



DCFS Latino Advisory Council
1911 S. Indiana Ave. Chicago, IL

October 17, 2018

8:30am – 5:00pm

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

Chair-Person:

Juanita Calderon

Past Chair-Person:

Jose Alex Medina

Chair-Elect:

Nancy Rodriguez

Scribe:

Dulce Ramirez

DCFS Members:

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

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

Attendance: Juanita Calderon, Nancy Rodriguez, Jose Lopez, Lourdes Rodriguez, Beatriz Ramirez, Maria Hernandez, Yvonne Cordero, Lisa Marie Perez, Jose Garcia, Julia Camacho, Vanessa Castro, Yeni Rojas, and Liliana Romero.

Excused: Dulce Ramirez, Azalea Mejia, Vanessa Castro, Jennifer Contreras

Absent: None

Guests: Alex Medina, Keila Cruz, Evelyn Martinez

Meeting called to order at 9:15am

A. Welcome/Team building casting

- Juanita began activity by giving words of wisdoms, encouragement and praise for all LAC members. Members went around the table introducing themselves as a way to get to know each other better.

B. Review and Approval of minutes

- June, July, and August minutes were reviewed and amended. All the meeting minutes (June, July and August) were passed as amended by LAC members present.

C. OLS- Jose Lopez.

- Jose reported that he met with the Child Welfare Advisory Council subcommittee dealing with Racial Disparity. He suggested that a LAC member be part of this committee. Jose Garcia was recommended to participate on behalf of LAC and he accepted.

D. Burgos Office- Lourdes Rodriguez

- The Burgos coordinator reported that she is currently in the process of developing a Burgos Intake form. As of now, the Burgos coordinator has been accepting phone calls and e-mails regarding concerns/requests.
- The Burgos coordinator reported to have completed three bilingual certifications. She reported that there is a large number of staff transferring from DHS to DCFS. Six to eight of those transfers have returned to DHS and they were in DCP roles. This was reported to be affecting the front line staff.

- The Burgos coordinator reported that management decided to eliminate the bilingual ACR position in Cook Central. This position was reported to have been moved to the Southern Region. An ACR position is currently vacant at 1911 S. Indiana. It was reported that two ACR positions have been eliminated in total; one position in Cook South and the most recent position in Cook Central. This was reported to significantly affect POS agencies in Cook Central. Efforts have been made by the Burgos Coordinator and the Office of Affirmative Action (OAA) to inquire about the most recent ACR position but they have been given the run around. LAC members also reported that the bilingual sexual abuse coordinator position was also eliminated. This issue will be address by the Burgos Coordinator and OAA with the Director along with the ACR positions. Jose Garcia made the following motion-“LAC council members to write a letter to the Director to discuss concerns (positions listed above) and to request a meeting date”. Seconded by Lisa Marie Perez. Motion passed unanimously. An Ad hoc committee was created made up of the following; Juanita, Lourdes, Jose R, Jose L, Alex and Yvonne. This will be completed by the next meeting 11/14/18. It was reported that this is an urgent matter and needs to be addressed immediately.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Child Safety and Permanency: Tabled
- b. Community risk reduction and permanency: Tabled
- c. Data Validity and Disproportionality: Tabled
- d. Strategic Communications: The Noticias newsletter completed in time for the Latino Family Institute Day.

F. Old/ New Business

- Membership Rules/Quorum and Attendance- It was reported that LAC membership attendance is imperative to do business. Member’s attendance will be reviewed and letters will be sent to those not attending regularly to state their intent in regard to their ongoing participation.
- Lisa Marie Perez motion to amend by-laws to increase POS representation to reflect child welfare population (87%). Motion second by Jose Garcia. Further discussion tabled for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/14/18 at the DCFS office located at 6201 S. Emerald in Chicago.

Meeting minutes submitted by Beatriz Ramirez