincoln LS. While no one was able to take home a new car, the event was an enormous success. In addition to golfing, each participant was invited to an afternoon luncheon.

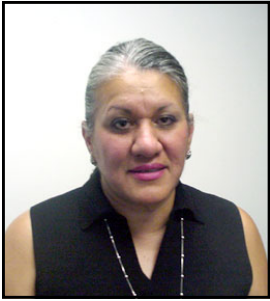
Rick Velazquez, Executive Director of Youth Outreach Services, addressed the golfers thanking them for their

support and provided an overview of the agency. Youth Outreach Services is a community-based social service agency which offers a broad range of intervention, prevention and child welfare services to youth and their families in Chicago and suburban Cook County areas. The proceeds from the 2004 Golf Outing will help support the agency's programs. Youth Outreach Services' programs offer opportunities for young people to take on new challenges, help build self confidence, learn problem-solving skills and appropriate coping techniques, and help develop better decision-making processes. Through their programs, youth are given the skills they need to help lead healthy and drug-free lives and to become



Greg Price, Rick Velasquez, Charles DeFuria and Brandon Fox tee it up for Youth Outreach Services' Annual Golf Outing. Proceeds from the outing help support the agency's programs.

productive members of their communities. For more information contact 773-777-6377.



A Message from Service Intervention

By Cynthia Moreno

As we celebrate the first anniversary of the Division of Service Intervention, it is amazing to reflect on how fast the year has passed! Many exciting and innovative things have occurred during our journey to develop this division charged with redefining how DCFS responds to the service needs of children and families.

For the first time, all service programs have been brought together under one division. Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Education and Transition, Health, Housing (Norman Cash Assistance), Post Adoption and Family To Family Initiative are now collaborating on a regular basis to improve service delivery and to fill in the gaps.

The Division of Service Intervention is highly focused on the education of children in care and giving older wards the tools to succeed after leaving the foster care system. We are developing our working relationship with the Chicago Public Schools, the South Suburban School Districts and many other institutions to ensure that our children receive the most appropriate educational opportunities to prepare them for their futures. This year our Youth In Scholarship program received 254 applications compared to last year's 134. It is our goal to find additional scholarship options for youth and to double the number of recipients of these awards. Similar to the Healthworks Passport we are finalizing the Education Passport. This will be a database that

will coordinate all education information on a child. Any current DCFS data that relates to education in addition to information exchanges from school entities will be housed within this database. Our expectation is that through Education and Transition staff we can gather education information that will help make school transitions easier.

We are in the process of transitioning from the Daniel Memorial Life Skills tool to the Ansell Casey tool. It is more accessible and efficient, and it will allow us to better identify areas that need to be addressed as we prepare youth to move onto adulthood.

I am very excited to be co-chairing a newly formed subcommittee of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC). Mary Hollie of Lawrence Hall and I are facilitating the 16 and older subcommittee of CWAC. Erwin McEwin, Deputy Director of Monitoring and Quality Assurance, is also working with me to coordinate this effort. The group is looking at addressing the following issues for youth 16 and older: juvenile justice, support services, special populations, education, employment and vocational training, and behavioral health. We are working with the Statewide and Regional Youth Advisory Boards to involve youth throughout the state in this process. We have established a group in Chicago and Springfield to ensure that we have statewide representation.

We are also working with the Mental Health staff to craft a Behavioral Health System to focus on providing supports and services to promote growth and development.

Health Policy has worked to develop a recall/reminder system in relation to immunizations and well child exams. We are targeting six-year-olds and under in Cook County in the initial roll out.

Substance Abuse staff is working with the Clinical staff to develop youth screens. We are also doing extensive work with the Child Protection Division as it relates to the methylamphetamine crisis downstate.

Post Adoption has developed a web based resource directory for Cook County. Training was also held for Mental Health professionals who work with children that have been adopted. The adoption subsidy forms are also in revision.

While it has been a year of learning and reconnecting with many staff, it has been very exciting. With Director Samuel's vision and leadership, I feel privileged to be working here at the Department. I look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to improve the quality of life for our children and families!

For further information, contact Cynthia Moreno at 312-814-6823.

Hispanic Heritage Month History and Facts

By Carol Bean

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15) had its beginnings in September 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance recognized and celebrated the culture and traditions of U.S. residents with Spanish language roots from Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The celebration was expanded to a month long celebration in 1988. The September 15 start date is significant as the anniversary of independence for five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates their Independence Day on September 16 and Chile on September 18.

Following are some interesting facts as obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau:

- As of July 2003 the estimated Hispanic population of the United States was 39.9 million. Hispanics constitute 13.7 percent of the nation's population and are the nation's largest race or ethnic minority. The projected Hispanic population for July 2050 is 102.6 million and would be 24 percent of the nation's population at that time.
- The proportion of Hispanic-origin people who are of Mexican heritage is 67 percent. Fourteen percent are of Central and South American backgrounds, nine percent Puerto Rican, four percent Cuban and seven percent of other Hispanic origins.
- Fifty percent of the Hispanic-origin population lives in California and Texas with 11.9 million and 7.3 million, respectively.
- Forty-three percent of New Mexico's population is Hispanic, the highest of any state. California and Texas follow with 34 percent each. More than three of every four Hispanics live in seven states with populations of one million or more: California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona and New Jersey.
- In 2002, 9.9 million foreign-born people were born in Mexico, which far exceeds those foreign-born from any other country in the world represented here in the U.S. Other Latin American countries represented here by more than half a million foreign-born were Cuba (887,000), El Salvador (873,000), the Dominican Republic (654,000), Colombia (566,000) and Guatemala (511,000). There are 17.3 million foreign-born people from Latin American countries.

Finding Spanish Publications and Forms

By Tony Correa

The Department translates all documents that are available in English to Spanish for Spanish-speaking clients. The guideline is simple: if the client reads it, signs it, or could request it, the Department must translate it. Documents that have been translated include most forms, brochures, pamphlets, rules, promotional posters, newsletters, booklets, and even the PRIDE and Educational Advocacy training modules and handbooks for foster parents.

Most publications are available for public use and accessible on the

Department's web site (www.state.il.us/dcf) by clicking on the "Library," "Forms" or "Rules" link on the left hand side of the web site, and then clicking on the appropriate hyperlink for the needed document. If a form or document is not found on the web site, then that form or document is not meant for public use.

Additional forms in English and Spanish are also available for DCFS staff by double-clicking the "My Computer" icon on the workstation's desktop, and then double-clicking the "T" (templates) drive. Once in the "T"

drive, workers may choose from the three listed templates options.

If staff, including private agency staff, cannot locate the document that they need, they may simply e-mail the Office of Child and Family Policy at OCFP@idcf.state.il.us or call 217-524-1983. OCFP staff can either e-mail the desired documents or guide callers to the needed documents. For hard copies of documents workers can print them from their workstations if appropriate or follow the standard document/forms order procedures.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Hispanic Advisory Committee and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Submit articles, events or news to:
Maria Ayala
HAC Newsletter Chairperson
DCFS
2500 Bradley Place
Chicago, Illinois 60618
MAyala@idcfs.state.il.us



Special thanks to the Newsletter Committee Members:
Carmen Alvarez, Carol Bean, Julia Camacho, Patricia Losoya, Dahlia Roman and Isaac Lopez

Thanks to:
Jenny Florent, Graphic Artist, DCFS Office of Communications; and Addie Hudson DCFS Division of External Affairs.



Hispanic Advisory Committee
Noticias
Madeline Gonzalez-Garcia
2550 Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60604
312-814-8616