



LATINOS ON THE HORIZON
We are Counting on You 2020



LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

4TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020

(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, Acting Director – The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Nancy Rodríguez, Chairperson – DCFS Latino Advisory Council (LAC)
Daniel F. Fitzgerald – DCFS Deputy of Affirmative Action
José Javier López, Chief – DCFS Office of Latino Services
Maria Vidal de Haymes, PhD – Loyola University



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services



JB Pritzker
Governor

Marc D. Smith
Acting Director

August 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome! It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the fourth Annual Latino Advisory Council Professional Development Day.

For the first time, this event is being held virtually and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is proud to collaborate with the DCFS office of Affirmative Action Latino Services, the POS sub-committee, and our steadfast partner, Loyola University to provide an engaging, thought-provoking and informative event that participants can join in from anywhere.

The theme this year is "*Latinos on the Horizon: We are Counting on you 2020.*" The mega panel will focus on how service providers can use technology to address the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic followed by workshops that will cover these topics:

- Justice In Planning: A Workforce for Bilingual Clients and Their Families
- Bilingual Workers: Language and Identity as Tools for Services
- Strategies for Advancing Your Professional Development
- Multicultural Clinical Supervision
- Refueling Your Passion/Salsa For The Soul

Although we cannot gather in person, I encourage you to find alternative ways to connect with your colleagues and all who are working to improve services to Latino children and families in Illinois.

Thank you, for your commitment and dedication!

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

Office of the Director
406 E. Monroe Street • Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-785-2509 • 217-524-3715/TTY
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS



Welcome to the 4th annual Professional Development Day. The Latino Advisory Council (LAC) welcomes you! This year, we are hosting virtually for the first time. Coming together in a joint effort are DCFS Acting Director Marc Smith, DCFS and POS Child Welfare Workers, Child Welfare Supervisors and Administrators, Loyola University and Community Providers. In unity, we hope to holistically strengthen our leadership, spirit and practice. We hope to empower you through education, collaboration, and networking to serve our children and families to improve the quality of life for all our children in care and their families.

As the Chairperson of the Latino Advisory Council, I want to thank everyone who contributed and participated in this event including DCFS Acting Director Marc Smith, Latino Advisory Council members, DCFS and POS staff, Loyola University staff, and the Community.

A special shout out to our frontline workers who work hard and have Center for Disease Control and Prevention guided direct contact with our children and their families through Child Protection Investigations, Intact Family Service, and Placement cases.

Best Regards,

Nancy Rodríguez

Latino Advisory Council Chairperson

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.
If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."*

—NELSON MANDELA

Affirmative Action/Latino Services
1911 S. Indiana Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60616
312-485-4922 • 312-808-5134 Fax
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS



¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

On behalf of Affirmative Action's Latino Services Office, I welcome you to the 4th Annual Latino Advisory Council's Professional Development Day coordinated by the POS committee. The Latino Advisory Council has addressed various issues over the years affecting our Latino families and our DCFS and POS Spanish-speaking bilingual staff. Our Theme this year:

"Latinos on the Horizon: We are Counting on you 2020"

This year in addition to reaching out to private agency staff handling child welfare cases for DCFS, we are also inviting social work students to provide them with a general understanding of DCFS programs, policies and self-care. This year, due to COVID-19 many support services for families and children are being provided by virtual means. Therefore, today we will be looking at the what is being done currently to provide services to our families and children.

I want to thank Loyola University Social Work Department 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 POS committee for their hard work in making sure this "Training Institute" takes place. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about DCFS.

Thank you,

José Javier López
Chief, Office of Latino Services
DCFS Office of Affirmative Action

Affirmative Action/Latino Services
1911 S. Indiana Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60616
312-485-4922 • 312-808-5134 Fax
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS



School of Social Work

Office of the Dean

Maguire Hall 5th Floor • Water Tower Campus

1 E. Pearson • Chicago, IL 60611



Greetings from the Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work and all of her faculty, staff and students helping to celebrate the 4th annual Professional Day organized by the Latino Advisory Council at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

As the university celebrates its 150th year of its founding as Chicago's Jesuit University this year, we revive our commitment to serve the people, community and neighborhoods of Chicagoland and to the State of Illinois.

Amidst the myriad challenges faced by all of our frontline workers due to the pandemic, we take pause and appreciate the care and service you provide to the disenfranchised, the hope you give to make a child smile, and the issues you surmount to ensure that children and their families, especially those that are vulnerable, are not isolated, but loved. Thank you, for such dedication and focus on being the best you can be as a person for others.

I am especially proud of my university, school, faculty and staff for committing and investing time, talent, and treasure to develop and launch a culturally appropriate and linguistically sensitive bilingual (Spanish) MSW program to meet the needs of our community. Offered in a fully online format, with a specialization in Mental Health and Migration Studies, this one of a kind program in the United States mainland was conceptualized and launched with one single purpose: to develop a strong workforce that responds to the needs of mono and/or bilingual Spanish speaking children and their families.

I take this opportunity to thank DCFS Acting Director Marc Smith, Deputy of Affirmative Action Daniel Fitzgerald, Chief of the Office of Latino Service José Javier López, Chairperson Nancy Rodríguez and members of the Latino Advisory Council for giving us the opportunity to continue our decades long partnership. Together we will continue to advance the preparation of our students and the professional development of DCFS staff to support the children and families of Illinois. Thank you all!

With sincere gratitude,

Goutham M. Menon, Ph.D., MA., MBA
Dean & Professor

August 10, 2020

LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Nancy Rodríguez

LAC Chairperson, Clinical Practice and Development, DCFS

Juanita Calderon

LAC Planning Committee Chairperson, Operations/Placement Supervisor, DCFS

Patricia Aguilar

Operations, One Hope United

Vanessa Castro

Co-Scribe, Social Service Program Planner, Early Childhood Education, DCFS

Jennifer Contreras

Operations/Placement, National Youth Advocate Program

Yvonne Cordero

Division of Operations, Investigations DCFS

José Garcia

Licensing, DCFS

Maria Hernandez

Cook Region Recruitment and Resources, DCFS

Sydney Juarez

Clinical/Nursing Department, DCFS

José Javier López

Chief, Office of Latino Services, DCFS

Evelyn Martinez

Co-Scribe, Operations/Investigations Supervisor, DCFS

José Alex Medina

Day Care Licensing, DCFS

Azalea Mejia

Social Service Program Planner, DCFS

Julia Monzón

LAC Chair-Elect, Family Advocacy Center Statewide Program Monitor, DCFS

Lisa Marie Perez

Operations/Placement, Kaleidoscope

Beatriz Ramirez

Foster Care Licensing, DCFS

Yeni Rojas

Operations/Investigations, DCFS

Cynthia Valentin

Operations/Intact, Association House

Daizy Salgado

Operations/Placement, Child Link

LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY AT A GLANCE

1 – 1:15 pm	General Session – Welcome
1:15 – 2:45 pm	Mega Workshop
2:45 – 3 pm	Break
3 – 4:30 pm	Workshop Sessions
4:30 – 4:45 pm	Break
4:45 – 5 pm	General Session – Closing Remarks

WORKSHOPS

MEGA WORKSHOP: 1:15 – 2:45 PM

MEGA WORKSHOP: Virtual Health and Services Panel Discussion

Presenters: *Matthew Jedlowski*, – Project Coordinator, Northwestern University
Jonathon B. Singer, PhD – Assoc. Professor, Social Work at Loyola University-Chicago
Lori Smith, LCSW – Director, Victim Witness Unit, State’s Attorney’s Office
Nancy Mendoza, Family Advocate, Family Focus Inc.
Sergio A. Valiente – Child Protection Advanced Specialist, DCFS

This panel discussion will focus on different aspects of providing services in the virtual world that we have had to inhabit since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic here in the United States and the Shelter-at-Home order in the State of Illinois. Our four panelists bring real life experience to bear in their presentations and will be available for a Questions and Answer Session immediately following their presentation.

WORKSHOPS 1-4: 3 – 4:30 PM

WORKSHOP 1A: Issues of Justice in Planning a Workforce for Bilingual/ Monolingual Clients and their Families

Presenter: *Dr. Goutham M. Menon, MBA* – Professor and Dean,
School of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago

A culturally and linguistically sensitive human service organization ensures that our most vulnerable and disenfranchised service seekers are cared for in respectful and competent ways. This workshop provides some important ethical, operational, and personnel considerations agencies can adopt to ensure a workplace that is just, kind, and responsible.

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1B: Multicultural Clinical Supervision

Presenter: Priscilla R. Freire – Professor, Loyola University Chicago

This workshop will teach how to practice and examine effective multicultural clinical supervision. The supervisor's and supervisee's exploration of how they are impacted by their own cultures. Identify barriers to effective multicultural supervision

WORKSHOP 2A: Refueling Your Passion

Presenter: Daniel Fitzgerald – Deputy Director, DCFS

This workshop will empower child welfare workers to keep their perspective and retain their overall goals of helping others by being an agent of change in the lives of those they serve. The workshop will explore different avenues to recharge their emotional reserves and allow participants to identify their own path to emotional stability.

WORKSHOP 2B: SALSA

Presenter: Maribel Lopez, Ed D, MSW – Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago

Helping professionals often realize the importance of self-care a little too late, and in turn become susceptible to burnout. This workshop brings urgency to this phenomenon and provides participants with easy, non-expensive, and fun ways to practice self-care while caring for others.

WORKSHOP 3A: Bilingual Workers: Language and Identity as Tools for Service

Presenter: Mauricio Cifuentes, Ph D, LCSW – Clinical Assist. Professor, Loyola University Chicago

Language is a socially constructed privileged way to assign meaning to ourselves and to our world. Some individuals can communicate in more than one language. Bilingual individuals have several advantages. At the same time, bilingualism may impose challenges on the bilingual individual, especially in the helping professions. This workshop will explore some of these challenges and will explore ways to overcome them

WORKSHOP 3B: Strategies for Advancing your Professional Development as a Bilingual Human Service Professional

Presenters: Vanessa Farías – Internship Coordinator, Loyola University Chicago

Verónica Arreola – Academic Advisor, Loyola University Chicago

This workshop will focus on how bilingual candidates can communicate the value of their unique skill set in a human service setting. Participants will learn how to create an intentional and strategic career plan empowering them to self-advocate, maximize their strengths, and expand their career opportunities.

BREAK: 4:30 – 4:45 PM

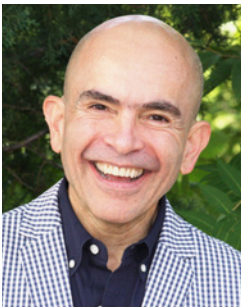
CLOSING REMARKS: 4:45 – 5 PM

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



VERÓNICA ARREOLA

Verónica earned her MA from Northeastern Illinois University In Higher Education Leadership. She has 13 years of experience in higher education supporting undergraduate and graduate students. She is currently serving as the Academic Advisor for students in the Online Bilingual MSW at Loyola University Chicago.



MAURICIO CIFUENTES

Mauricio received a J.D. from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia, an MSW and a Ph D both from Loyola University Chicago. He has worked as a clinician, administrator, and professor for organizations such as Saint Anthony Hospital in Chicago, Augsburg University in Minneapolis, and Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) in Minneapolis/St Paul. Currently, he is a Clinical Assistant professor associated with the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Accompaniment and was the Coordinator of the MSW online, bilingual program at Loyola University Chicago.



JENNIFER M. CONTRERAS

Jennifer Michelle Contreras has been in the field of Child Welfare for 12 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Spanish from Loyola University of Chicago. Jennifer has been a placement worker and permanency worker for most of her career working with youth who are in foster care and other youths who are dually involved with the Return upon Release (RUR) program.

Jennifer became the first bilingual Treatment Coordinator at National Youth Advocate Program working with specialized youths. Most recently, Jennifer has returned from maternity leave after giving birth to her first son, Linkin Joaquin Morales, she appreciates the ongoing love and support from her NYAP family.

Jennifer is the current Chair of the DCFS Latino Advisory Council POS Committee and the Chair of the Professional Day Planning Committee. It is most rewarding to Jennifer to be recognized by others as being a supporter and advocate on their behalf. Jennifer looks forward to helping more families and children to live and lead a positive life.



VANESSA FARIAS

Vanessa Farias is a bilingual social worker with over ten years of experience managing different programs and teams supporting adolescents, young adults and graduate students. Currently, she is the Internship Coordinator for the Online Bilingual MSW Program at Loyola University Chicago. She supports social work graduate students find internships and create strong professional networks during their studies.



DANIEL IBARRA FITZGERALD Deputy Director, Affirmative Action

Daniel 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!



PRISCILLA R. FREIRE

Priscilla is a clinical social worker who has worked with families, individuals, and children in a variety of settings, providing clinical services for over 15 years. As a clinical supervisor she managed several counseling and education programming. Currently the director of MSW Programs, she teaches full-time at Loyola University Chicago on a variety of practice areas.



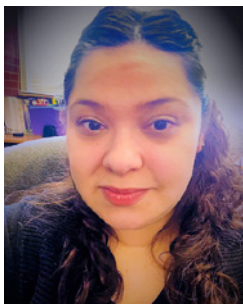
MATTHEW JEDLOWSKI

Matt is the Project Coordinator of the SPIDER resource database project through Northwestern University and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Matt has over 5 years of experience on the project and led, along with the SPIDER Team and stakeholders, with the redesign and launch of the updated database in 2018. SPIDER is a 100% free, publicly accessible database that houses thousands of agencies, programs throughout Illinois with detailed referral information.



MARIBEL LOPEZ

Dr. Lopez is an Assistant Professor in the Online Bilingual MSW Program at Loyola. She received her master's degree in Social work at University of Illinois, concentration in Children and Families. She has experience working with children, families, individuals, couples, and youth counseling. Dr. Lopez is engaged in community education on women empowerment, early childhood education, substance abuse and domestic violence. Dr. Lopez's mission is to foster economic development in the Latinx community.



NANCY MENDOZA

Nancy earned her bachelor's in social work in 2004 from Northeastern Illinois University and has 15 years of experience working in the social service field. She is a licensed child welfare worker in Illinois and spent 9 years as an intact worker at Casa Central. Nancy enjoys working with children and families and feels it is a privilege to be a part of such a great agency Family Focus where she has been working for almost 5 years providing parenting classes and parent coaching services for families involved with the DCFS/Court system and other families in the community of Evanston, the north side of Chicago and nearby suburbs.



GOUTHAM MENON

Goutham Menon earned his Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1997) and an MBA in Sustainability & Entrepreneurship from the University of Nevada, Reno (2018). He has over 20 years of academic experience at the undergraduate & graduate levels. He joined Loyola University Chicago in 2017 as Professor and Dean of the School of Social Work. His area of expertise lies in the utilization of information and communication technologies for human services and for distance education.



JULIA MONZÓN LCSW (MODERATOR)

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. Julia currently works as a statewide program manager for Family Advocacy Centers. 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.



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 Information Technology association, co-lead for the Social Work Grand Challenge initiative "Harness Technology for Social Good," and founder and host of the award-winning Social Work Podcast.



LORI SMITH LCSW

Lori is the Director of the Victim Witness Unit at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Lori is a graduate of the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration and has over 30 years of experience working with individuals, families, and communities living with the long-term effects of multiple trauma. Lori is an experienced grant writer and program developer. In her current position Lori oversees a staff of 55 crime victim advocates and supervisors who have provided services to over 122,000 crime victims and their families. Lori maintains a private practice and specializes in child maltreatment issues.



SERGIO VALIENTE

Sergio has been at DCFS for 16 years initially in intact and placement and for the last 12 years as a child protection advanced specialist in Will and DuPage County. Mr. Valiente started his career in child welfare 18 years ago at Seguin Services in Cicero, IL. Mr. Valiente is keenly interested on the impact of trauma on people throughout the lifespan, but particularly in children. His approach to his social work practice in child welfare is to spend quality time getting to know the families he investigates. Mr. Valiente educates them on the child welfare system and encourages his clients to uncover any underlying issues which may have caused DCFS involvement to prevent future involvement and promote change. Mr. Valiente is a devoted husband to his wife Lisa of 15 years and father to their 14-year-old son Nicholas. In his free time, Mr. Valiente is an avid photographer and is affectionately referred to as "paparazzi" by his family. Mr. Valiente was named LAC 2019 DCFS Worker of the year.

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

Acting Director, DCFS

Daniel Fitzgerald

Deputy Director of Affirmative Action, DCFS

**Daniela Barrios Morello
Maria Vidal de Haymes, PhD**

Loyola University Chicago

POS LAC Members

Patricia Aguilar, Child Link

Jennifer Contreras, National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)

Lisa Marie Perez, Kaleidoscope

Department of Children & Family Services

José Alex Medina, Day Care Licensing

Yvonne Cordero, Operations

Brooke Taylor, Office of Training and Professional Development

Bert Tijerina, Graphic Designer, Office of Communications



INSTITUTE TRAINING CREDITS

All registered attendees are expected to arrive on time and attend the full Professional Development Day in order to receive DCFS clock hours, Social Work CEUs, LCPC CEU's and MFT CEUs. It is the attendee's responsibility to check-in at the workshops to receive full credit for the Institute. A maximum of 3 CEUs and DCFS Clock Hours may be awarded to participants who attend eligible sessions.



www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

rev 8/13/2020