



JB Pritzker, Governor
Marc D. Smith, Director

October, 2022

2021 Latino Advisory Council Family Institute Day

With the help of DePaul University, the 2021 Latino Advisory Family Institute Day was held on October 22, 2021 as an online virtual event.

The keynote speaker was William “Willie” Delgado, a retired Illinois state legislator from the 2nd legislative district. He was the first Latino to serve in both the Illinois State House and Senate.



Former Illinois State Senator William Delgado via teleconference.



¡BIENVENIDOS!

I would like to welcome you to this newest edition of the Latino Advisory Council’s Noticias newsletter. I hope you will find this newsletter to be informative and resourceful. Our LAC Communication Committee has worked diligently to put this great information together and make it available to you. As the LAC Chairperson, I can honestly tell you that nothing is possible without the great LAC members who are the main support and foundation of what we do. For these reasons, I highly respect and honor each of the LAC members and everyone who works directly and indirectly in the Child welfare system. What we do, does not make for an easy journey but we all share the same vision and mission of protecting children and strengthening families.

I’m thankful and grateful to be surrounded by great professionals who inspire me to continue focus on great work and high expectations. I’m humble to carry on my Hispanic/Latino Heritage as well as taking over my new role and responsibilities as the Intact Family Services Regional Administrator of Cook and Northern Regions.

Cuidense,

Yeni Rojas

Regional Administrator
Intact Family Services of Cook and Northern Regions
Latino Advisory Council Chairperson

“Diversity: the art of thinking independently together” (Malcolm L. Forbes)

Someone You Should Know: José García



By Julia Monzón

José García was born in Cuba emigrating to the United States when he was 12 years old. Dr. García has a well-defined

sense of justice and a fervent desire to do his part to create a better world for his children and ours. José's family's experiences in communist Cuba give him a unique perspective on oppression and inequality.

José went to school in his adopted city of Chicago attending Senn High School and Northeastern University. After a year of casework at Catholic Charities, he traveled to the Dominican Republic to attend medical school. His childhood dream was to become a pediatrician. After he returned to Chicago, he began his career at DCFS in 1993. Faced with difficulties related to immigration, a

medical degree from a foreign country and the need to earn a living José decided to remain at DCFS where he could continue to help children and support his family.

José obtained a master's degree in social work from Dominican University and has served as a Clinical Services Coordinator for the last eight years. José and his wife Julia became foster parents after having two children of their own. His eldest Jaison works in marketing while his daughter Jennifer has just earned her own MSW.

While en route to a Child and Family Team Meeting with a caseworker, José was facilitating those meetings at the time, they stopped for a foster home visit. José began to play with a baby who was 4 months old at the time. The caseworker noticed and said, "Jose, you are a foster parent. This baby needs a foster home." So, José and Julia began to foster little Janet. Janet won

their hearts and was adopted by José and Julia and their fostering days came to an end. Today Janet is 23 years old and is also following in her father's footsteps having earned her bachelor's degree in social work. That side trip to visit a foster home is José's fondest memory of all his years at DCFS,

José's advice to new caseworkers is to be resilient and patient. Be an advocate for children, families and all those who are less fortunate.

The Latino Advisory Council thanks José for the 30 years of service to the children and families of Illinois.

*"Los niños son
la esperanza del mundo."*

The children are the hope of the world.

– JOSÉ MARTÍ
CUBAN POET/PHILOSOPHER

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Staffing
Data Validity & Disproportionality
Strategic Communications
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Latino Family Institute
Professional Development Day

Contact Yeni Rojas at
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if interested in becoming a member.

Latino Youth Advisory Affinity Group Meetings

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD

The DCFS Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion encourages you to refer any eligible youth you know to the Latino Youth Advisory Affinity Group.

The Statewide Youth Advisory Board invites youth in care ages 14–21 to join the next Latino Youth Advisory Affinity Group (YAAG).

The purpose of this group is to organize Illinois youth in care that identify as Latino through Support, Education, Coaching and Advocacy.

Caseworkers and caregivers please spread the word and encourage youth to join this newly formed group.

Questions, contact:

alyssa@bestrongfamilies.net

Sponsored by DCFS and Be Strong Families.



The Youth Advisory Board is committed to creating a caring and supportive environment for all youth in care regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, ancestry, language, handicap/disability, religion, or authentic self to the YAB as we work to educate, advocate for and empower youth in care across Illinois.



SAFETY FIRST SAFETY ALWAYS

FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTERS

Family Advocacy Centers support DCFS Illinois Foster Care Alumni under the age of 30.

- Help with copies of important documents including state ID and driver's license
- Help with transportation when you start job training or a new job
- Help with housing referrals and applications
- Connections to community-based services
- Support in person, over the phone or e-mail

Call the DCFS Advocacy Office Youth Hotline at **1-888-459-6884** for the closet Family Advocacy Center near you or check [online](#).



PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS

(from the Department of Education website)

Because of the COVID-19 emergency, the U.S. Department of Education announced temporary changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program rules Visit [disclaimer page](#). For a limited time, borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for loan forgiveness. This opportunity expires Oct. 31, 2022. Apply today!

Get closer to loan forgiveness.

Learn more at www.hhs.gov

Service Milestones (Nov. 2021 thru Oct. 2022)

Congratulations

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Milagros Acosta, Chicago
- Julia Corral, Springfield
- Jessica Del Toro, Deerfield
- Ariel Frias, Springfield
- Orlando Gonzalez, Chicago
- Marvin Ibarra, Deerfield
- Guadalupe Toledo, Chicago

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Urbano Anacleto, Naperville
- Pedro Tomas, Marion
- Anabel Michal, Chicago

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Vanessa Castro, Elgin
- Maria Quintanilla, Chicago

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Theresa Gonzalez, Joliet

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Juanita Calderon, Chicago
- Analia Cobrda, Chicago
- Beatriz Cueva-Cano, Chicago
- Carol Kline, Chicago
- Clara Yanes, Joliet

35 YEARS OF SERVICE!

- Mary Martinez, Chicago

Latino Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
OCT 15	9 am	State at Your Reach Resource Fair	2250 S 49th St., Cicero, IL
OCT 22	6 pm	HISLEA Annual Gala Banquet	8624 W 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL
OCT 30	11 am	Dia de los Muertos Celebration	Maxwell Street Market Chicago, IL
NOV 5	6 pm	Day of the Dead Masquerade Night	Mexican Fine Arts Museum 1850 W 19th St, Chicago, IL
NOV 5	7 pm	24th Annual National Cuarto Festival	Harris Theater 205 E Randolph, Chicago, IL



www2.illinois.gov/DCFS



NOTICIAS is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Children and Family

Services and the Latino Advisory Council. It is distributed to DCFS employees, POS agencies and agencies affiliated with DCFS. The newsletter includes articles pertinent to child welfare, Latino welfare issues and DCFS/POS programs, and strives to be an informative source for staff by providing updates on new child welfare initiatives as well as upcoming events.

It is our hope to continue providing staff with a vehicle for the sharing of information. A major part of this endeavor is you! We are asking for your input, submission of articles and suggestions for improving Noticias. Articles related to your experiences with families and personal stories are also greatly appreciated.

Please submit articles, information about incoming events or news to: Julia Camacho Monzón, Strategic Communications Committee Chair julia.monzon@illinois.gov 1911 S. Indiana Ave. Chicago, IL 60616

Or to any of the **Strategic Communication Committee members:**

Julia Camacho Monzón, Editor, Chair; José J. López, Final Editor; Evelyn Martinez; Jennifer Contreras; or Yeni Rojas, contributing writers and editors.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in one of the LAC subcommittees, please contact Yeni Rojas, 2022 LAC Chair at yeni.rojas2@illinois.gov or any LAC member.

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Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; José J. López, DCFS Office of Latino Services; Bert Tijerina, graphic designer, Office of Communications