



DCFS Latino Advisory Council
At Child Link
955 W Cermak Rd, Chicago, IL 60608

September 19, 2018

8:30am – 5:00pm

Conference # (605) 475-4865 - Access Code 864378#

Chair-Person:

Juanita Calderon
Juanita.calderon@illinois.gov

Chair-Elect:

Nancy Rodriguez
Nancy.rodriguez@illinois.gov

Scribe:

Dulce Ramirez
Dulce.ramirez@illinois.gov

DCFS Members:

Julia Camacho de M.
Vanessa Castro
Maria Hernandez
Sydnie Juarez
Beatriz Ramirez
Liliana Romero
Azalea Jimenez

POS Members:

Jennifer Contreras
Yvonne Cordero
Lisa Marie Perez
Yeni Rojas

Ex-officio Members:

Jose J. Lopez, OLS

Lourdes Rodriguez,
Burgos Coordinator

Committees:

Child Safety and
Permanency

Community Risk
Reduction and
Staffing

Data validity and
Disproportionality

Strategic
Communications

Latino Family
Institute

Minutes

Present: Sydnie Juarez, Beatriz Ramirez, Yeni Rojas, Azalea Mejia, Juanita Calderon, Liliana Romero and Yvonne Cordero. Via phone Vanessa Castro, Jennifer Contreras, Dulce Patron.

Ex officio Members: Jose Lopez and Lourdes Rodriguez

Excused: Lisa Marie Perez, Nancy Rodriguez, and Julia Camacho

Guests: Jose Garcia

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 am

A. Welcome/Team Building/Vision Casting

- a. LAC members reviewed the 2017 goals (personal, professional and LAC goals)
 - i. Team crossed off the goals that have been achieved
 - ii. New goals were created for 2019.

B. Review and Approval of June, July and August Minutes- Tabled

C. Office of Latino Services- Jose Lopez

- a. New changes in the Mexican Consulate
 - i. New Protection Counsel
 - ii. Updating a new MOU agreement
 - iii. Increase in the number of Mexican national children coming into DCFS. This has prompted an increase in notification of referrals to OLS.
- b. Foster parent recruitment
 - i. Project to increase foster parent awareness. New flyers to distribute
- c. Chicago Police
 - i. Had a meeting on 09/18/18 to discuss a plan when our children are picked up by the police. A mechanism is being created to conduct a report to notify workers of arrest and if they were released. This program will have information of where the police can drop off our children, to avoid being released to inappropriate placements. Program should be released in December 2018
- d. IAHSE Conference being held on 09/28/18

D. Burgos Coordinator- Lourdes Rodriguez

- a. Burgos online training is complete and will be up and running later. Lourdes is working on a Burgos intake forms trying to keep track of cases. Currently too many complaints from parents and juvenile court.
- b. Working on the conference
 - i. Received \$10,000 for the conference

1. Received a template to fill out and submitted it and is awaiting on response
 2. Had to remove the cultural presentation and mugs
 3. Received two phone calls from the Burgos family; believes that they would like to attend again
 4. After the conference, Lourdes would be working on finding the Mendez family (second family of the Burgos Decree)
- c. There is 8 bilingual staff working as interns. Concerned with number of hires in comparison to number of staff leaving the department. Averaging of 3-4 bilingual workers leaving a month
For the purpose of recruitment of staff, it was recommended to post vacancies on Facebook
- d. The Burgos Coordinator is asking new hires during their Bilingual certification how they learned about the positions.
- i. Word of mouth is the number one reason people apply
 - ii. Second method is the internet
- e. Goals for the Burgos Office;
- i. Bilingual family profile
 - ii. Start up the Latino Consortium
 1. Especially focus on Directors to discuss struggles, goals and plans
- f. Immigration paper
- i. This has been sent to Janet Ahern for approval.
- g. Bilingual Staffing Policy
- i. Determine when a position can be converted from English to a Spanish speaking position.
 - ii. Data is needed to support this. Need to know how many times the language line is used.
- h. LEP
- i. Is in the process of updating 3 critical forms that need to be in each major language
 1. CANS a form
 2. Release of Information
 3. Voluntary consents to have the child placed with a relative
 - ii. More information will be found on the Burgos site

E. Committee Reports

- a. **Child Safety & Permanency**
 - i. Tabled
 - b. **Community Risk Reduction & Staffing**
 - i. Tabled
 - c. **Data Validity & Disproportionality**
 - i. Tabled
 - d. **Strategic Communications**
 - i. Tabled
- a. A brief description of each committee was discussed to allow new members to select a committee to join. Liliana Romero and Jose Garcia joined the Community Risk Reduction and Staffing committee.

F. Old/New Business

- a. LAC members present recommended the use of Video conferencing (Webinex) to allow LAC members unable to attend meeting in person to participate using this option. Jose Lopez will follow up on the video conference. Lourdes will follow up on fixing the current conference phone which is not working correctly.
- b. Membership – LAC members present and via phone voted in DCFS employee Jose Garcia.
- c. New LAC member binders will be created and these will be distributed during the LAC orientation in December. The following members will work on the binders; Yvonne Cordero, Nancy Rodriguez and Beatriz Ramirez.

Meeting Adjourned - 11:57 am

Scribe for the meeting: Yvonne Cordero