



DCFS Latino Advisory Council

May 19, 2021

9:00am – 12:30pm

WebEx

Chair-Person:

Julia Monzon

Past Chair-Person:

Nancy Rodriguez

Chair-Elect:

Yeni Rojas

Co-Scribes:

Vanessa Castro

Daisy Salgado

DCFS Members:

Juanita Calderon

Olivia Chavez

Coty Corcoles

Jose Garcia

Sydney Juarez

Azalea Mejia

Rosa Molina Lassalle

Evelyn Martinez

Beatriz Ramirez

Liliana Romero

POS Members:

Patricia Aguilar

Jennifer Contreras

Dennis Delgado

Director's Liaison:

Jose L. Lopez

Latino Services

Committees:

Child Safety,
Risk Reduction
and Permanency

Data Analysis,
Disproportionality
and Staffing

Strategic
Communications

POS Collaboration

Latino Family
Institute

Professional
Development Day

MINUTES

Present: Nancy Rodriguez, Jose Lopez, Vanessa Castro, Jennifer Contreras, Juanita Calderon, Jose Garcia, Azalea Mejia, Beatriz Ramirez, Patricia Aguilar, Julia Monzon, Daizy Salgado, Rosa Maria Molina, Sydney Juarez, Yeni Rojas

Excused: Dennis Delgado, Liliana Romero, Evelyn Martinez

Guests: Monica Badiano, Olivia Chavez, Juan Maldonado, Kara Hamilton, and Jataun Rollins

A. Welcome

Participants were welcomed and introductions were complete.

B. Review & Approval of April 2021 Minutes

The April 2021 minutes were reviewed, amended and approved by majority vote.

C. Positivity Booster - Positive Vibes – Monthly Dose of Positivity

The committee selected Positive Vibes as the name for the new topic which will be added to the next agenda. Positive Vibes was created for members to vocalize positive experiences.

D. Committee Reports:

- a. Final Committee Selection
- b. Child Safety, Risk Reduction and Permanency – Yeni Rojas

The goals for the Child Safety, Risk Reduction and Permanency (CSRP) have been assigned and are pending. Please see the report for more information on the established goals.

The committee is working on the following tasks:

1. Licensing team to review and update available Foster homes list regularly.
 2. Identify Traditional, Specialized, and Adolescent foster homes statewide
 3. Identify barriers on foster home recruitment
 4. Explore foster home recruitment external collaboration resources
 5. Spanish Speaking Foster Homes Retention Initial and On-going Foster parents Online/Virtual training in Spanish
 6. Working in collaboration with DHS for CILA placement options for youth in care with special needs for long term care.
- c. Data Analysis, Disproportionality and Staffing – Nancy Rodriguez

Nancy Rodriguez provided her committee report. Please see the Data Analysis, Disproportionality and Staffing report for further information.

On 5/17/2021, the Data Analysis, Disproportionality and Staffing Committee received the following documents from the Child Safety, Risk Reduction and Permanency (CSP) Committee:

1. DCFS Demographics Report (which includes foster-care stats)
2. Statewide DCFS Youth in Care Totals Report (21,358 - youth in care as of 3/31/21)

3. DCFS FY2022 Budge Proposal Overview (which includes foster-care stats)
4. DCFS Recruitment Plan
5. How to Obtain DCFS Public Stats
6. How to Obtain Foster-parent Vacancy List from the D-Net

Daryl Johnson was invited to participate in the next LAC meeting to help explain and answer questions regarding foster parent recruitment.

- d. Strategic Communications – Julia Monzon

Strategic Communications members were assigned projects for the upcoming “Noticias” Newsletter. The deadline for articles is June 15, 2021.

- e. POS – Jennifer Contreras & Jose J. Lopez

A meeting was held on 5/12/2021 and approximately 12-15 POS organizations participated to start planning for the upcoming Professional Development Day. The POS committee did not get a response from Aurora University regarding hosting the event. Maria Vidal, Loyola University, will be exploring and advocating for Loyola University to host.

E. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report:

Jose Lopez reported the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is working on goals established through the Governors Office and are looking at bilingual staff shortages. Furthermore, On May 12,2021 an executive order was signed by CMS stating bilingual pay (5%) is going to be considered as base pay when adding a pay increase.

The Asian American Council will have their Asian Institute on June 25, 2021.

F. Virtual Recruiting

a. Beatriz Ramirez – Foster Care

Beatriz Ramirez provided information on what the department is doing to recruit foster parents. Beatriz and her staff are continuing to collaborate with community partners, participating in conferences and attending church events. Currently, there are approximately 200-300 inquiries, to become a licensed foster parent, per month however only 10% of those inquiries are getting licensed.

b. Ivia Ortega – Employee Services

Ivia Ortega was unable to present due to a scheduling conflict.

G. Old Business:

a. By-Law

Bylaws were submitted to Kara Hamilton and she submitted to the Director's Office.

b. Conference Planning Meetings (Attendance)

Members are needed to participate for the Family Institute conference planning.

Maria Vidal, Loyola University, reported there are two new bilingual facility members and the Dean is in favor of hosting the DCFS /POS Professional Development Day.

c. Joint Council Meetings

LAC has sent emails to the African American Council and Asian American Council requesting to meet and no response has been received. Continued attempts will be pursued.

H. New Business:

a. Noticias and Conference Deadlines

Noticas articles are due June 15,2021 and are to be submitted to Julia Monzon.

b. Mandatory Training

Members to complete the mandatory 2021 Ethics and Harassment Training. New members that have not completed the Open Act Training, will need to complete.

c. Director's Meeting

LAC members need to start working on tasks given by the Director on recruitment. A work group will be scheduled for June 2, 2021 from 2:30pm - 4:30pm to discuss recruitment. A barrier that was discussed is the shortage in licensing staff, which is impacting the number of foster parents that are getting licensed.

I. Open Forum for Members and Guests

a. Guests:

Ms. Jataun Rollins presented information on two upcoming training events. The first event is on May 20, 2021, which focuses on the complexity of lives of Black & Brown transgender women and challenges they face (lack of health care, cycle of violence, homelessness). There is a \$10 discount code for DCFS & private agency staff, **DCFSDIS**, to input at checkout.

The second event is a two-day virtual symposium on June 16, 2021 & June 17, 2021 that explores the systemic cost of incarceration and detention.

b. Members:

There was a recommendation for LAC to obtain the names of staff that have earned a degree or get promotions in order to provide special recognition. Juanita Calderon did not get the certificate templates.

J. **Next Meeting:** June 16, 2021

Scribe: Vanessa Castro