



DCFS Latino Advisory Council

September 15, 2021

9:00am – 12:30pm

WebEx

Amended Minutes

Chair-Person:

Julia Monzon

Past Chair-Person:

Nancy Rodriguez

Chair-Elect:

Yeni Rojas

Co-Scribes:

Vanessa Castro

DCFS Members:

Juanita Calderon
Olivia Chavez
Coty Corcoles
Jose Garcia
Sydney Juarez
Juan Maldonado
Evelyn Martinez
Azalea Mejia
Rosa Molina Lassalle
Beatriz Ramirez
Liliana Romero

POS Members:

Patricia Aguilar
Jennifer Contreras
Dennis Delgado

Director's Liason:

Jose J. 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

Present: Julia Monzon, Evelyn Martinez, Jose Lopez, Jose Garcia, Vanessa Castro, Nancy Rodriguez, Rosa Maria Molina Lassalle, Jennifer Contreras, Syndie Juarez, Yeni Rojas, Coty Corcoles, Juanita Calderon, Liliana Romero, Olivia Chavez and Juan Maldonado

Excused: Beatriz Ramirez, Dennis Delgado

Guests: Kara Hamilton, Duaa Eldeib, Melissa Sanchez, Melissa Martinez, Melissa Williams, Cristina Chambers, Dajanee Tate, Moises Jimenez, Steven Minter, Olivia Macgowan

A. **Welcome**

Participants were welcomed and introductions were complete.

B. **Positive Vibes**

Members were able to share positive experiences regarding the Professional Day.

C. **New Member Elections**

Melissa Martinez was voted as a new member of LAC.

D. **Review & Approval of August 2021 Minutes**

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

E. **Committee Reports:**

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

Yeni Rojas reported there continues to be a lack of bilingual foster homes. LAC will be providing recommendations to the Director regarding the need for Spanish speaking trainers and the need to revise and translate foster parent trainings.

c. Data Analysis, Disproportionality and Staffing – Nancy Rodriguez

Nancy Rodriguez reported this committee is looking at disproportionality, quality of life and child neglect. There is an increase number of disproportionalities amongst African American and Latinos.

d. Strategic Communications – Julia Monzon

Julia Monzon needs articles for Noticias Newsletter. She recommended asking presenters to write an article.

e. POS – Jennifer Contreras & Jose J. Lopez

Jennifer Contreras reported a meeting will be scheduled to discuss issues that need to be addressed next year. Some examples are foster parent recruitment, barriers and staffing issues. The committee is also discussing moving the Professional Development Day back to April.

F. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report:

Jose Lopez reports there are continued efforts in hiring and outreach. The Office of Latino Services is working closely with Foster Care Recruitment. Those interested in DCFS employment can email DCFS.Employment@illinois.gov and send their application to Ivia Martinez for review.

There are two new staff in the ICWA program. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is working on their Affirmative Action report.

IAHSE will be having their conference at the Double Tree in Oakbrook on October 8, 2021.

G. Preparation for Meeting with Director Smith

A workgroup was developed to discuss challenges to recruitment, retention and hiring and provide recommendations to the Director Smith. Julia Monzon reviewed the Outline to the Directors report. LAC Executive team, Beatriz Ramirez and Jennifer Contreras will be meeting with Director Smith on September 21, 2021.

H. Old Business:

a. Open Meeting Act – New Members

The website continues to be unavailable.

I. New Business:

a. Latino Institute Day Awards

There will be a Burgos Award presented at the Latino Family Institute Day. The Burgos Award will be sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

As for DCFS Awards, 10 awards are needed. Jennifer Contreras is recommending for awards to be mailed to her office. Last year awards were accidentally mailed to Luis Carrion.

b. Nominations for Co-Scribe

Rosa Molina and Melissa Martinez were nominated for co-scribes. Voting will occur at next month's meeting.

c. LAC members attendance, responsibilities and committee participation

Members are encouraged to send an email to be excused when they are unable to attend the LAC monthly meeting. Bylaws indicate that if a member misses 3 or more meetings that their member status will be removed. Yeni will be following up with Dennis Delgado and Patricia Aguilar regarding their member status.

J. Open Forum

K. Next General Meeting – October 20, 2021