



**LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 18, 2015**

**DCFS office 1911 S. Indiana Chicago, IL  
10<sup>th</sup> floor Room A & B**

**AMENDED MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Beatriz Ramirez; Jose Alex Medina; Nancy Rodriguez; Juanita Calderon; Lourdes Rodriguez; Jose Lopez; Jennifer Contreras; Yeni Jimenez

**Excused:** Damaris Acevedo; Carmen Alvarez; Norma Machay; Karla Soriano; Rebecca Crnovich

**9:15 am Welcome**

**Review and approval of January and February 2015 minutes: tabled**

**Status on By-Laws Amendment (subcommittee descriptions) –Norma Machay:** LAC members reviewed and amended the bylaws. Beatriz Ramirez reported on behalf of Norma Machay that LAC members will review and amend as necessary the bylaws in three consecutive meetings, then vote on the bylaws. The new name for LAC will be Latino Advisory Council (deleting Committee). The sub-committees will be renamed to committees. Jose Alex Medina will work on the LAC logo / picture adjustment.

- Community Risk Reduction & staffing (CRR & S) -Rebecca Crnovich: Jose Alex Medina reported that the CRR&S subcommittee reviewed the strategic plan goals and objectives.
- Strategic Communications- Norma Machay: tabled.
- Child Safety and Permanency (CSP)- Jennifer Contreras: Jennifer Contreras reported that the CSP subcommittee has not met, but will meet to review the strategic plan subcommittee goals and objectives. Jennifer Contreras reported that in February, 2015, she spoke with Dahlia Roman whom works with our youths in Dekalb. The youth meet and greet and network with each other. Some youth are emancipated or are in college and continue to need DCFS support. We have 40-50 youths in this group in Dekalb. Northeastern Illinois University provided the space for the event. The youth events are held quarterly. The plan is to utilize the youth summits to address youth needs. Beatriz Ramirez reported that she had a conversation with April Curtis about her involvement with DCFS youth.
- Data Validity and Disproportionality – Damaris Acevedo: tabled.

- **Burgos- Lourdes Rodriguez:** Lourdes Rodriguez reported that she has a new website with a wealth of resources. She also has literature booklets. She reported that foster-parents now have a complaint link on the website. She reported that she has provided her Deputy reports on length of time Latino children remain in ERC, lack of Latino and Spanish language foster-homes, weekly short lists of available Latino / Spanish language foster-homes. There are no DCFS specialized Spanish language foster-homes. Seguin POS agency does have specialized Spanish language foster-homes. These homes are usually not available. Lourdes provided two emailed information: Burgos progress Report; Role of the Burgos Coordinator; Services and literatures families have a right to; Burgos related forms; Inter-ethnic Placement Act; Latino Family Commission; Hispanic Employment Council; Mexican Consulate; Other resources. Lourdes Rodriguez reported that 3 staff of Latino Family Commission were layed off due to no funding. Leila Suleiman and her Administrative Assistant, Grace Leon are the only working staff not layed off. The Governor proposed close to 300 position reduction for DCFS. Some contracts were proposed to be cut. Jose Alex Medina reported that SB53 is looking to transfer 134 DCLR jobs from DCFS to DHS. SB53 was introduced by Julie Morrison.
- **OLS- Jose Lopez:** Jose Lopez reported that DCFS intern workers are having problems due to their supervisors and high case-loads. Jose Lopez is working on retention issues. Task force is providing the DCFS Director with a chronological report to address retention issues. Jose Lopez met with the foster-parent recruiter and discussed the much needed Spanish Language foster-homes. The recruiter is using a power-point presentation on foster-parent recruitment.

### **LAC Membership**

**Election of Officers:** Jose Alex Medina, the only nominee was voted as the new LAC Chair. Nancy Rodriguez declined to be a LAC Chair-elect nominee. Norma Machay, the only nominee was voted as the new LAC Chair-elect. Damaris Acevedo sent email declining her nomination as LAC Scribe. Yeni Jimenez and Jennifer Contreras were LAC Scribe nominees. Jennifer Contreras was voted as the new LAC Scribe.

**New Member Elections:** tabled

**Departures:** Anabel Michal has resigned as LAC member.

**Cook Region Transformation Team:** Beatriz Ramirez reported that the Cook Region Transformation team is currently accepting nominations.

**Status of Joint Project:** tabled.

**Open Forum:** Nancy Rodriguez recommended that all subcommittee chair person bring in a monthly written report.

**12:40 pm Meeting Adjourned**

**Scribe: Nancy Rodriguez**

**Page 2 of 2**