



DCFS Latino Advisory Council

Meeting Minuts-January 21, 2016

1026 S. Damen Ave Chicago, IL
60612

Chair-Person:

Alex Medina

Chair-Elect:

Vacant

Scribe:

Jennifer Contreras

DCFS Members:

Carmen Alvarez
Glendy Aponte
Juanita Calderon
Claudette Gomez
Miriam Mojica
Julia Camacho de M.
Rebecca Crnovich
Beatriz Ramirez
Nancy Rodriguez
Dulce Ramirez

POS Members:

Yeni Jimenez
Ana Maria Osoria
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: Alex Medina, Juanita Calderon, Nancy Rodriguez, Lourdes Rodriguez, Sydnie Juarez, Jose Lopez, Rebecca Crnovich, Yeni Jimenez, Beatriz Ramirez

Excused: Norma Machay, Karla Soriano, Dulce Ramirez, Miriam Mojica, Glendy Aponte, Jennifer Contreras, Julia Camacho de Monzon

Absent: Ana Maria Osorio & Claudette Gomez

Guest: Leticia Fernandez, Rosalva Acevedo, Lisette Bonilla

A. Welcome- Meeting began at 9:10am

Introductions were made and everyone expressed at least one of their dreams (personal or work-related) for this New Year 2016.

B. Vision casting, team building and restructuring

- Alex revisited our vision for LAC- looking at the previous culture, what needs to be preserved and what needs to be replaced. A further understanding of our relationship with the Burgos Coordinator and the Office of Latino Services (OLS) is needed in order to connect and become a stronger voice for those we serve.
- Lourdes gave a history of Burgos and what occurred once she stepped into her position.
 - Burgos Consent Decree came about in 1975.
 - In 1991, there was an agreed order to create a Burgos coordinator, comply with the decree and have an external court monitor.
 - In 1997, DCFS convinced the federal court that we were in compliance with Burgos and as a result the external court monitor was eliminated.
 - A Burgos consultant was then implemented until 2003. The consultant would provide reports to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).
 - In 2003, the position of consultant was eliminated by Director Samuels as the previous consultant disappeared.
 - From May 2004 to April 2005, the Burgos Coordinator position was vacant.

- In April 2005, Lourdes stepped into the role of Burgos Coordinator. No information was available initially. She was able to obtain some documents later from the previous coordinator and the former Latino Consortium leader.
 - In October 2005, the FBI investigated the External Affairs office. The former External Affairs associate deputy provided Lourdes with Burgos files found in that office.
- Lourdes reported that MALDEF had not met with DCFS for 11 years. She was informed that if meetings were to be held and if a report was needed, she was to give the report to legal and they would give it to MALDEF.

Jose reported on the Office of Latino Services.

- In 2008, the Burgos policy was changed to cover the entire state of Illinois. It originally only covered 4 to 5 counties in the state.
- The Office of Employment Services (OES) is now shadowing him as he goes to college and community events seeking prospective applicants for DCFS titles.

Alex recapped and developed the following projects for LAC to work on:

- Members should read the Burgos Consent Decree and the 1991 Agreed order in its entirety.
- Work on obtaining Burgos history from current and prior coordinators to be added to the DCFS/ Burgos D-Net website.
- Develop a coalition/interest group with former employees/retirees; possibly have some as ex-officio's.
- Develop workshops such as "How to successfully interview/ complete application process for state employment" to assist with the hiring of Latino/bilingual employees.
- Tap into social media (personal or closed groups) to disseminate job postings within the state by March 2016.

1. Restructuring- Nomination and election of Chair-elect

Tabled to next meeting.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

1. LAC Summit, Dec 9th
Not available. Tabled to next meeting.
2. LAC Retreat, Dec 16th
Beatriz motioned to pass the minutes as amended and Nancy seconded the motion. Six were in favor and one abstention.

D. LAC Mission, statewide membership and expansion

Tabled to next meeting.

E. Old/New Business

1. The meeting with Director Sheldon for tomorrow January 22th at 1pm has been cancelled.
2. Ethics training/certification- Missing only one signature from member

F. Committee break-out session

Tabled to next meeting.
Adjourned at 12:40pm.