

32nd Annual



2020: Sharpening our Vision During Challenging Times



DCFS LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL FAMILY INSTITUTE DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Latino Advisory Council
in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago

Marc. D. Smith, Acting Director – Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Creasia Finney Hairston, Ph D, Dean and Professor – University of Illinois at Chicago

Nancy Rodríguez, Chairperson – DCFS Latino Advisory Council

Juanita Calderón, Chairperson – LAC Family Institute Planning Committee

Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald, DCFS Chief of Affirmative Action

José Javier López, DCFS Office of Latino Services

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

JB Pritzker
Governor

Marc D. Smith
Acting Director



October 23, 2020

¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our 32nd Annual Latino Family Institute Day. The Department of Children and Family Services is consistently focusing on providing better services to our families and children. It is very important to reach our Latino families by recognizing their specific needs in a holistic and comprehensive way, as well as remaining culturally sensitive.

The theme of this year's Institute Day is: *"2020 Sharpening our Vision during Challenging Times."*

Our Keynote Speaker, Roberto Dansie is a nationally renowned psychologist, who will speak on how COVID-19 has affected people and how we can cope within our own personal lives.

The Latino Advisory Council is working in collaboration with the Office of Affirmative Action Latino Services, and our partners at the University of Illinois' Jane Adams School of Social Work.

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, Acting Director

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

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Welcome to our 32nd annual and first virtual DCFS Latino Family Institute event hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago. My name is Nancy Rodríguez, Chairperson for the DCFS Latino Advisory Council. I am honored to Chair for a second year to continue to advocate on behalf of the children and families DCFS and POS serves and on behalf of DCFS and POS staff. I have enjoyed working at DCFS for the last 20 years. Together and united, there are no challenges we cannot overcome. With perseverance everyone can become more knowledgeable, united, resilient, empowered and united in purpose.

I want to share with you that we at DCFS and LAC are aware of the ongoing issues of disproportionality that affects the children and families we serve. DCFS continues to address these issues of in collaboration with the Governor's Office, the legislative general assembly, community organizations, advocates and other stakeholders. The children and families we serve deserve to live in a community that has adequate and equitable opportunities and resources so that they can thrive in health, happiness, and resilience.

We are so grateful to have you participate in our first virtual institute day. Our purpose is motivate and empower you as you listen to our keynote speaker, participate in workshops, read the exhibitor material. Please feel free to network with each other during the breaks and through the Chat feature.

Thank you to DCFS Director Smith, University of Illinois at Chicago staff, DCFS and POS staff, exhibitors, and workshop presenters and especially all of you who registered to be here.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rodríguez

DCFS Latino Advisory Council Chairperson



Dear Latino Family Institute Day Participants,

The year 2020 has brought many challenges for children, families and social service providers. The COVID-19 pandemic's loss of lives, sheltering in place requirements and disproportionate impact on communities of color are foremost in mind. Multiple incidents of racially-motivated police violence have led to social and civil unrest with ongoing protests across the nation, and anti-immigrant sentiment supported by government policies continues unabated. There are, at the same time, many ongoing needs and conditions that put the wellbeing of many children, especially those who live in poor communities, at risk.

Today's Institute provides a venue for us to discuss these troubling events and situations, their impact on children and families, and effective service approaches and strategies that will make a positive difference in people's lives. The Jane Addams College of Social Work is, therefore, pleased to join the Latino Advisory Council in hosting and cosponsoring the 2020 Annual Latino Family Institute Day. We have a long history of working collaboratively with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Latino Advisory Council and are pleased to continue that partnership.

The pandemic does not allow us to gather in person. There will, nevertheless, be opportunities for networking, seeing new and old faces, and, of course, engaging in learning activities. I wish all of you the best on this Latino Family Institute Day.

Sincerely,

Creasie Finney Hairston, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

JB Pritzker
Governor

Marc D. Smith
Acting Director



¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

On behalf of Affirmative Action's Latino Services Office, I welcome you to the 32nd Annual Latino Family Institute Day being coordinated by the DCFS Director's Latino Advisory Council. The Latino Advisory Council has been very active addressing issues affecting our Latino families and children. Our Theme this year:

"2020 Sharpening our Vision during Challenging Times"

This year we are going virtual due to COVID-19, the Latino Family Institute Day is including in addition to DCFS and Private Agency staff, social work students to help them gain a general understanding of DCFS programs and services. We have invited guest speakers this year who will address how child welfare services are being offered in a virtual way.

I want to thank the University of Illinois' Jane Adams 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 sure this "Training Institute" takes place. If any of you wish to join the Latino Advisory Council, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

José Javier López

Chief

Office of Latino Services

DCFS Office of Affirmative Action

Affirmative Action/Latino Services
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Keynote Speaker



Dr. Roberto Dansie

Roberto Dansie, PhD is widely regarded as the most eloquent and accessible contemporary authority on cultural diversity. He is a nationally renowned speaker and Clinical Psychologist. He is an author and humanitarian. A dynamic speaker, each one of his presentations is like a Navajo sand painting, created for the specific healing of those who receive it. Born to a healing tradition, by the age of 13 Roberto began his initiation in Native Medicine as assistant to his grandmother, Exiquia Vallejo. His life service of healing trauma began when she introduced him to Toltec and Mayan medicines. These included methods for healing susto & espanto (shock & trauma) – the two key modalities of psychosocial Narrative Healing. In 1981, Roberto won the World Championship of Martial Arts in Pusan, Korea. He has shared and taught these skills to youth and families throughout the world. Surgeon General Satcher commended Roberto for “Being a dedicated foot soldier for the health of the nation”

Roberto founded his speaking, consulting, and community development company Cultural Wisdom™ in 1998 based on a need he saw to preserve the wisdom of our ancestors. As a Toltec Tribal member with a professional background as executive director of rural, migrant, and Indian health organizations such as Pit River Health Services (Indian Health) and Del Norte Clinics (Migrant Health), Roberto has a unique perspective on rural health and communities of color. As Executive Director of the Urban League he has served the urban African American community in Florida helping to combat the drug abuse epidemic through cultural community rich programs such as celebration of Kwanzaa and cultural ambassador programs with different African countries.

Early in his career in public health, Roberto met with a public health crisis the world had never seen before, the emergence of HIV. He saw first-hand as a substance abuse counselor and director of community outreach at The Boulder County Health Department the immediate impacts of fear on public health, particularly in communities of color. Instead of giving into the fear, Roberto created an unusual program, the second needle exchange program in the nation. He has continued to lead the work for HIV & Communities of Color, with National Minority Education and Howard University College of Medicine, creating “The Compendium of Culturally Competent Promising Practices”. Arizona Public Media’s special report on Roberto’s work “How Cultural Sensitivity Can Improve Health Care” and the PBS interview at University of Arizona with Dr. Sally Reel about his work in rural health, “Culture and Care” speak to the relevance of culture as a part of health and healing.

Roberto is the recipient of several awards including: Humanitarian of Year from The International Medical & Education Trust of Columbia Missouri University, the distinguished “Mounted Medallion Award” from The National Indian Health Board, The Cesar Chavez Award from National Migrant Education, The Federal Award from the Administration on Aging and The Illinois Association of Agencies and Community Organizations Migrant Advocacy Award for Exemplary Dedication to IAACOMA and its mission (The largest rural health organization in the nation.)

Latino Advisory Council Planning Committee Members

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

DCFS Members

Nancy Rodríguez, LAC Chairperson
Clinical Practice and Development

Juanita Calderón, LAC Planning Committee Past Chairperson
Operations/Placement Supervisor

Julia Monzón, LAC Chair-Elect
Family Advocacy Center Statewide Program Monitor

Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald, Chief
Office of Affirmative Action

José Javier López, Chief
Office of Latino Services

Vanessa Castro
Social Service Program Planner, Early Childhood Education

Coty Corcoles
Operations/Child Welfare Advanced Specialist

José R. García
Office of Clinical Practice and Professional Development

Sydney Juárez
Nursing/Clinical

Evelyn Martínez
Operations/DCP Supervisor

Azalea Mejía
Social Service Program Planner

Beatriz Ramírez
Cook County R&R Supervisor

Liliana Romero
Office of Clinical Practice and Professional Development

POS Members

Jennifer Contreras
Operations/Placement, National Youth Advocate

Patricia Aguilar
Operations/Licensing, One Hope United

Cynthia Valentin
Operations/Intact, Association House

Daizy Salgado
Operations/Placement, Childlink

If interested in joining the planning committee, please contact Juanita Calderón
juanita.calderon@illinois.gov

32nd DCFS LAC Family Institute Day At-a-Glance



8:30 am - 3:30 am	Exhibits via Drop Box
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration (DJ Ricardo Salgado)
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Welcome/Opening Session (General Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beatriz Ramirez, MC• Nancy Rodriguez, LAC Chairperson• Creasia Finney Hairston, Ph D, Dean Dir. Jane Addams• Daniel Fitzgerald, Chief Office of Affirmative Action• Marc D. Smith, DCFS Acting Director
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Keynote Speaker (General Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roberto Dansie, Ph D (Nationally Renowned Psychologist)
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Morning Break (DJ Ricardo Salgado)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Workshop Session I (Breakout Rooms) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Working with Suicidal Youth in 2020: Telehealth Challenges2. The Law of Intentionality (Growth Doesn't Just Happen)3. The Transition to Adulthood of the Undocumented Childhood Arrivals4. COVID-19's Impact on the Latino Community
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (DJ Ricardo Salgado)
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Awards (General Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Contreras
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Workshop Session II (Breakout Rooms) <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Understanding COVID-19 Traumatic Impact on Children and Adolescents' Development6. State of Illinois Employment Process7. Domestic Violence 1018. Thriving: Molding the therapeutic experience for adolescent substance use treatment
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Closing Session and Remarks (General Session)

Session I Workshops 11 am – 12:30 pm

WORKSHOP 1: Working with Suicidal Youth in 2020: Telehealth Challenges

Presenter: Dr. Jonathan Singer, Loyola University at Chicago Associate Professor of Social Work

Working with suicidal youth is identified as one of the most stressful clinical situations. The need to use telehealth to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic has raised questions about best practices for providing professional services for suicidal clients. In this webinar we will address basic suicide risk assessment and discuss the technology modifications necessary to assure professional care.

WORKSHOP 2: The Law of Intentionality (Growth Doesn't Just Happen)

Presenter: Sherry Cobbins, DCFS Grant Administrator

Achieving dreams, goals or aspirations require a mindset of intentionality. Individuals need to learn how to bridge the gaps that prevent them from achieving their highest potential in their personal or professional life. Each of us need to learn how to bridge the gaps that get us stuck and prevent our personal growth. Intentionality is the key, it starts your pattern to develop a growth plan.

WORKSHOP 3: The Transition to Adulthood of the Undocumented Children Arrivals

Presenter: Dr. Daysi Diaz-Strong, UIC Assistant Professor of Social Work

This workshop will highlight the barriers legal exclusion creates as undocumented immigrants who arrived in childhood come of age in the United States. Attention will be paid to how age-at-arrival influences the challenges encountered and how gender and legal exclusion intersect to shape disparate pathways.

WORKSHOP 4: COVID-19's Impact on the Latino Community

Presenter: Roberto Valdez, Latino Policy Forum

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every person in every corner of this country, but it has disproportionately impact communities in color. Over 60% of all COVID cases in the City of Chicago are Latinos, and cumulatively, Latino COVID cases in the state are close to 4 times more than Whites. The Latino Policy Forum has been tracking COVID Data since the start of the pandemic and has participated in surveying Illinois Latinos and Latino-serving organizations to understand how the pandemic has impacted the community. The Forum will share these data, results and raise concerns and questions around Latinos and COVID-19.

Session II Workshops 1:30 – 3 pm

WORKSHOP 5: Understanding COVID-19 Traumatic Impact on Children and Adolescents' Development

Presenter: Dr. Ana Fernandez, Clinical Intervention for Placement Preservation and Psychiatric Hospital Staffing's Facilitator

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected our children and adolescents developmental process. It has disrupted their need for socialization, structure and security. They have become socially isolated from their peers and extended family. Social distancing, lack of connections, and parental stress have led to an increase in mental health symptomology. Children and adolescents are presenting with high levels of depression, anxiety, fear and suicidal ideation. The heightened emotional distress in children and adolescents during the pandemic has resulted in an increased in psychiatric hospitalizations. In addition, our youth have been placed at a higher risk for victimization due to being exposed to violence and abuse within the family system. Based on an article published in Psychology Today, May 22, 2020, school closures have had a higher impact of vulnerable children and adolescents.

WORKSHOP 6: Thriving: Molding the Therapeutic Experience for Adolescent Substance Use Treatment

Presenter: Colleen Vargas, Mental Health Therapist

In this workshop, we will learn how to help adolescents thrive in substance use treatment. We will explore our abilities to build strong therapeutic alliances specifically with teens. Additionally, we will review Motivational Interviewing skills and discuss how to apply these skills successfully with adolescent clients using a harm-reduction viewpoint. Finally, we will discuss how to incorporate parents and guardians into the treatment process effectively.

WORKSHOP 7: State of Illinois Employment Process

Presenter: Ivia Ortega, DCFS Office of Employee Services

A DCFS recruiter will present on the process of applying for DCFS positions and promote DCFS position titles. The recruiter will explain how to properly complete the employment application, what to expect during the interview, and what to expect during the job offer. If time permits, we also include a Q&A session at the end of the presentation. The presentation usually takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours. If emails are provided to us, we will also follow up with everyone in attendance and provide forms and resources to begin the application process.

WORKSHOP 8: Domestic Violence 1010

Presenter: Erika Aguirre, Mujeres Latinas en Acción

This workshop will cover what Domestic Violence is and what types of abuse are considered DV and the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. The presenter will discuss who are the survivors and what are the effects of abuse on those survivors, as well as the cycle of abuse and DV statistics.

Presenter Biographies



Dr. Jonathan Singer

Jonathan B. Singer, Ph.D., LCSW is Associate Professor of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago, President of the American Association of Suicidology and coauthor of the 2015 Routledge text, *Suicide in Schools*. A pioneer in the integration of technology and social work, Dr. Singer is an original member of the online suicide prevention social media community #SPSM, the Treasurer for the international human services.



Sherry Cobbins

Sherry Cobbins has 20 years of working experience with public and nonprofit organizations to support programming for children, parents and families. She is currently the Grant Administrator for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and Children Justice Act Programs. Cobbins is an educational consultant and motivational speaker. Cobbins is also a training professional dedicated to developing individuals to help them achieve learning results to support business and organizational outcomes.



Roberto Valdez, Jr

Roberto Valdez Jr is the Community & Government Affairs Liaison for the Latino Policy Forum in Chicago, IL. In this role, Roberto manages and coordinates the Forum's legislative portfolio for federal, state, and city initiatives. Roberto also manages the Illinois Latino Agenda, a collaborative effort among Latino organizations that seeks to promote accountability in business, government, the private sector, and within the Latino community by leveraging their collective voice and influence.

Roberto's communications and policy experience encompasses work with non-profit organizations, in the private sector, on political campaigns, and on Capitol Hill. In 2014 Roberto was Communications Manager for a Latino Health Organization which helped increase the pipeline of Latinos entering the medical and public health fields. He then worked as Digital Campaign Manager for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the 2015-2016 campaign cycle and in 2017, worked as Communications Director for Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Roberto is on the iHeartMedia Chicago Local Advisory Board, is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalist Chicago Chapter, member of the Illinois Unidos Health and Policy Committee, and member of Momento Latino. He earned his B.A. in Communications from Arizona State University in 2012 and is originally from Nogales, AZ.



Colleen Vargas

Colleen Vargas is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Certified Alcohol and Drugs Counselor at Rincon Family Services in Chicago, IL. Colleen achieved her Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Northeastern Illinois University and uses her training to provide treatment to teens and their families. Colleen specializes in trauma interventions and Motivational Interviewing. Colleen completed her EMDR training and is currently pursuing full EMDR certification. Colleen ardently dedicates herself to the success of her clients and their surrounding community. When Colleen is not working with her clients, she enjoys time with her family hiking, playing board games, and watching movies.

Presenter Biographies



Dr. Ana M. Fernandez

Dr. Ana Maria Fernandez holds a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Child, Adolescence and Family. She is an experienced bilingual clinician with over 30 years of working with children and families in community settings, and the private sector. In addition to having her private practice, Dr. Fernandez facilitates Clinical Intervention for Placement Preservation and Psychiatric Clinical Staffing for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Dr. Fernandez has focused her career in providing mental health services, and education to Latinos and other minorities. She believes in the innate human capacity for goodness, creativity and freedom. Dr. Fernandez has been interviewed by the television channel Univision as an expert clinician on several occasions. She earned the Service Award from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1992 based on her years of providing volunteer crisis intervention services.



Ivia Ortega

Ivia Ortega is the Cook County and Northern IL Recruiter for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and has over twenty years of Human Resources experience. DCFS is the public social service agency charged with enabling families to ensure the safety, well-being and permanency of the abused and neglected children in their care and working with families and communities to protect the state's vulnerable children from maltreatment.

Ivia believes that working for DCFS takes special people and that it is her privilege to find those qualified and talented candidates who are willing to make a difference in the lives of the children and families they serve.



Erika Aguirre

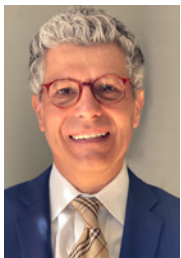
My name is Erika Aguirre and I am a Certified Domestic Violence Advocate and Licensed Professional Counselor at Mujeres Latinas en Accion. I provide court advocacy as well as counseling services at our Suburban Satellite Office. I have been with the organization for eight years, and I have been able to support clients at different capacities, including community outreach and individual services. My training has always been focused around our Latinx Community and how to provide culturally sensitive mental health services to both the immigrant population and those that identify as children of immigrants.

Presenter Biographies



Dr. Daysi Diaz-Strong

Daysi Diaz-Strong is an Assistant Professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois Chicago. She received her PhD and MSW from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and holds an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Her immigrant background shaped her research interests in the educational and developmental trajectories of Latino/a/x undocumented immigrants in the United States. She has published various articles and book chapters on the college experiences of undocumented students and on the transition to adulthood of undocumented young adults who immigrated as adolescents.



Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald

Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald is living his life's purpose to ensure brighter futures for children and families. He is currently a Deputy Director at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and directs the Office of Affirmative Action. He has over 30 years of experience in child welfare through his work with Casa Central and Youth Guidance. He also serves as part-time faculty at the Northeastern Illinois University Undergraduate and Master's degree programs in the School of Social Work where he has taught for over 23 years. Mr. Ibarra Fitzgerald holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Southern Illinois University and holds two Master's Degrees: one from the School of Business and Management from North Park University and the other from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. He is married to the love of his life Rosenda and his motivation in life is his two daughters Emma and Sophia



Parade of Flags, 2019

Special Thanks!



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

•

Marybel Flores

Visiting Assistant Dean, Jane Addams College of Social Work

Therese Molina

UIC IT Manager

Ricardo Salgado

DJ

Brooke Taylor

DCFS Office of Learning and Professional Development

Alix Young

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

Bert Tijerina

DCFS Office of Communications

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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



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