



**DCFS Latino Advisory Council**  
**800 Roosevelt Rd (building D)**  
**Glen Ellyn, IL 60137**  
**February 19, 2020**  
**8:30am – 5:00pm**  
**888-494-4032 / code 9921831605#**

**Chair-Person:**  
Nancy Rodriguez

**Past Chair-Person:**  
Juanita Calderon

**Chair-Elect:**  
Julia Monzon

**Scribe:**  
Maria Hernandez

**DCFS Members:**  
Vanessa Castro  
Jose Garcia, PhD  
Sydnie Juarez  
Evelyn Martinez  
Azalea Mejia  
Taylor Pierson  
Beatriz Ramirez  
Liliana Romero

**POS Members:**  
Patricia Aguilar  
Jennifer Contreras  
Lisa Marie Perez  
Daizy Salgado

**Ex-officio Members:**  
Jose J. Lopez, OLS

**Director's Liason:**  
Daniel Fitzgerald  
Affirmative Action

**Committees:**  
Child Safety and  
Permanency  
  
Community Risk  
Reduction and  
Staffing  
  
Data validity and  
Disproportionality  
  
Strategic  
Communications  
  
Latino Family  
Institute  
  
Professional Development  
Day  
  
POS (Ad Hoc)

## **MINUTES**

**Present In Person:** Nancy Rodriguez, Julia Monzon; Jose Garcia; Evelyn Martinez; Azalea Mejia; Jose Lopez

**Present by Phone:** Patricia Aguilar; Vanessa Castro; Jennifer Contreras; Coty Corcoles; Liliana Romero; Daizy Salgado

**Excused:** Daniel Fitzgerald; Juanita Calderon; Maria Hernandez; Sydnie Juarez; Lisa M. Perez; Taylor Pierson; Beatriz Ramirez

### **Welcome**

**Nancy Rodriguez welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.**

### **Review & Approval of December and January Minutes**

Jose Garcia motioned to accept December minutes. Zero opposed. Zero abstentions. Motion passed.

Evelyn Martinez motioned to accept January minutes as amended. Nancy second the motion. Zero opposed. One abstention. Motion passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Child Safety & Permanency – Patricia Aguilar**

- The committee is waiting for specific reports from Affirmative Action and the Helpdesk. They need data on Latino bilingual foster-homes. Affirmative Action needs a specific request to provide the information.

### **Community Risk Reduction & Staffing – Jose Garcia, PhD.**

- The bilingual Sex Abuse Coordinator position has been filled.
- There continues to be issues with the filling of vacancies
- The questions for the monkey survey were tendered to Affirmative Action in May 2019.
- Discussion included submitting names of Afro Latino persons for the D-Net during Black History month and lack of bilingual workers for DCP

and Placement in Woodstock. It was agreed that Evelyn would follow-up by email to Lourdes Rodriguez and Daniel regarding this last point.

### **Data Validity & Disproportionality – Nancy Rodriguez**

- Reports for both January and February 2020, detailed reports are to be attached to the minutes for each month.
- A discussion was held on child deaths in Illinois of DCFS cases. It was agreed that the committee would focus on child deaths and continue research on this topic.
- A discussion was held about the validity of SACWIS data due to staff not accurately documenting ethnicity and language needs. It was agreed that Hector Aviles could be consulted on this topic and invited to the next LAC meeting. See report for the DVD details.

### **Strategic Communications – Julia Monzon**

- The committee reviewed goals and accomplishments. Goals were set for 2020. See attached report.

### **POS – Jennifer Contreras & Jose J. Lopez**

- The POS committee provided a written report. See attached report.

### **Affirmative Action Reports**

- Jose Lopez stated that frontline workers need to notify him and the Mexican Consulate after Mexican children come into DCFS care. Frontline workers need parents signed consent to notify Mexican Consulate.
- Jose Lopez is working to have a memorandum of understanding with other consulates. Consulate of Ecuador was ready to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement. DCFS only had 15 children of Ecuadorian ethnicity with more to be identified.
- A tickler or narrative box should open in SACWIS when Hispanic Other is chosen to generate a form to provide further details.

### **Old Business**

#### **Bylaws**

- Bylaws revision was partially completed.

#### **Historical Document**

- The historical document was discussed. Evelyn Martinez volunteered to work on document as part of the Strategic Communications committee.

### **Director's Meeting**

- LAC met with the DCFS Director on June 5, 2019. It was discussed that concerns and solutions needed to be confirmed within the council prior to scheduling another meeting with the Director. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would address this agenda first.

## **New Business**

### **Retention and Voting**

- A retention vote was held, the following members were retained for the next 2 years: Nancy Rodriguez, Vanessa Castro, Jose Garcia, Maria Hernandez, Azalea Mejia, Liliana Romero, Jennifer Contreras, and Lisa M. Perez.
- A special meeting will be held to work on By-Law Revisions on 2-26-20 at 10:00am to 12:00pm. The Committee Chair will send the invitation to LAC members.

### **Open Forum for Members**

#### **Summit**

- It was discussed that the LAC Summit will be moved to April's meeting. The anticipated venue will be the DCFS office in Deerfield.
- The LAC Professional Development Day is anticipated to be held at Loyola University the first or second week of June 2020. Jose Lopez will follow-up with Loyola University.

### **Open Forum for Guests**

- Upward Mobility was discussed for newer staff as it is currently seniority based. Staff need to be employed for DCFS for six months before they can apply for Upward Mobility.

Next LAC Meeting is 3-18-20 in Maywood.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Nancy Rodriguez, Scribe***

***Respectfully submit by: Julia Monzon Amended Minutes***