



Latino Advisory Council Monthly Meeting  
Online WebEx Meeting  
**February 16, 2022**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**

## Amended Minutes

**Chair-Person:**

Julia Monzon

**Past Chair-Person:**

Nancy Rodriguez

**Chair-Elect:**

Yeni Rojas

**Co-Scribes:**

Vanessa Castro  
Rosa Molina Lassalle

**DCFS Members:**

Olivia Chavez  
Coty Corcoles  
Jose Garcia  
Juan Maldonado  
Evelyn Martinez  
Melissa Martinez  
Beatriz Ramirez  
Liliana Romero

**POS Members:**

Jennifer Contreras  
Dennis Delgado

**Director's Liason:**

Jose J. Lopez  
Latino Services

**Committees:**

Child Safety, Risk  
Reduction and  
Permanency

Data Analysis,  
Disproportionality  
and Staffing

Strategic  
Communications

POS Collaboration

Latino Family  
Institute

Professional  
Development Day

**Present:** Yeni Rojas, Julia Monzon, Azalea Mejia, Olivia Chavez, Beatriz Ramirez, Evelyn Martinez, Jose Garcia, Jose Lopez, Juan Maldonado, Melissa Martinez, Nancy Rodriguez, Moises Jimenez, Liliana Romero and Jennifer Contreras,

**Excused:** Vanessa Castro, Rosa Molina Lasalle, Coty Corcoles.

**Unexcused:**

**Guests:** Tarcisio Ornelas (Be Strong Family), Zachary Zúñiga (Casa Central), Greishen Rodríguez (Be Strong Family), Lilian Jimenez (Associate Director, Office of Welcoming Centers, Illinois Department of Human Services DHS- lilian.jimenez@illinois.gov), Delyris Martinez (DHS- 312-793-7120).

**A. Welcome**

Participants were welcomed and introductions were completed.

**B. Positive Vibes**

Members were able to share positive experiences.

**C. Review & Approval of January 2022 Minutes**

The January 2022 minutes were reviewed, amended and approved by a majority vote.

**D. Committee Written Reports (Review of retreat and committee annual goals**

- a. Child Safety, Risk Reduction and Permanency – Moises Jimenez-  
Moises Jimenez is the Co-cochair and Melissa Martinez the Co-chair.  
Wants to add the data committee to meetings.
- b. Data Analysis, Disproportionality and Staffing – Nancy Rodriguez-  
Tabled
- c. Strategic Communications – Julia Monzon  
Asked for Noticias articles, pictures information. Articles are to be informative including culturally informative pieces.



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- d. POS Collaboration– Jennifer Contreras & Jose J. Lopez had a good meeting and invited their guests and Members to LAC meetings. Members were encouraged to invite for the Youth in Care Affinity Meetings. Youth receive a stipend. Spanish speaking services were also discussed. Professional development Day information provided and Members were invited to participate in the PDD planning committee and event.

**E. Office of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Report by Jose Lopez.**

Jose reported that they are conducting Auto show recruitment this week. DCFS met with the workforce legislative committee (Task Force). To provide a report about bilingual meetings. Meeting today again. State offices need bilingual staff including supervisors. Revolving door strategy discussed. DEI is advocating for more bilingual positions in different regions. Offices are short staffed and staff feel overloaded. An Elgin office staff reached due to being overloaded and needs help and support as a retention plan. Jose reported that he is planning to go to each office and meet with administrators and discuss better strategies to support staff and reduce caseloads. Rule 428 was reviewed with LAC members today and submitted to Kara Hamilton with revision recommendations.

CWAC Update -Tabled

**F. Old Business**

- a. Nominations for Scribe and Chair Elect today: Nominations close March 15, 2022.

Scribe nomination: Melissa Martinez, Azalea Mejia, Rosa Maria De Molina-Lassalle, Jose Garcia and Olivia Chavez

Chair Nomination: Azalea Mejia, Jenifer Contreras (**Accepted**) Melissa Martinez, and Moises Jimenez. Final Voting on March 16, 2022 LAC meeting.

- b. Open Meetings Act-New Members

Mandatory Open Meeting website is available- New information available and updated information related to virtual meetings. New members are to



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be completed it before within 30 days LAC member. All other members suggested to take it as updated training avalibale. Send certificate to Yeni Rojas.

Yeni Rojas will keep records of required trainings Ethics annually and OMA one time unless updated. Avalibale for DCFS and working on POS LAC members.

c. Joint Council Chair Meeting

Councils Chairs met on 02-02-22 and discussed next Join meeting on April 20, 2022 hosted by Asian Committee.

d. By Law Review Group Meeting (POS/Professional Dev. Day Chair, other)

There was discussion to add POS chair as the chair of Professional Development Day. A motion was placed and passed with majority vote and one abstention. Jennifer Contreras will be sending Invitation dates for Professional development Day Planning Committee on April 2022. Awards criteria will be reviewed and updated in future Committee meetings.

[The Purchase Of Services \(POS\) Collaboration Chair will act as the Chair of the Professional Development Day Committee.](#)

428 Rules reviewed and feedback will be sent to Kara Hamilton and Jose Lopez Today

## G. New Business

[Welcoming center Information presentation given by DHS](#)

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=117419>

## H. Open Forum

- Azalea Mejia asked for detailed information regarding procedures to support and retain staff. Evelyn Martinez reported about Spanish speaking cases assignment- If not Spanish speaking staff are not available workers are using the language line.
- Tierney Stutz Deputy Director of Child Protection Investigations is leading a review of policy procedures 300 Appendix E related to child welfare practices. DEI worked on reviewing Appendix E before and Evelyn Martinez was part of it. Now Evelyn Martinez was invited to review Appendix E, she will follow up with LAC at the next meeting.



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- Zachary stated there is no standard rules across the board about case load as part of retention plan for new generations. Julia stated there is a standard across the state but No everyone is following it. Zachary asked what the consequences are of people not following up with it.

- Azalea shared this information: New legislation would arm child welfare workers with mace. Center Square - February 15, 2022

In the wake of the deaths of two Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) case workers, efforts are underway to better protect them. Senate Bill 4165 would allow a DCFS worker to be trained to carry spray protective devices such as mace and pepper spray on child neglect calls. If approved, Illinois State Police would be responsible for the training of DCFS workers on how to effectively use pepper spray. The bill, which has bipartisan support, would require DCFS to provide funding for the training program.

Also: Senate Bill 4165: <https://bit.ly/36nF3uZ>

[https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/new-legislation-would-arm-child-welfare-workers-with-mace/article\\_7019395e-8ea8-11ec-b215-87d50c46bcbc.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/new-legislation-would-arm-child-welfare-workers-with-mace/article_7019395e-8ea8-11ec-b215-87d50c46bcbc.html)

- Melissa Martinez reported that an exam is no longer necessary to obtain a Licensed Social Worker License (LSW)

**I. Next General Meeting – March 16, 2022**