



Seguir Adelante:

Striving to Ensure Best Practice for
Our Latino Communities through
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



DCFS LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL **FAMILY INSTITUTE DAY**

AN ONLINE VIRTUAL EVENT



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021

SPONSORED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marc D. Smith, DCFS Director

Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Chief of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

José Javier López, Chief of Latino Services

Julia Monzón, Chairperson of the DCFS Latino Advisory Council

Nancy Rodríguez, Chairperson of the Latino Family Institute Day

Arabel Alva Rosales, IHCC, Master of Ceremonies

Noam Ostrander, Chair & Associate Professor, DePaul University School of Social Work



October 22, 2021

¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

Welcome to the Department of Children and Family Services' 33rd Annual Latino Family Institute Day. DCFS is proud to collaborate with the Latino Advisory Council, its executive committee and our educational partner DePaul University to ensure that events like these continue taking place to generate ideas and policies that will guide both our immediate actions and our larger plans for our future. We understand the importance of serving Latino families by recognizing their specific needs in a holistic and comprehensive way, as well as remaining culturally sensitive.

I am committed to shaping DCFS into a department fully responsive to the needs of the children and families we touch by providing care and services that accounts for their culture, language and background. As we work to ensure the safety of every child in our care and promote positive changes in families, it is imperative that every child and every family that comes to our attention is treated equitably.

The theme of this year's Institute Day is: ***"Seguir Adelante: Striving to Ensure Best Practice for Our Latino Communities through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."***

Earlier this year, the Office of Affirmative Action was renamed to the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. It is charged with helping to ensure the department has a diverse staff that encompasses the unique differences, life experiences, creativity and expertise that individuals bring to the field of child welfare. It is our goal to ensure that staff represents our service population, and very importantly, are culturally aware of the youth and families served by DCFS. This is proven to produce better outcomes for children and their families and reduce disparities in the child welfare system.

My hope is that as a participant in the Institute, you will not only enhance your skills, but also learn new strategies and tools that will support the important role you play in interacting with our children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Smith".

Marc D. Smith, Director

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services





Thank you for coming!

For 33 years the Latino Advisory Council have created partnerships to ensure that the Latino Family Institute Day resonates and is relevant to each one of you. This year's theme ***Seguir Adelante: Striving to Ensure Best Practices for Our Latino Communities through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*** demonstrates our awareness of the importance to lead and serve through this lens in our day to day work. I encourage you to take advantage of the day to learn, ask questions, be inspired and walk away with optimism. Throughout the state of Illinois, children and families in our care are impacted by how we provide them services. It's my hope that today adds value to our approach of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our families.

We are looking forward to 2022 Latino Family Institute day and ask that you please fill out your evaluation at the end of the day. Your answers will help bring quality workshops and presenters that interest you and are beneficial.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this event including the planning committee, DePaul University School of Social Work, our guest speakers, workshop presenters and DCFS Director Marc D. Smith for his commitment but most of all you *thank you*; without you we would have no Latino Family Institute Day.

Con Cariño,

Julia Monzón, LCSW

2021 Latino Advisory Council Chairperson





Dear Latino Family Institute Day Participants,

On behalf of DePaul University and the Department of Social Work, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Latino Family Institute Day!

This year's theme, "*Seguir Adelante:*" Striving to ensure best practice for our Latino communities through diversity, equity, and inclusion," is incredibly important for us to move forward together and reach out to individuals and families who may often be excluded. Chicago has a long tradition of segregation, which has been further exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am hopeful that we can push ourselves to go beyond a notion of getting "back to normal" and to create a courageous vision that is more inclusive and equitable for Latino children and families. Today offers us an opportunity to engage in that creative process together.

While today's event will be remote, we believe you will have opportunities to engage in learning activities, see old friends and meet new friends. I wish all of you the best on this Latino Family Institute Day.

In peace and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Noam Ostrander".

Noam "Nomi" Ostrander, PhD, MPH, LCSW

Chair and Associate Professor



¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

On behalf of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's Latino Services Office, I welcome you to the 33rd Annual Latino Family Institute Day being coordinated by the DCFS Latino Advisory Council. The Latino Advisory Council has been constantly addressing issues during the year affecting our Latino families and children and these issues will be addressed during this year's institute and are reflected in our theme:

Seguir Adelante: Striving to Ensure Best Practice for Our Latino Communities through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

We have faced difficult times this past year due to COVID-19, but our staff have stepped up and continued working during this pandemic. The Latino Advisory Council invited guest speakers this year who will provide needed information and resources which will assist both DCFS and private agency staff. Virtual communications have changed the way child welfare services are provided and we are always looking for best practices to stay ahead of the changing times. I hope you will gain a good understanding of the resources presented to you during this training institute.

I want to thank DePaul University's School of Social Work for partnering with us this year and assisting us in hosting the virtual Institute Day. I also want to thank our Latino Advisory Council's Coordinating Committee for their hard work in making this training institute possible.

Thank you,

José Javier López

Chief

Office of Latino Services

DCFS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Keynote Speaker



William Delgado

William “Willie” Delgado is a retired Illinois state legislator who served in the House of Representatives and the State Senate from the 2nd legislative district. The district includes Humboldt Park, Hermosa, Belmont Cragin and more. Willie was the first Latino to serve in both the House and Senate. He has also served in a variety of chairmanships in both chambers, including human services, elementary ed. public health and consumer protection committees; and served as vice chairman of the committee on executive appointments. Senator Delgado was named to the commission on Human Services by former Governor Quinn. At one time the former senator was certified as a child welfare specialist in both Illinois and Florida. He was also a certified felony/parole and probation officer in Florida. Willie now shares his time between Chicago and Puerto Rico.

Member Directory

Latino Advisory Council Members

Julia Monzón, LAC Chairperson

Community Resources/Family Advocacy Centers, DCFS

Nancy Rodríguez, LAC Planning Committee Chairperson

Clinical Practice and Development, DCFS

Jennifer Contreras, LAC/POS Planning Committee Chairperson

Operations/Placement, National Youth Advocate, POS

Patricia Aguilar

Licensing, Child Link, POS

Juanita Calderon

Placement Supervisor

Vanessa Castro

Social Service Program Planner, Early Childhood Ed., DCFS

Olivia Chavez

Licensing, DCFS

Coty Corcoles

Operations/Placement, DCFS

Dennis Delgado

Community-Based Family Services, One Hope United, POS

José R. García

Clinical Practice and Professional Development,
Cook Central Region, DCFS

Sydney Juárez

Clinical/Nursing Department, DCFS

José Javier López

Chief, Office of Latino Services, DCFS

Juan Maldonado

Operations/Investigations, DCFS

Rosa Maria Molina-Lassalle

Office Coordinator, DCFS

Evelyn Martínez

Operations/Investigations Supervisor, DCFS

Azalea Mejía

Social Service Program Planner, DCFS

Beatriz Ramírez

Recruitment & Resources, Cook County, DCFS

Liliana Romero

Clinical Practice & Professional Development, DCFS

Yeni Rojas, LAC Chair-Elect

Division of Child Services/Cook RMU, DCFS

Latino Advisory Council Planning Committee Members

The following Planning Committee members are responsible for making this Latino Family Institute Day a success!

Julia Monzón, LAC Chairperson

Family Advocacy Centers Statewide Manager, DCFS

Nancy Rodríguez,

LAC Planning Committee Chairperson

Clinical Division, DCFS

Yeni Rojas, LAC Chair-Elect

Residential Monitoring, DCFS

Vanessa Castro, Scribe

Education & Transitional Services, DCFS

José R. García

Clinical Division, DCFS

Jennifer Contreras

Placement, National Youth Advocate Program

Evelyn Martínez

Child Protection, DCFS

José Javier López

DEI, Office of Latino Services, DCFS

Beatriz Ramírez

Resources and Recruitment, DCFS

Azalea Mejía

Contracts and Grants, DCFS

Olivia Chavez

Licensing, DCFS

Rosa Maria Molina-Lassalle

Child Protection, DCFS

Melissa Martínez

Child Protection, DCFS

Juan Maldonado

Child Protection, DCFS

33rd DCFS LAC Family Institute Day At-a-Glance



8:00 am - 9:00 am	Exhibitors
	Registration
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Welcome/Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabel Alva Rosales, IHCC, Master of Ceremonies• Julia Monzón, Chairperson of the DCFS Latino Advisory Council• Nancy Rodríguez, Chairperson of the Latino Family Institute Day• Noam Ostrander, Chair & Associate Professor, DePaul University School of Social Work• Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Chief Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion• Tracey King, Deputy Chief of Staff for Marc D. Smith, DCFS Director
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Keynote Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Delgado (Former State Senator)
10:30 am - 10:55 am	Morning Break (International Latino Fashion Show)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Workshop Session I (Virtual Breakout Rooms) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Business Equities2. Best Practices for LGBTQI+ Youth in Care3. A Safe Haven–COVID Medical Respite4. Domestic Violence in Child Welfare5. Transitioning Youth in Care with Intellectual Disabilities into Adult Services
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (El Bandolero Live Music)
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Awards Presentation
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Workshop Session II (Breakout Rooms) <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Domestic Violence 1017. Latin American Consulates and Memorandum of Understanding8. Accessing DCFS Post-Secondary Education Programs9. The Opioid Crisis in Illinois
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Closing Session and Remarks
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	"Mr. Sortos Class Videos"

Session I Workshops 11 am – 12:30 pm

WORKSHOP 1: Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Business Inequities

Presenter: Adrian Rodriguez

The speaker will explain three important steps needed to formalize any business in the state of Illinois. First, he will explain the process of filing a Liability Company (LLC), the fees involved and the time it takes for the state to process it. Second, he will speak about the importance of obtaining a FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number) through the IRS and what that number is good for. Additionally, he will go over the process to obtain the city license that is required in the city of Chicago to conduct business.

The speaker will provide multiple resources for the attendees to take advantage of such as the webinars given every Wednesday and Friday by the Chicago Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection.

WORKSHOP 2: Best Practice for LGBTQI+ Youth in Care

Presenter: Juliana Harms

This workshop educates participants regarding the DCFS focus on best practices for working with LGBTQI+ youth in care. DCFS policy/state laws are reviewed, as are guidelines for creating a safe, affirming environment for all youth. The group will examine how best practice can be implemented in every day work with LGBTQI+ youths, their families and substitute caregivers.

WORKSHOP 3: A Safe Haven – COVID Medical Respite

Presenter: Neli Vazquez Rowland

This workshop will cover Safe Haven's innovative, comprehensive approach to service provision. The agency provides individualized community-based services, a state-licensed food and homeless shelter, substance abuse treatment, healthcare, education, job training, placement and phased-housing programs, all administered under one umbrella organization.

WORKSHOP 4: Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

Presenter: Nisha Patel

Domestic violence (DV) is an underlying condition that increases the risk of abuse and neglect to children. This workshop will examine the intersection of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. The workshop will discuss the impact of exposure to violence on children and identify indicators of DV. The workshop will examine cultural factors pertaining to DV in Latino/Hispanic families and discuss the impact of COVID-19 on families experiencing domestic violence.

WORKSHOP 5: Transitioning Youth in Care with Intellectual Disabilities into Adult Services

Presenter: Julee Borland

This workshop will provide detailed information about the transition process for youth in care with intellectual disabilities who will require adult services through DHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities. This training will address eligibility for adult services and service options. The legal process for adult guardianship will also be discussed.

Session II Workshops 1:30 – 3 pm

WORKSHOP 6: Domestic Violence 101

Presenter: Kayla Martinez

Domestic violence is reaching alarming proportions and affects women, men and children of all races and social and economic levels. In order to stem the tide of domestic abuse it is imperative that we as society get a better understanding of the dynamics of abusive relationships as well as the impact these relationships have on the entire family system.

DV101 provides an overview of the dynamics and prevalence of domestic violence, including current statistics; and the dynamics of violence and its complex impact on individuals, families and the community. Topics covered during the training include:

- DV Statistics
- IL Domestic Violence Act
- DV Definition
- Types of Abuse
- Who are the survivors?
- Effects of Abuse on Survivors
- Power and Control Wheel
- Cycle of Abuse
- Myths & Facts about DV

WORKSHOP 7: Latino Consulates United and the Mexican Memorandum of Understanding with DCFS

Presenter: Oscar Alva Delgadillo

The primary purpose of the Latino Consulate is to provide information and assistance to foreign Latino nationals. The consulate processes requests from DCFS on permanency cases according to the MOU/ collaboration agreement with the consulate, provides Know Your Rights presentations and works closely with pro-bono attorneys and community organizations to address issues arising in the immigrant community. The consulate works with DCFS after notification that Latino immigrant children were taken into DCFS care or American born children of Latino immigrant parents were taken into DCFS care.

WORKSHOP 8: Accessing DCFS Post-Secondary Education Program

Presenter: Laura C. Gutierrez

This workshop will provide information to help educate youth in care transitioning to college about available DCFS post-secondary education programs and provide current information on changes to each program. Furthermore, participants will learn about a major change to the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program and review the requirements and benefits of participating in the Youth in College Program and the DCFS Scholarship program.

WORKSHOP 9: The Opioid Crisis in Illinois

Presenter: Omar Corro

Addiction does not discriminate. It affects our friends, neighbors and loved ones. The country is experiencing an opioid pandemic and our Latino communities are not exempt. By reviewing statistics on a national and state level, healthcare providers can use include best practice therapeutic techniques that focus on diversity, equity and inclusion to treat substance use disorders in our communities.

Master of Ceremonies



Arabel Alva Rosales, JD

Arabel Alva Rosales is the President and CEO of AAR Tech. With over 17 years as a successful management and technology firm, AAR Tech specializes in providing management and telecom services to large public and private institutions in the Midwest. She is Vice Chairman of the CTA Board of Directors and serves on several other boards, including the IHCC, WBDC and the City Club of Chicago.

Arabel is the proud founder of Pivoting in Heels, a digital not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering women by providing them with the support to enhance their self-esteem, leadership skills and mental health. It is Arabel's vision to have underprivileged women be successful with their education, careers and personal lives through mentorship and training.

Pivoting in Heels, NFP raises funds for scholarships presented to young Latinas and other BIPOC women. This year, Pivoting in Heels, NFP will be the host and beneficiary of RUNWAY LATINx: a fashion week highlighting top Latinx designers, providing an experience in gastronomy, mixology and entertainment.

Arabel holds an undergraduate degree from Mundelein at Loyola University in liberal arts with a major in business administration. She earned her J.D. from DePaul College of Law and has over 30 national recognitions and awards. In 2020 she was named one of the 50 Most Influential Latinos by *Negocios Now*. Arabel can be contacted at: 773-865-7313 or at ArabelAr@AlvaRosales.com.

Presenter Biographies



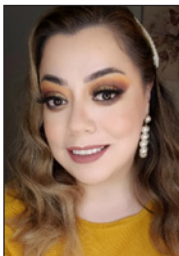
Noam "Nomi" Ostrander (they/she)

Nomi is a gender, sex and relationship therapist, social worker, teacher, writer and musician whose community-based work focuses largely on gun violence, gender, sex and disability. Nomi is an associate professor and chair at DePaul University's Department of Social Work. Dr. Ostrander has published and presented her work in publications and at conferences across the globe. They previously served as the director for the Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative, which brought together Chicago-based universities, health systems and communities to explore community-based solutions to gun violence and structural racism. She has been featured in national media publications like Time Magazine, The New York Times, The Boston Globe and the Chicago.



Kayla Martinez

Kayla serves as the domestic violence training coordinator at Mujeres Latinas en Acción, the longest standing Latina-led organization in the nation. Kayla facilitates Mujeres' 42-hour domestic violence training in Spanish which consists of volunteers, students and other professionals interested in obtaining their certification. She also provides presentations on domestic violence to community members, parents and universities in an effort to expand education on domestic violence and prevention, and provide information on the resources available.



Laura Gutierrez

Laura Gutierrez is one of two post-secondary education specialists via a contract with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign School of Social Work and the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services. Laura holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. Her role within DCFS is to assist youth in care who are participating in the Youth in College and DCFS Scholarship programs. Furthermore, Laura works closely with the Education and Training Voucher coordinator, caseworkers, caregivers and current youth in care as they plan their transition from high school to college.



Omar Corro

Omar Corro is a certified alcohol and other drug use counselor working in the field of addiction for over 10 years. He began his career as a substance use counselor, was supervisor of a treatment facility and then became director of the Division of Substance Use for a not-for-profit organization. Omar is currently the senior operations director for Rincon Family Services Inc. and the running candidate for the IAMAAT (Illinois Association for Medication Assisted Addiction Treatment) presidency.

Presenter Biographies



Nisha Patel

Nisha Patel is a licensed clinical social worker; and is the statewide administrator of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, through the NIU Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault. In this capacity, she provides case consultation, training and program oversight to promote a comprehensive statewide departmental response to families experiencing domestic violence. Ms. Patel has over 20 years of experience in the field of domestic violence and violence prevention, and has worked with adult and child survivors and perpetrators of abuse. Ms. Patel has been an adjunct professor with the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University and field instructor for MSW students from Loyola University, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Chicago, and Dominican University. Ms. Patel also served as vice chair of the DCFS Asian American Advisory Council.



Neli Vazquez Rowland

Neli Vazquez Rowland hails from one of Chicago's immigrant communities called 'Little Village'. Today she is an influential force and a passionate advocate for the homeless. In 1994, Neli and her husband Brian launched A Safe Haven to address and heal the root causes of the growing opioid and homeless epidemics. Now, the organization is frequently lauded as one of the most successful, vertically-integrated delivery systems and continuum of care models that provides people access to transitional housing and individualized social services, including job training and placement and supportive and permanent affordable housing. A Safe Haven has helped 130,000 people transform their lives to short and long-term independence and self-sufficiency. Her authentic, courageous and visionary approach to confronting and solving one of America's most challenging issues has made her a highly sought-after speaker by top media, academia and local, national and international public policy stages. She is an award-winning humanitarian and entrepreneur, an author of landmark state legislation and the creator of Chicago's first medical COVID-19 respite center serving vulnerable populations in need of a place to isolate. Neli also serves on various business associations, academic and governmental boards. She is the author of the book *Healing*, an anthology of personal success stories told by alumni of A Safe Haven and her soon to be released memoir called "*An Elegant Solution*".



Julee Borland

Julee Borland is the transition to adult services manager for Kaleidoscope. In this position, she manages the transition process from DCFS services for youth in care with intellectual disabilities, into adult services. Julee is a licensed clinical social worker and has worked in the child welfare field for over 20 years.



Adrian Rodriguez

Adrian Rodriguez serves as a business advisor and data specialist at the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has dedicated his professional career to advocating for his community, and has experience working for the government, nonprofit organizations and in the private sector.

Presenter Biographies



Juliana Harms

Juliana Harms, LCSW, ACSW, C-ACYFSW, began her career working with victims of violent crimes as the victim-witness coordinator in the Livingston County State's Attorney's Office from 1986 to 1988. She joined Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in 1988, serving in multiple front line and administrative roles in Operations. She joined the Clinical Division in 2008 and now is the associate deputy of behavioral health. Ms. Harms is an active advocate/consultant regarding best practices for serving LGBTQI+ youth and families.



Billy Adolfo Muñoz Miranda

Billy Adolfo Muñoz Miranda, a native of Guatemala City, began his diplomatic career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 in the Department of Consular Affairs, which motivated him to take an interest in migration issues and needs of the Guatemalan community in the United States. In 2008, he was appointed as Vice Consul of Guatemala at the Consulate General of Guatemala in Los Angeles, where he oversaw the Department of Protection. In 2014, he was entrusted to open the new Guatemalan Consulate in San Bernardino, California with the intention of decentralizing the services of the Consulate General in Los Angeles and providing assistance to the Guatemalan detainees in the largest detention center on the west coast in Adelanto, California. In 2018 he was promoted to consul general of Guatemala in Chicago, a consulate that serves nationals in eight states, with the challenge of providing comprehensive and efficient services to the Guatemalan community in the region.



Oscar Alva Delgadillo

Oscar Alva has been a member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 1998. He currently serves as consul for the Protection Department and Legal Affairs at the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago. Previously he served at Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as director for international assistance on security; as vice consul to the Consulate of Mexico in McAllen, Texas; vice consul at the Consulate of Mexico in Eagle Pass, Texas and attaché at the Consular Office of the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. Oscar is a native of Mexico City and has his bachelor's degree in communication science from Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City and diplomas in USA Law from the University of California in Davis; higher course in national security in Mexico and regional security in North America at Jenkins Graduate School-University of the Americas Puebla-UDLAP in conjunction with the Office of Public Diplomacy of the United States Embassy in Mexico. In 2018 he obtained a diploma in U.S. criminal procedure and immigration law at the University of Arizona-Tucson School of Law Campus, Arizona.

Special Thanks!



The Latino Advisory Council would like to acknowledge the following individuals and institutions for their generous contributions.

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Marc D. Smith

Director, DCFS

DePaul University

Noam Ostrander

Jessica Bishop-Royce et al.

Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Daniel L. Fitzgerald

José J. López

Burgos Award

Lourdes Colón Rodríguez, Burgos Coordinator

Burgos Family

Celeste Peña Award

Peña Family

Arabel Alva Rosales

Office of Communications

Deborah Lopez

Jen Florent

Bert Tijerina

Andrew Martinez

Brooke Taylor

DCFS Office of Learning and Professional Development

Alix Young

Lead Project Assistant, University of Illinois U-C, School of Social Work

"Mr. Sorto's Class"

YouTube and Facebook

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Institute Training Credit

All registered attendees are expected to arrive on time and attend the full Institute in order to receive DCFS clock hours, Social Work CEUs, LCPC CEUs and MFT CEUs.

A maximum of 4 CEUs and DCFS Clock Hours may be awarded to participants who attend eligible sessions.



LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL



Illinois Department of
DCFS
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