



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

October, 2018



## Celebrating 30 Years

**I BELIEVE** that 30 years striving for excellence must have felt like an impossible dream when the Latino Advisory Council and first Latino Institute came into being.

We salute our hard working pioneers in this endeavor as well as all those who came behind and are yet to come.

*¡Vamos pa'lante! – Julia Camacho Monzón*





# Workers Reaching for Excellence; Celebrating 30 Years



### HOLA EVERYONE!

Bienvenidos! We are celebrating our 30th Annual Latino Family Institute Day. Our theme is “Workers reaching for excellence; Celebrating 30 years of the Latino Advisory Council”.

Yes! It has been 30 years that the council has existed. The council was given the mandate to advise the director in the matters of service provision to DCFS/POS Latino clients, to establish and strengthen relationships in the Latino community and to address

personnel issues involving Latino employees.

Throughout the years, LAC has contributed by providing a voice for the Latino community within DCFS and striving to assure quality service provision. Today, although challenges persist, we rise to address each issue. We have persevered and continue to remind everyone that “Estamos Presente!”

Our council has openings. I encourage you to join and become a voice for the children and families you serve and a support for your peers.

Hope to see you soon,

**Juanita Calderon, Chairperson**  
IDCFS Latino Advisory Council

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

The LAC 2017 Latino Institute Award Winners are:

**HILDA FRONTANY**  
CELESTE PEÑA AWARD WINNER

**ARTURO HEREDIA**  
DCFS SPECIAL EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION

**PATRICIA AGUILAR**  
POS SPECIAL EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION

**CLAUDIA GUTIERREZ**  
DCFS SPECIAL EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION

**DOMILLE GARCIA**  
DCFS SUPPORT STAFF

**CARLOS VELAZCO,  
JUAN MULERO,  
AMBER VELAZQUEZ**  
YOUTH OF THE YEAR

**BALDOMERO AND  
ELIZABETH HERAS**  
FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR

**ANGELA CERDA**  
HOME OF RELATIVE CAREGIVER  
OF THE YEAR



### LAC MEMBERSHIP

Chair-Person:  
Juanita Calderon  
[juanita.calderon@illinois.gov](mailto:juanita.calderon@illinois.gov)

Past Chair-Person  
Alex Medina  
[josealex.medina@illinois.org](mailto:josealex.medina@illinois.org)

Chair-Elect:  
Nancy Rodriguez  
[nancy.rodriguez@illinois.gov](mailto:nancy.rodriguez@illinois.gov)

Scribe:  
Dulce Patrón  
[dulce.ramirez@illinois.gov](mailto:dulce.ramirez@illinois.gov)

**DCFS Members:**  
Julia Camacho Monzón  
Sydney Juarez  
Beatriz Ramírez  
Vanessa Castro

**POS Members:**  
Jennifer Contreras  
Yvonne Cordero  
Maritza López  
Lisa Marie Pérez  
Yeni Rojas  
Karla Soriano

**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

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# Day of the Dead

By Beatriz Ramirez

## EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

(the Day of the Dead) is a Mexican celebration, in which we remember and prepare special foods in honor of those who have departed. On this day in Mexico, the streets near the cemeteries are filled with decorations of papel picado (festive paper), flowers, candy calaveras (skeletons and skulls), and parades. Historically El Día De Los Muertos was once a ritual celebrated only by the Native Americans

of the South and Central Americas. Native Americans believed that the veil between the afterlife and the living is made easier to cross allowing our loved ones that have died to come back and share a time with us again.

In modern times, this has become a cultural tradition and a time to celebrate our memories of those who have gone on before.



Typical Day of the Dead altar

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# A Shout-Out



Arrival at Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato, Mexico

By Beatriz Ramirez

## LATINOS BIKING 4-UR DREAMS

We'd like to give a shout out to our DCFS co-worker and friend, José Alex Medina, Past LAC chairperson, who along with his team from "Latinos Biking 4-UR Dreams" achieved something never done before. Alex and his team challenged themselves through heat, rain and difficult terrain in this journey titled The Migrant's Outcry. The team rode their bikes through 12 states from two nations, over 2,000 miles. The journey took the group from Chicago to Dolores Hidalgo Guanajuato Mexico to bring bikes to indigenous children

and to raise money for families in need along the US-Mexican border and Latino refugees in Chicago. The journey began on August 19, 2018 and culminated on September 15, 2018 as the team was also joined by local riders. Afterward other local Mexican groups also celebrated the "Latinos Biking 4-UR Dreams" team at different community events. The team was also featured in the Mexican Independence Day Parade in Chicago. "Latinos Biking 4-Ur Dreams" team includes men and women, one of which was our own LAC

Council member Jennifer Contreras from the National Youth Advocate Program. Jennifer provided logistical support and met with Alex and the rest of the team at different stages of their journey and rode her bike with them in solidarity at various points. Congratulations to all involved in this historical achievement!

See the link below for more pictures and information.

<https://www.facebook.com/LatinosBiking4UrDreams/>

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# Mexican Consulate Notification of Mexican or Mexican-American minors in the custody/guardianship of the department



By José Javier López

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago provides for early identification of Mexican or Mexican-American minors taken into protective custody by the department. The child welfare practice issues inherent in the Memorandum of Understanding are directed toward ensuring that the needs of Mexican or Mexican-American minors are met when their families are temporarily or permanently unavailable. This revised policy addresses procedures that will facilitate the early coordination of legal and social services to children and their relatives that may be necessary to achieve permanency for the child, including providing the least restrictive placement and supportive services to maintain family ties, ensure appropriate visitation and maintain the child's ethnic, religious and cultural identity.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Children and Family Services and the Consulate General of Mexico requires DCFS to notify the Mexican Consulate when a child is determined to be of Mexican ancestry. To comply with this

requirement DCFS child protection and child welfare and POS workers must notify the Office of Latino Services which is responsible for notifying to the Mexican Consulate.

Child protection workers are required to establish the ancestry of every child taken into protective custody. At the beginning of an investigation, child protection workers will distribute the pamphlet *CFS 1050-26, Guide for Parents who are Mexican Nationals*, to all Hispanic subjects of reports. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Consulate General of Mexico requires the department to notify the Mexican Consulate in writing within 10 working days of the decision to take protective custody of a Mexican or Mexican-American minor or at any time one of the following occurs:

- A child for whom the department is legally responsible (including protective custody) is identified as having Mexican ancestry.
- A parent or custodian of a Mexican or Mexican-American minor requests that the consulate be notified.

- The department learns that a non-custodial parent resides in Mexico.

## **RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF MEXICAN ANCESTRY**

Each month, the Office of Latino Services is notified of every case that has been opened for a Hispanic child. Children who are determined to be of Mexican ancestry, and who are age appropriate, and their parents or custodians shall be advised that:

- They have the right to freely communicate with consular officers of their country.
- The Mexican Consular Representatives may interview Mexican or Mexican-American minors in the custody of the department.
- The Mexican Consulate can receive specific information, otherwise confidential, regarding the reason protective custody of the Mexican minor was taken.
- The Mexican Consulate can assist the Mexican child, parents or custodians in legal proceedings.

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## DCFS School Readiness Initiative



By Vanessa Castro, LCSW, CADC

The DCFS School Readiness Initiative began in 2008 with the purpose of identifying the number of children statewide between the ages of three to five and their enrollment status in early childhood education. The goal of the team is to increase the number of children enrolled in a quality early education programs, or daycare if foster parents are eligible. Quality programs support the skills necessary for children to enter kindergarten prepared and ready to learn. Child participation in early childhood learning programs is important as it establishes the foundation for future academic success.

Exposure to trauma and stress can have adverse effects on a child's academics, behavior and ability to form and maintain positive relationships. Children under chronic stress struggle with emotional regulation and often times are in a constant state of arousal. Research has shown a correlation between children experiencing trauma and smaller brain size, which affects memory, attention, and language. Learning begins at birth and so does brain development. The achievement gap between children living in poverty and their more economically advantaged peers can be seen as early as nine months.

Enrollment in quality early childhood learning programs addresses social, emotional and cognitive development of children that have experienced trauma. Children enrolled in early learning programs are being provided support, stability and tools necessary for social emotional regulation.

The Departments' School Readiness Team works to ensure all children in care, age three to five, have access to quality early childhood education programs. The School Readiness staff also provides assistance to Intact and Teen Parent Support Network families. DCFS and POS child welfare staff can contact the DCFS School Readiness team for information on early childhood education options and support in locating available programs.

### **THE DCFS SCHOOL READINESS TEAM PROVIDES ASSISTANCE BY:**

1. Identifying available early childhood care and education programs
2. Addressing eligibility questions and what documents are needed for enrollment
3. Addressing challenges to enrollment
4. Answering questions regarding different types of early childhood learning programs

5. Assisting in the transition of a child into a new program or school
6. Transitioning a child from Early Intervention Services (EI) to a preschool program

### **SCHOOL READINESS TEAM BY REGION**

Statewide School Readiness Administrator

**Mary Beth Corrigan:**  
[mary.corrigan@illinois.gov](mailto:mary.corrigan@illinois.gov)  
630-801-3480

Cook County Region  
School Readiness Specialist  
**Martha Cerda-Babbington**  
[martha.cerda-babbington@illinois.gov](mailto:martha.cerda-babbington@illinois.gov)  
708-338-6630

Northern & Temporarily Assigned  
Southern Region School Readiness Specialist

**Vanessa Castro**  
[Vanessa.Castro@illinois.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Castro@illinois.gov)  
847-931-2003

Central Region  
School Readiness Specialist  
**Diane LaMothe**  
[diane.lamothe@illinois.gov](mailto:diane.lamothe@illinois.gov)  
217-735-6098

## Early Childhood Enrollment from the Desk of an Education Advisor



By Aundrea Nabors

### **ENROLLING A CHILD IN AN EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM GIVES THEM A JUMP-START IN LIFE.**

Early education programs are the foundation of learning. This becomes the child's first experience in a structured setting with teachers and other children. It helps the child learn numbers, shapes, letters, how to follow instructions and it promotes their sharing skills. Early education helps children develop social and emotional skills.

DCFS requires all youth in care, between ages three to five, to be enrolled in early education programs. Youth may enroll in public programs such as Head Start, Pre-kindergarten programs for children at-risk of academic failure, accredited childhood programs accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and early childhood special education if they are eligible. The DCFS School Readiness

team addresses pre-school enrollment concerns and DCFS Education Advisors help resolve the child's educational issues after enrollment. Caregivers and/or caseworkers should secure the following documents to facilitate enrollment: a placement form (DCFS 906), birth certificate, proof of immunization, and a copy of the IEP or IFSP if applicable. Caregivers must enroll the children in their care within two days of placement. If the student is not enrolled by the third day, the caseworker must ensure enrollment by the fifth day. By the fifth day if the child is not enrolled, the caseworker should contact the education advisor for assistance.

Caregivers that are interested in private school attendance must consult with the DCFS caseworker. However, if the caregiver wishes to enroll a child in a religious-based school, consent by the parent for religious instruction must be obtained on the appropriate DCFS form. Additionally, the foster parent

is responsible for tuition. There is no reimbursement for a private, religious or parochial school. Caregivers who desire to homeschool youth in care must submit an application and obtain approval from the DCFS Guardian's Office. The education advisor will assist in reviewing the homeschool package/program. If approved, the caregiver will be required to submit quarterly documentation of academic and behavioral achievement, register the child with the homeschool, and allow the education advisor to make quarterly visits to assess the academic and behavioral progress.

For a child to be successful in their early education program, find out when the school year starts and what the necessary next steps are to enjoy a successful academic year.



### **30TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE AT [DCFS.SPREADSHIRT.COM](https://dcfs.spreadshirt.com)**

- Women's V-Neck Shirts
- Men's Premium Shirts
- Men's Moisture-Wick Shirts
- Anniversary Duffle Bags
- Ceramic Full-Color Coffee Mugs

*\$2 from every item purchased goes to the Children's Fund.*

# Meet "JJ" López

By Julia Camacho Monzón



## JOSÉ JAVIER LÓPEZ

José Javier López is the current Chief of the Office of Latino Services, for the Illinois

Department of Children and Family Services.

Chief López is a long-time public servant and has served the community in many different venues. Since his college days and throughout the changing political climate of the last 40 years José has been a dedicated community advocate. You can see what I mean as you peruse his professional and community accomplishments listed below.

In his current role, José serves as a policy-formulating administrator overseeing all Latino services and related issues for the agency. He provides advice and recommendations

to the Affirmative Action deputy on matters involving Latino services and acts as the liaison to multiple community stakeholders including governmental, media, philanthropic and community officials actively promoting the department's mission.

José has been a state employee for 29 years. He began his career with the state as a public aid caseworker. He served as special assistant to the Illinois Department of Human Services' secretary and director of Hispanic/Latino affairs for four years, and also as the chief of the Bureau of Latino Relations and Statewide Translations Section under the Department of Public Aid's ombudsperson. Additionally, José served on the Governor's Office of New Americans, the State of Illinois' Latino Family Commission and Central Management Services Hispanic Employment Plan Council.

José's passion has always been in working with the Latino community where he currently serves as the League of United Latin American

Citizens' (LULAC) midwest vice-president, a national civil rights organization and the largest Latino membership organization in the United States. He was formerly the LULAC state director for Illinois for four years. He also currently holds the vice-presidency of the Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees, where he formerly served as president. He sits on the boards of the Illinois Migrant Council, Central States SER, Illinois Association of Agencies and Community Organizations on Migrant Affairs, Catholic Charities of Chicago's Latino Advisory Committee Chicago Bilingual Nurses Consortium, Inspiring Latinas and the Chicago Dia de los Niños Parade Committee. He was formerly on the board of the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Por un Barrio Mejor, Midwest Coalition in Defense of the Immigrant, Latinos for a Healthy Illinois and Illinois Association of Healthcare Interpreters.

## 2018 Illinois Latino Statewide Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ORGANIZER/CONTACT
OCT 23	6 pm	Ayundando Nuestras Familias Fundraiser Casino	195 E Delaware	Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee
OCT 25	6 pm	Annual Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Gala	Carnival Restaurant	Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
OCT 27	6 pm	Annual Inspiring Latinas Gala Dinner	Drury Inn, Oakbrook, IL	Inspiring Latinas
NOV 3	6 pm	Day of the Dead Ball	1833 W 19th St	National Museum of Mexican Art
NOV 3	6 pm	20th Annual National Cuatro Festival	Harris Theater 205 E Randolph St	Cuatro Committee
NOV 9	11 am	Annual Latino Policy Forum Luncheon and Fundraiser	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Latino Policy Forum
NOV 16	8:45 am	16th Annual IL Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Conference	Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills Resort & Conference Center	Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation
NOV 17	6 pm	42nd Annual Cuerdas Clasicas Gala & Dinner Dance Estudiantina Tuna de Oro de Guanajuato, Mexico	Crystal Sky 7941 47th St., McCook, IL	Cuerdas Clasicas

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## Suspension and Expulsion amongst Preschool Aged Children

By Vanessa Castro, LCSW, CADC

Exposure to trauma and stress can have an adverse effect on a child's academics, behavior and ability to form and maintain positive relationships. Children under chronic stress struggle with emotional regulation, and often times, are in a constant state of arousal. Young children who are exposed to trauma or chronic stress can have difficulty expressing emotions verbally, and sometimes children demonstrate or express themselves through physical acts of aggression. These physical acts of aggression have negatively impacted children in school settings, especially those in early childhood programs.

Research shows that preschool aged children who exhibit social, emotional and behavioral problems have been associated with a high number of expulsion and suspension rates. Recent data shows children, three to five years old, are being expelled at three times the rate of children kindergarten through twelfth grade. The most common behaviors associated to expulsion are biting, hitting and aggressive behavior.



The new legislative bill HB2663 and Public Act 100 - 0105, protects preschool aged children from being expelled or suspended. HB 2663, states early childhood programs receiving State Board of Education grants for preschool educational programs shall prohibit the expulsion of children. Early childhood programs are now responsible for documenting the steps taken to ensure children displaying challenging behaviors are safely being incorporated and allowed to participate in the classroom. In addition, early learning programs must document children's displays of challenging behaviors, intervention strategies, and their ongoing communication with the parent. These programs are able to refer children and families to community resources. If all efforts have been documented by the

program and it is determined that it is necessary for the child to transition to another program, a transition plan with the family, must be created to ensure continuity of services.

Based on this Public Act, effective July 1, 2018, DCFS began tracking youth in care, ages three to five, who are sent home early, suspended, expelled from an early childhood learning program. Early childhood care and education programs are listed as daycare, preschool or head start. If you have questions contact one of the school readiness team members listed below. DCFS and POS Child Welfare staff will enter Expulsion/Removal, Sent Home Early or Suspension occurrences in the Education section of the IDCFS SACWIS computer system. Child Welfare staff must ensure current school enrollment information is entered prior to entering suspension and expulsion information. In addition, if a child in care, ages three to five, experiences a suspension, expulsion or is sent home early from their early childhood care or education program, notify your regions School Readiness team.

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## A Closer Look at Identifying Child Abuse

By Jennifer M. Contreras

One of the workshops many attended on the second Professional Development Day was "Defining Child Abuse and Exploring Practical Methods of Discipline to Promote Effective Parenting," presented by Julia Camacho Monzon. The workshop presenter provided a lot of materials that workers and staff can share and provide to parents and professionals working with children. Included materials helped to facilitate a good understanding of how to identify child abuse and distinguish personal and cultural biases that some may consider to be child abuse. Other materials included age-appropriate ways



to properly discipline a child. After the main presentation, participants were divided in groups and given real-life scenarios to review and were asked to identify if child abuse or neglect were present and what possible outcomes/resolutions would be best. The groups

came up with great ideas and shared them with one another. This was a great workshop and it is highly recommended for a repeat at a future professional development day to allow new participants to learn and attend.

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# Latino Advisory Council Members 1988–2018



We would like to acknowledge the original Hispanic Advisory Committee and the Workers Reaching for Excellence.

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Anita Acosta  
Carmen Álvarez  
Hector Avilés  
Glendy Aponte  
Martin Acevedo  
Damaris Acevedo  
Carlos Argueta  
Christine Brambila  
Joseph T. Becerra  
Mayra Burgos-Biott  
Maria Calderon  
Juanita Calderon\*  
Julia Camacho Monzón\*  
Ruth Camacho  
Yolanda Capriles  
Vanessa Castro\*  
Claudia Ceballo  
Luis F. Carrion  
Olivia Chavez  
Ellen R. Chavez  
Jennifer Contreras\*  
Yvonne Cordero\*

April Curtis  
Angela M. Fadragas  
Victor M. Flores  
Sylvia Fonseca  
José R. García\*  
Madeline González-García  
Illiana Gómez  
Claudette Gómez  
Juana Haywood  
Edgar A. Hernández  
Sylvia Hernández  
Maria Hernández\*  
Arturo Heredia  
Enrique Howell  
Sydnie Juarez\*  
Isaac López  
Maritza López  
Norma Machay  
Dr. Dora Maya  
Evelyn Martinez  
Kenneth Martin-Ocasio  
Azalea Mejia\*

Ivan Medina  
Anabel Michal  
José A. Medina  
Bob Mindell  
Miriam M. Mojica  
Jasmine Molina  
Frank Navarro  
Sara Newton  
Ramón Luis Nieves  
Mariana Osoria  
Eulalia Ortiz  
Melina Pantoja  
Asela Paredes  
Dante Plata  
Dulce Patron\*  
Cecilio Perez  
Lisa Marie Perez\*  
Celeste Peña  
Petra Porras  
Claudia Ramirez  
Beatriz Ramirez\*  
Zoyla Ramirez

Hilda Ramos  
Milagros Rivera  
Arlene Rodriguez  
Nancy Rodriguez\*  
Yeni Rojas\*  
Dahlia Román  
Rachel Román  
Liliana Romero\*  
Emely Sanchez  
Yanira Sanchez  
Karla Soriano  
Naida Valdez  
John Valtierra  
Héctor Vázquez  
Glorymar Vázquez  
Sergio Vásquez  
Carmen Velazquez  
Deo Velez  
Rebecca Villagomez-Crnovich  
Rubi Viveros

\*Current LAC member

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# 2017 Latino Advisory Council Family Institute Day Gallery



*Acting Director B.J. Walker*



*Burgos Consent Decree Panel*



*Daniel Fitzgerald, Deputy Director of Affirmative Action*



*Burgos Family*



*Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti*

## Gallery (cont)



*Miguel Del Valle, City Clerk of Chicago*



*Celeste Peña Award winner Hilda Frontany (center) with José López and Juanita Calderón*



*Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez*



*Outstanding Youth winners Carlos Velazco; (not pictured) Juan Mulero, Amber Velazquez*



*POS Outstanding Foster Parent of the Year winner (Jennifer Contreras accepting for Angela Cerda)*



*DCFS Outstanding Employee of the Year winner Claudia Gutierrez*



*POS Outstanding Employee of the Year winner Patricia Aguilar*



*DCFS Outstanding Support Staff of the Year winner Domille Garcia*

## Service Milestones

# Congratulations

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Claudia García, Chicago
- Yolanda Gómez, Springfield
- Christine Rivera, Chicago
- Marisol Rubio, Chicago
- Mireya Salinas, Chicago
- Aracely Tirado, Chicago

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Benny Barraza, Springfield
- Coty Corcoles-Martinez, Chicago
- Elisa Corona, Deerfield
- Cynthia González, Joliet
- Mary Marban, Chicago
- Miguel Sandoval-García, Chicago
- Judith Valadez, Kankakee

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Liliana Romero, Chicago

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Rosemary Cruz, Chicago

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Eva Camacho, Elgin
- Susan Carrasco, Kankakee
- Luis Carrion, Maywood
- Tony Correa, Springfield
- Elizabeth Costalez, Springfield
- Sara Franco, Chicago
- José García, Maywood
- Maria Loayza, Deerfield
- Maria Mayol, Chicago
- Julia Camacho Monzón, Chicago
- Isabel Rodríguez, Chicago
- David Ruano, Chicago

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Carmen Medina, Chicago

### 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Martha Cerda-Babbington, Maywood

### MSW (MAY 2018)

- Dulce Patrón, Woodstock
- Areli Santiago, Elgin



**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 Camacho Monzón, Strategic Communications Committee Chair  
[julia.monzon@illinois.gov](mailto:julia.monzon@illinois.gov)  
1911 S. Indiana Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616

### Or to any of the Strategic Communication Committee members:

Julia Camacho Monzón, Editor, Chair; Lourdes Rodríguez, Editor; 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](mailto:juanita.calderon@illinois.gov) or any LAC member.

### Special thanks to:

Bert Tijerina, graphic designer, Office of Communications; José J. López, DCFS Office of Latino Services and Daniel Fitzgerald, deputy director, Office of Affirmative Action



Illinois Department of  
**DCFS**  
Children & Family Services



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