



MOVING FORWARD:

*Embracing Safety, Resiliency, and Supporting Best Practices
throughout our Child Welfare Community*



LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

6TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

(A Latino Advisory Council Online Event)

SPONSORED BY

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Yeni Rojas, Chairperson – DCFS Latino Advisory Council

Jennifer Contreras, Chairperson – LAC Family Institute/Professional Day Planning Committee

Daniel L. Fitzgerald – DCFS Deputy Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

José Javier López, Chief – DCFS Office of Latino Services



SAFETY  **SAFETY**
FIRST ALWAYS

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services



May 20, 2022

Dear Colleagues,
¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 6th Annual Latino Advisory Council Professional Development Day, "***Moving Forward: Embracing Safety, Resiliency and Supporting Best Practice throughout our Child Welfare Community.***"

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and our co-host, St. Augustine College, in collaboration with the Latino Advisory Council, DCFS offices of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Latino Services and the POS Planning Committee, have worked extremely hard to prepare a full slate of thought-provoking and engaging workshops that will support you in your personal and professional development.

In the Mega Panel Workshop, you will hear from the Gaston family as they share their experiences of becoming a forever family through foster care and adoption. Additional workshops will cover:

- Strategies for Self-Care
- Supporting the Mental Health of Resilient Latinx Families
- Adverse Trauma in Latin American Women
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- How a Pup Can Bring You Up When You're Feeling Low
- Maintaining Family Connectedness and
- Long Term Effects of Sexual Abuse

I hope you enjoy this excellent opportunity to learn from your colleagues, presenters, partners and service providers.

¡Gracias a todos ustedes por el trabajo que hacen! / Thank you all for the work you do!

Sincerely,

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





Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to the 6th Annual POS/IDCFS Professional Development Day. On behalf of the IDCFS Latino Advisory Council, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the ongoing support and collaborative work during all these years as we continue moving forward; embracing; safety, resiliency, and supporting best practice throughout our child welfare community.

It is a great honor for me as the IDCFS-Latino Advisory Council Chairperson as well as Alumni student of St. Augustine College to represent our Latino and Hispanic community within the DCFS and POS child welfare community. This year we would like to honor the memory of our colleague Deidre Silas who has been one of many heroes in the Child Protection Investigation team of The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Our lives and hearts were impacted by her sudden departure; reminding us of the immense responsibility we have and that the work we do is very serious and can be extremely challenging at times. We hope for better ways to remain committed, safe and supportive towards each other. It is not an easy job, but it is highly rewarding.

I strongly believe in self-care, ongoing learning, and collaborative work to make a difference and to improve our child welfare practices. For these reasons, I invite each of you to enjoy this special Professional Development Day to learn and celebrate all the great work each of us do every day and to realize the importance of building strong partnerships, shaping our skills, improving our knowledge and establishing best practices for our children and the youth and families we serve.

Also, I would like to give special thanks to the IDCFS-Latino Advisory Council team for letting me be part of this amazing professional journey and to continue with the great work we inherited from all our past LAC members. Special thanks go to St. Augustine College as well for the ongoing support and hosting the second annual Professional Development Day.

Finally, I would like to invite our DCFS and POS colleagues to join the IDCFS-LAC and to continue making a difference for our Latino/Hispanic communities.

Sincerely,

Yeni Rojas

DCFS-LAC Chairperson,
Public Service Administrator,
Division of Child Services, Cook Residential Monitoring Unit



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¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

On behalf of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's Latino Services Office, I welcome you to the 6th Annual Latino Advisory Council's Professional Development Day coordinated by the POS Collaboration Committee. Our theme this year:

"Moving Forward: Embracing Safety, Resiliency and Supporting Best Practices throughout our Child Welfare Community"

Even though the pandemic is still around us, both our POS and DCFS field workers are still working to provide the needed services our families and children. Our virtual workshops will provide training on topics such as: Trauma, Burnout, Mental Health, Long-term effects of Sex Abuse and Family Resiliency. St. Augustine College has partnered with us to provide some of the workshops to address the topics listed in the program booklet.

I want to thank St. Augustine College's Social Work Department for this collaboration and assistance in co-hosting this virtual training event. I also want to thank the Latino Advisory Council and the POS Collaboration Subcommittee for their volunteer work in making sure this "Training Institute" takes place.

Thank you!

José Javier López

Chief, Office of Latino Services
DCFS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion





Colleagues & Partners,

Our strength and success are products of our unity and our commitment to helping those most in need.

My sincere gratitude and congratulations to the creative and resourceful individuals who come together every year to create a forum where we can share information and provide support.

The St. Augustine Community is proud to co-sponsor this wonderful event. At St. Augustine, our Community and Social Work programs focus on creating an equitable world in which all families have access to academic excellence, advancement of knowledge, and creative innovations, and in so doing, changing lives and making our world a better place.

This Professional Development Day highlights and celebrates those who work tirelessly to enrich our community and our world. Through your work and dedication, the neediest members of our society have an opportunity to live lives of dignity and hope.

COVID has disrupted our world in ways we could never have imagined. Our families and friends have lost loved ones. But we have learned from each other that together we are a resilient and compassionate community, and that together we can overcome all challenges. Let us continue to work together to make a better world for our children and grandchildren.

The St. Augustine community salutes and stands in unity with the efforts of the Latino Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Dr. Reyes González, President
St. Augustine College

LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

*The following planning committee members
are responsible for making this Professional Development Day a success:*

Jennifer Contreras

LAC Planning Committee Chairperson, National Youth Advocate, POS

Coty Corcoles

Child Protection Investigations, DCFS

Dennis Delgado

Community Based Family Services One Hope United, POS

José Garcia

Clinical Practice and Professional Development, Cook Central, DCFS

José Javier López

Chief, Office of Latino Services, DCFS

Moises Jimenez

Placement, DCFS

Juan Maldonado

Child Protection Investigations, DCFS

Rosa Molina-LaSalle

Office Coordinator, DCFS

Melissa Martinez

Consent Unit, DCFS

Evelyn Martinez

Child Protection Investigations TA-AA, DCFS

Azalea Mejia

Social Service Program Planner, DCFS

Julia Monzón

Community Resources–Family Advocacy Center, DCFS

Beatriz Ramirez

Recruitment and Resources, Cook County, DCFS

Liliana Romero

Clinical Practice and Professional Development, DCFS

Yeni Rojas

Latino Advisory Council Chairperson, Child Services, Cook Residential Monitoring Unit, DCFS

LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY AT A GLANCE

12:00 – 12:30 pm	Open to Sign-In
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Welcoming Speakers Yeni Rojas, DCFS Latino Advisory Council Chair Jennifer Contreras, DCFS Latino Advisory Council POS Chair Dr. Reyes González, President, St. Augustine College Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Deputy Director Marc D. Smith, DCFS Director
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Mega Workshop Meet the Gastons
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Break
1:45 – 3:15 pm	Breakout Workshops The Impact of Trauma on Workers: Compassion Fatigue, Burn-out and Vicarious Trauma: Strategies for Self-Care Grandparents Raising Grandchildren How a Pup can Bring you Up When You're Felling Low
3:15 – 4:45 pm	Breakout Workshops Maintaining Family Connectedness Supporting the Mental Health of Resilient Latinx Families Long Term Effects of Sexual Abuse Adverse Trauma in Latin American Women
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Closing Session Jennifer Contreras, LAC POS Collaboration Committee (NYAP)

WORKSHOPS

MEGA WORKSHOP: 1 – 1:30 PM

MEGA WORKSHOP: Meet the Gastóns

Presenters: *Raul Gastón*
Martiza Gastón
Briana Gastón
Yazmin Gastón

The Gastón family will share their experiences of becoming a forever family through foster care and adoption. From hearing their story participants will gain a deeper awareness of the issues, struggles and triumphs of adoptive families. They will be encouraged as they realize that the work they do makes a lasting difference.

BREAKOUT SESSION I

1:45 – 3:15 PM

WORKSHOP 1: The Impact of Trauma on Workers: Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Vicarious Trauma: Strategies for Self-Care

Presenter: Ana Nuñez, Psy D

The goal of this workshop is to address how trauma impacts the worker's functioning. It will focus on defining vicarious trauma, burnout and compassion fatigue. In addition, it will focus on ways to cope and address self-care through self-awareness tools and creating a self-care plan.

WORKSHOP 2: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Presenter: Angelica Guillen

When grandparents take on the main parenting responsibilities for their grandchildren, it results in major changes and adjustments for both. This workshop will focus on providing an overview of this experience with a focus on safety and resiliency and discuss best practices for mental health support.

WORKSHOP 3: How a Pup can Bring You Up When You're Feeling Low

Presenter: Angelina Loeza

Knowing the difference: A service dog is defined by the ADA as a dog that has been trained to perform tasks that assist a person with a disability. The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. An "ESA" is an animal that provided therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. Providing comfort is not a trained behavior and therefore, the dog is not considered a service dog under the ADA. A therapy dog is a dog that is trained to provide affection, comfort, and support to people, in approved setting such as hospitals, nursing homes, courtrooms, schools, etc. Donor funded.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

3:15 – 4:45 PM

WORKSHOP 4: Maintaining Family Connectedness

Presenters: Karen Nunnally, Tarcisio Ornelas

Navigating the child welfare system is difficult for any parent and doing the work to get one's children returned home is a monumental feat. When reunification is the permanency goal, maintaining strong family ties while the child is out of their parents' home is essential. Child welfare staff can do a lot to facilitate the process of maintaining family connectedness. This four-hour workshop highlights the importance of maintaining family connectedness and assists child welfare front line staff with understanding how they can strengthen family ties throughout the life of a case.

WORKSHOP 5: Supporting the Mental Health of Resilient Latinx Families

Presenter: Dr. Gregory Benson-Florez

The workshop will be an introduction to better understand the mental health needs of Latinx families. There will be a focus on the societal, environmental and psychosocial factors that contribute to the challenges and psychological well-being of Latinx families. In addition, the workshop will introduce basic psychological treatments and best practices to support and empower Latinx families.

WORKSHOP 6: Long Term Effects of Sexual Abuse

Presenter: Najma M. Adam

This workshop will discuss sexual abuse prevalence and the lasting effects of it from childhood through adulthood. Participants will understand the importance of being preventative, and secondarily, addressing it as quickly as possible once uncovered.

WORKSHOP 7: Adverse Trauma in Latin American Women

Presenter: Carmen Arellano, Psy D

This workshop will consist of a careful explanation of adverse trauma, how is it manifested in Latin American women given cultural factors. The consequences of adverse childhood experiences and consequences of toxic stress on the brain. How to identify adverse trauma? How to cope with adverse trauma?

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



EVE GÓMEZ

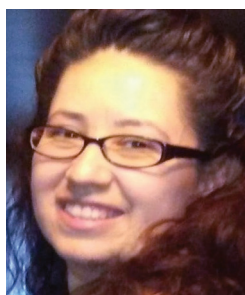
With a passion for business and community, Eve Gómez is a successful business leader, media personality, motivational speaker, author and advocate for the youth and a social activist. She is the owner of EG Spanish Interpreting & Consulting, LLC, which provides Spanish translations and interpretation services in company policy trainings, courtroom hearings, trials and lawsuits, and medical field. Eve also consults agencies and companies on ways to reach the Latino market, offering over 30 years in Customer Service/Sales experience, of those 12 years as a mortgage consultant, and is also now an Insurance Agent building a team to help in the Latino community. She is also a graduate of the LNI 38 (Leadership Northwest Indiana) class and an Elder at her church.

Throughout her life, she's had a passion for helping people and being a community advocate, especially for the elderly and the youth. She is very energetic, positive and powerful to the community. As a community leader/activist and radio host on WLTH, TV Host on YouTV1, it enables her to reach out in the broader community and help to improve the quality of life and education and bring solutions to her audience. Eve's passion is just that, to help those in need. Through her profession, she is able to reach out throughout the state of Indiana and Illinois. Her purpose is to motivate and inspire people. Through her public speaking and visiting students in their classrooms has been a gratifying experience for her. Eve Gómez is a true leader in our community! She is a voice to those who do not have one due to language barriers. Her relentless quest to change the system and to better the lives of everyone will never stop. Her love for God has given her the platform to do just what she is supposed to do, to Live her purpose! Eve is one powerful spirit that makes a difference. Eve Gómez is a proud single mother of two, Omar 27 and Emily 22 years old. Anyone that comes in contact with her will certainly win her love. She loves to love! She is based in Northwest Indiana.



THE GASTÓN FAMILY

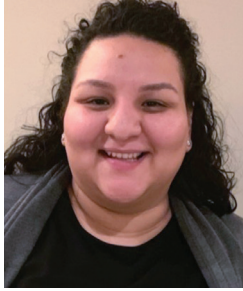
Raul and Maritza became foster parents in 2002, in Urbana Champaign where their daughters, Brianna and Yazmín, became part of their lives. At that time, they were both under the age of 2. There was a lot of last-minute planning as they were expecting a primary school aged child. Nonetheless they accepted the challenge. Later on the family relocated to DuPage County where the family continued to solidify, thrive and overcome diverse challenges.



ANA NUÑEZ, PSY D

Dr. Ana Nuñez has been with the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center since 2006, providing individual, family and group psychotherapy to sexually abused Spanish speaking children and their families. She has provided training to staff, students, clinicians, parents and community members on child abuse. Dr. Nunez was previously Co-Director of La Esperanza Del Futuro Program for Latino foster parents and has over 24 years of clinical experience with children and families. She holds a Doctorate of Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

continued



ANGELICA GUILLEN

Angelica is currently the Field Director/Assistant Professor of Social Work at St. Augustine College. Her previous social work experience ranges from domestic violence, youth mental health, medical social work and working with older adults. Angelica is also a licensed clinical social worker who provides therapeutic services to adults and older adults. She holds a bachelor's degree with a major in Justice Studies from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. Currently, she is a PhD student at Concordia University in the Gerontology program. Her research interest is in improving the lives of older adults including health, social changes/impacts, and mental health.



ANGELINA LOEZA

Topoly's Story started at 4 years old when she made an outcry of sexual abuse. Our lives were turned upside down and ever since that day we have fought for her to get justice and healing. Finding that there were little to no resources for sexually abused children in need of psychiatric service dogs was extremely disheartening for us. So, we have decided to start an organization specifically for that, hence the birth of Topoly's Story INC. 501©3 non-profit.



KAREN NUNNALLY

Karen presently serves as Senior Trainer and Technical Assistance Consultant for Be Strong Families, where she is supporting the ongoing development of Training Capacity which involves curriculum development, delivery of trainings and technical assistance. Ms. Nunnally's approach is to address the challenges of today's families by first exploring our own family challenges, thereby assisting professionals in the field to develop empathy through self-reflection and create a space that causes one to embrace the concept of partnership on all levels.



TARCISIO ORNELAS

Bilingual Training and Technical Assistance Provider, Founding Partner & Senior Trainer, Mr. Ornelas was born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico and came to Chicago in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. Through Strengthening Families Illinois, he learned about and participated in a movement that had parents and systems working together to make families stronger and children safer by building Protective Factors, while promoting and supporting parents as leaders.



DR. GREGORY BENSON-FLOREZ

Dr. Gregory Benson-Florez is the Program Director of Psychology at St. Augustine College and an Associate Professor of Psychology. He is a psychologist that received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was full time faculty in the Clinical Psychology department at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and also chaired the BA Psychology Completion program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology before joining St. Augustine College. His research and teaching interests include Latinx psychology, Multicultural and Diversity issues in psychology including a focus on immigration, acculturation, ethnic identity development and international psychology along with Social Justice issues.

continued



NAJMA M. ADAM

Najma M. Adam, Ph.D., L.C.S.W. is the Statewide Administrator for the Sexual Behavior Problems Program at the Department of Children and Family Services.

Previously, Dr. Adam taught in the State of Illinois higher education system for almost two decades, including as a Tenured Associate Professor of Social Work and Gender Studies Programs. She also served as the Administrator of a joint program, Women's Capabilities Initiative, between Women's Studies and Social Work Departments at Illinois State University. Dr. Adam's teaching areas were domestic violence, research methods, social policy, diversity and inclusion, and administration and management of social service programs.

Dr. Adam has conducted research and published in peer-reviewed journals and has served as a peer reviewer for *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*. She has also served as a peer reviewer of books, including textbooks. She has presented her research nationally and internationally and has been interviewed by media outlets numerous times for her area of expertise.

Dr. Adam has decades of clinical and administrative experience and has worked with a variety of populations and settings, including serving as an executive director of a battered women's program in Chicago, providing services to death row adult male inmates in Cook County; coordinating programs for children and families in seven of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Chicago, and for homeless and drug addicted men and women. Her experiences include serving as a Senior Fellow in the Center for Management Excellence, Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. and as a research and policy director for Cook County Adult Probation Department. Dr. Adam also has a private practice in the Chicagoland area, which is rooted in a progressive, social justice and human rights framework. In this capacity, Dr. Adam has served as a management consultant, a clinician, and an educator. Dr. Adam has assisted organizations in strategizing program services to meet agency mission, assess and evaluate personnel and program services to meet the goals of the organization, and assist management in developing agency policies that are informed by evidence-based research, and consistent with agency mission and standardized practices in the field. She has also written grants for agencies, and conducted continuing education unit workshops for professionals.

Dr. Adam received her B.S.W from Bloomsburg University (Pennsylvania), her A.M. from the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. from Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago.

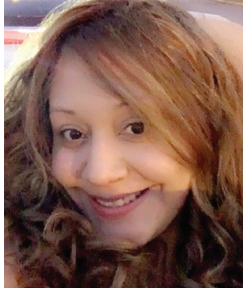


CARMEN ARELLANO

Dr. Carmen Arellano has a doctoral degree in clinical psychology and a M. Ed. in Community Counseling. She holds a graduate certificate in biblical spirituality. She is an Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional. Dr. Arellano did her clinical research on *The Role of Conflict in Domestic Violence and the Relationship of Trauma, Acculturation, and Hardiness in Latin American Nontraditional College Students*. She is currently the director of the children's migrant program at Interfaith Community for Detailed Immigrants providing spiritual care services to unaccompanied children arriving to the U.S. from abroad. She has worked providing psychological services to domestic violence survivors, children and youth at risk. Dr. Arellano was former Acting Dean of Academic Affairs at St. Augustine College. She is a fellow of the "Academia de Liderazgo" –

Academy of Leadership from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

continued



JENNIFER CONTRERAS

Jennifer M. Contreras has been in the Child Welfare field for 15 years. Jennifer holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Spanish from Loyola University of Chicago. Jennifer is a Bilingual Treatment Coordinator at National Youth Advocate Program. Although Jennifer's major is not social work, Jennifer's passion and commitment to remain in the field of child welfare is to advocate and be the voice to the children and families served. Aside from child welfare, Jennifer utilizes her Spanish speaking skills to provide Spanish translations and interpretation services as an independent contractor in the field of medical, legal and education.

Jennifer has been the POS Chair of the Latino Advisory Council POS subcommittee for about five years. The mission of the POS subcommittee and the POS Collaboration committee is to improve partnership between POS agencies and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In March 2022, Jennifer became the Co-Chair of the Latino Advisory Council. Jennifer looks forward to engaging with LAC members and continuing to work in collaboration with the director of DCFS to create positive change for our Latino employees, children and families. Jennifer appreciates her mentors and long lasting friends that she has met in her social work journey and looks forward to guiding the new generation of social workers to come.

Jennifer has an almost 2-year-old active son, Linkin Joaquin, who is her pride and joy. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family and looks forward to traveling to new places with Linkin and showing him the beauty and wonders of the world. Some of Jennifer's hobbies include cycling, swimming, working out, spa days, reading, traveling, shopping and beach days.



JULIA MONZÓN

Julia Monzón has worked in Child Welfare for 30 years. She has BA in Sociology and an MSW from the Jane Addams School of Social Work and is a licensed clinical social worker. She began her career at what was then the Illinois Department of Public Aid and came to DCFS in 1994 as a bilingual child abuse investigator. She has been a caseworker, a supervisor, a clinical reviewer for the former Child and Youth Investment Team, the Statewide Administrator for Permanency Achievement and currently works as a statewide program monitor for Family Advocacy Centers that provide services in English and Spanish. She has given numerous community presentations and conducted Mandated Reporter Training in English and Spanish and provides simultaneous interpretation for large and small venues. Julia is passionate about providing services that make a difference.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

*The Latino Advisory Council would like to acknowledge
the following individuals and institutions for their generous
financial and in-kind contributions.*

Without their support this Institute would not be possible:

Marc D. Smith
DCFS Director

Daniel L. Fitzgerald
EEO Officer/Chief Diversity Officer, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

St. Augustine College
Dr. Reyes González, President
Lisa Hines, MBA, Ph D, MSW, Program Director, Acting Chair
Joshua Burnell, Technical Assistant
All St. Augustine Student Moderators

Department of Children & Family Services
Brooke Taylor, Office of Training and Professional Development
Alix S. Young, Lead Project Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Bert Tijerina, Graphic Designer, Office of Communications



INSTITUTE TRAINING CREDITS

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. It is the attendee's responsibility to sign-in at the Institute and return the completed Institute CEU Verification sheet to the Registration Desk in order to receive full credit for the Institute. A maximum of 3.5 CEUs and DCFS Clock Hours may be awarded to participants who attend eligible sessions.



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