



Latino Advisory Council

Monthly Meeting – May 20, 2015

Minutes

Chair-Person:

Alex Medina

Chair-Elect:

Norma Machay

Scribe:

Jennifer Contreras

DCFS Members:

Carmen Alvarez
Juanita Calderon
Rebecca Crnovich
Beatriz Ramirez
Nancy Rodriguez

POS Members:

Yeni Jimenez
Karla Soriano

Ex-officio Members:

Jose J. Lopez, OLS
Lourdes Rodriguez,
Burgos Coordinator

Sub-committees:

Child Safety and
Permanency

Community Risk
Reduction and
Staffing

Data validity and
Disproportionality

Strategic
Communications

Latino Family
Institute

Present: Karla Soriano, Alex Medina, Beatriz Ramirez, Juanita Calderon, Nancy Rodriguez, Jose Lopez, Jennifer Contreras, Lourdes Rodriguez, Rebecca Crnovich.

Excused: Norma Machay, Yeni Jimenez

Start Time-9:24am

A. Welcome

- Alex began with the Statement of Values and each member was asked to choose two or three items that they base their daily life and work ethics on, and why. This exercise helped the Council learn how they have common interest with members. It also helped members think about capturing not only our mind but our heart which sets the pace for the work we do and the people we come into contact regardless of their status.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Review of March 2015 minutes in its entirety. Beatriz motioned March minutes, Karla second the motion. March minutes were reviewed, amended, voted on and approved.
- Review of April 2015 minutes in its entirety. Juanita motioned to approve the minutes; Karla second the motion. April minutes were reviewed, amended, voted on and approved.

C. Amendments to By-Laws

- Reviewing the corrections to the By-laws in its entirety. Rebecca motioned to accept the second reading of the By-laws; Karla seconds the motion. Second reading of by-laws completed, By-laws amended, voted on and approved. Jose will review the by-laws during the meeting and the council will have a third reading at the end of the meeting.

D. Strategic Plan 2015

- The Strategic Plan is a lengthy document and it is not possible to complete due to low Council membership and the change of Administration. Alex

Scribe: Jennifer Contreras

recommended eliminating or changing the plan in its entirety. Lourdes recommended to not toss the Strategic Plan but for the Council to focus on two or three goals that are doable for the Council.

- Alex believes that after yesterday's meeting with the acting Director, our Strategic Plan should be based on the tasks that the acting Director has advised us to respond to.
- Lourdes stated some of the items that the acting Director requested yesterday, were sent to him after the meeting. Lourdes sent him the list of the children that remain in the shelter and the length of stay. The second item sent to the acting Director yesterday was the Bilingual Staffing policy.
- Alex wants us to go back to the question; should we work on the issues and bring solutions that the acting Director requested yesterday from LAC as it pertains to specific issues that are already in the Strategic Plan.
- Alex stated that the Strategic Plan is very positive and thorough but we cannot set ourselves up for failure given the demands set by the existing goals in the plan.
- Alex stated the issues that were brought up in the acting Director's meeting yesterday were Employment, Retention, Foster Home Recruitment and Burgos Homes. LAC should be complimenting what Burgos is doing.
- Most members agreed that we should keep the Strategic Plan and make changes in December 2015.
- Beatriz motioned that, as a result of meeting with the acting Director, we should focus on goals that address Employment, Retention, Foster Home Recruitment and Burgos Homes; Nancy second the motion. All in favor and motioned passed as proposed.
- The Executive Committee will be responsible for creating a new Strategic Plan based on the directives from the acting Director.

E. LAC member nominations and selection

- All three nominees elected as members were passed by majority vote: Julia Camacho de Monzon-DCFS, Claudette Gomez-DCFS, and Mariana Osoria, Family Focus-POS.
- Damaris Acevedo resigned in April 2015.
- Committee members and ex-officio members will continue to work on recruitment efforts in order to attain full membership.

F. Increase capacity by reaching out to Latino/Bilingual SPSAs/PSAs

- DCFS Latino Leadership Convocation will be held on July 15, 2015 in the DCFS Maywood office location.

G. Open Forum

- LAC July 15th meeting will be held at the DCFS Maywood office.
- Rebecca motioned to accept the third reading of the By-laws; Nancy seconds the motion. All in favor and motion passed as amended.
- Burgos report: Lourdes detailed the bilingual vacancies, current intern resignations and case load disparity. Lourdes also reported how the Welcoming Centers officially closed their doors per Governor Rauner and the Latino Family Commission has laid-off its last employees.
- Jose reported how during the Latino Unity Day meetings with the Governor and legislators they were advised about the bilingual vacancies in DCFS.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm