

Noticias

A publication of the DCFS
Latino Advisory Committee

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Erwin McEwen, Director

Fall Edition, 2008



Noticias

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Welcome from the Chairperson

Héctor Vázquez

I appreciate the opportunity to serve DCFS' Latino staff, Latino families, and most of all, Latino children of Illinois. Over the past two decades the Latino Advisory Committee, its past chairpersons and members, have made an impact and many advances on behalf of our Latino families ever vigilant to ensure that the culture, language, and customs are understood, respected, and served. I salute and applaud their achievements. Also, I am thankful for the listening ear, understanding heart, and commitment to equality of our prior and current Director in our function as an advisory committee.

Even though we have accomplished much, there is much to be accomplished. As we celebrate our 20th Annual Institute Days in November, remembering and honoring our leaders that have paved the way for us, let us acknowledge the parents, caretakers, and children that continue to need our professionalism, commitment, and service on their behalf. As we move into our third decade, let us continue learning, training, and implementing principles and initiatives in order to protect children, and where needed, efficiently and effectively provide permanency for them.

I truly believe that for those of us that are in this profession it is more than just a job, career, or paycheck—IT'S A CALLING.

Let us go forth with our hearts in our hands as we extend ourselves to each other as a community of Latino staff, the families we serve, and the children we protect.

For all the late hours, excessive caseloads, and at times a thankless job—thank you—thank you for all that you do.

With much respect and admiration,
Héctor Vázquez, Chair
Latino Advisory Committee

Someone You Should Know

As excerpted from the nomination for DCFS Bilingual Employee of the Year



Gloria Navarro is in her eighth year with DCFS as a Spanish Speaking Child Welfare Advanced Specialist on a placement team at the Aurora Field Office and a long-term seasoned professional in the social services arena. Despite having had a thriving private practice providing therapy for Latino families for several years, Gloria chose to come on board with the Department because she wanted additional challenges and the opportunity to make an even greater impact in helping children and families. Gloria frequently participates in on-going training to improve her skills as a social worker.

To really know what type of person Gloria is, you must examine the

many personal strengths that she brings to work each day as an exemplary child welfare professional. Gloria is sensitive and caring with her clients and co-workers alike, and tenderly encourages people to put forth their best effort. When many workers are flustered by the multitude of problems that our clients display, Gloria patiently and firmly guides and encourages families to improve their lives. Gloria is pleasant to be around at all times and rarely has a negative word to say about anyone. Gloria is a role model for what ethical social work practice should be, and she continues to be an encouraging oasis for clients in a sea of problems she helps them to resolve. It's a great opportunity to observe her patient professionalism.

Winner of the Latino Advisory Committee Outstanding Achievement Award

As excerpted from the nomination for Outstanding Achievement Award



Carolina Bono, Cook North DCP worker, is an exceptionally caring and giving individual who has concern and sympathy for her clients and families. Carolina practices professionalism in every aspect of her job as a child welfare specialist. She is a team player and is a cohesive and stabilizing force for DCP. Her problem solving and crisis management skills are outstanding. Her bilin-

gual and bicultural skills make her a valuable employee to DCP with interpreting, teaching, educating other colleagues, and the processing and handling of her cases. Her willingness to voluntarily interpret and respond immediately when needed to all crisis situations is just one example among many of her leadership skills.

Carolina is a warm, sensitive, and engaging personality who practices professional ethics and truly understands child welfare.



Latino Advisory Committee Members

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Maria Calderón, Past-Chair

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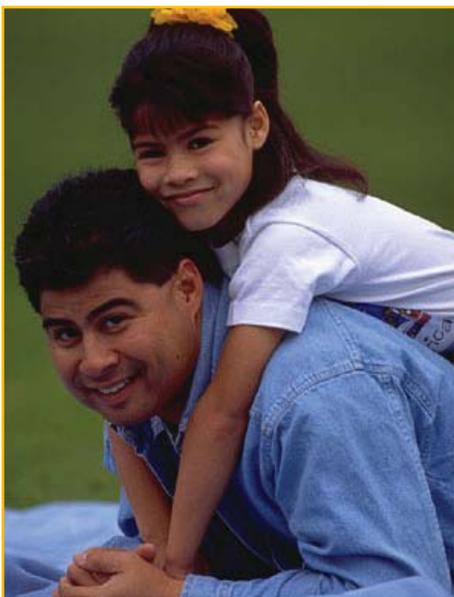
Parent Education Workshops

By Sylvia Fonseca

Did you know Casa Central offers Parent Education Workshops in Spanish? In fact they offer them quarterly. Classes are on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and run for 10 sessions. The topics cover a wide spectrum including “Discipline That Makes Sense,” “Encouraging Your Child and Yourself,” and “Understanding Beliefs and Feelings.”

This program provides excellent resources for Spanish-speaking parents to develop coping strategies, understand child development, learn acceptable discipline practices, and strengthen parenting skills they already possess.

If you know a Spanish-speaking parent involved with DCFS that can benefit from this resource, call Casa Central. The next session begins this summer. For more information contact Elena Rodriquez at 773/645-2310.



Agents of Change

By Arlene T. Rodriguez, MSW

Five bilingual/bicultural workers shared their experiences as case workers in a presentation titled “*Child Welfare Specialists as Agents of Change in the Reunification Process*” at the 19th Annual Advisory Committee Family Institute on November 1 and 2, 2007. DCFS workers Beatriz Ramirez (Cook Central) and Emely Nunez (Cook North), Seguin Services Inc.’s Jasmine Molina and Jorge Madrigal, and Carina Ramos from Childserv, realistically shared the challenges and obstacles they faced daily in working with Latino families and children.

They articulately discussed the interventions that have effectively worked in their experiences. When presenting their cases it was obvious that these workers recognized and overcame countless barriers while supporting and working towards family reunification. The workers’ honesty was genuine regarding their level of knowledge, or lack of, when dealing with their agencies, the court, and the foster care system. These were current workers who do the job everyday discussing specific insights as to their support systems, failures, frustrations, achievements, and successes.

The presenters’ first hand experiences were at times sad and yet hopeful for a system that is re-

sponsible for many of our Latino families and children in Illinois. Challenges were presented with strengths and weaknesses. They discussed fresh approaches and insights were shared on how to deal with stress, impediments, and the amount of work expected for their cases. There were clear ideas, methods, and suggestions given by the workers as to what could be implemented to alleviate an already large and complex caseload. These presenters comprehend and appreciate the challenging yet rewarding role of a child welfare worker.

I believe these bilingual workers were raised with our language, history, traditions, and most importantly our values and were able to integrate that familiarity into working with Latino families and children. They zealously advocated for linguistic and culturally relevant services for our Latino population. Their commitment was relentless and their expertise ever expanding in their ability to meet their Latino families’ and children’s unique needs.

Since this presentation, Jorge Madrigal has left social services, and Emely Nunez has accepted a position with a DCFS Intact Team.

Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.

-Sitting Bull

Former Ward Turned Professional Boxer

By April Curtis

Eric came to Uhlich's Teen Living Program (TLP) in June of 2006 from the Foster Care program at Youth Outreach Services. Eric came to Uhlich going into his senior year of high school while working very hard on his amateur boxing. He was not sure what he wanted to do, but he knew that boxing would be a part of his future. He received great encouragement from his staff, as he had many boxing fans in the house.

Eric was able to get his own room and this served as a calming factor throughout his stay in that home. However, there were times when Eric let his anger and sometimes explosive nature get the best of him. Luckily, in time, the agency was able

to find a bigger home with a backyard and more overall space for the boys to expend their excess energy.

Eric completed school and continued with his boxing. He has grown as a young man and is able to be more vocal about his needs and concerns and a lot less physical. He has been able to channel his anger in a positive manner. His amateur boxing career has served as the catalyst for a lot of this positive change. It has also served as a great passport for Eric to experience a lot this country has to offer. He has had the opportunity to travel throughout the U.S. and abroad. Eric has been to boxing contests in Tennessee, California, Florida, and in Europe.

Most recently Eric had the chance to forgo his amateur status as a boxer and begin his professional career. On September 14, 2007, Eric had his first professional fight and won a four round decision against his opponent. Eric had several supporters, family, and friends in attendance.

Eric is investing in his boxing career in the hopes that it will take care of him and his family and provide other life opportunities. We foresee that his "survival" skills, life skills learned from his placements, and desire to be the best will undoubtedly lead him to a very successful life.

A Foster Parent Who Makes a Difference

By Dahlia Roman

Maria Flores-Grier is a licensed foster parent and a licensed daycare provider. She began her venture into fostering children in the Elgin area. It was there that she realized the positive impact that fostering has on children and families. Maria, who spent her childhood raised by the nuns in her native Honduras, understands the importance of having consistent support and a place to call home.

It was for these reasons that she agreed to take part in a workshop for the 19th Annual Latino Advisory Committee Institute Days this past November 2007. The workshop panel consisted of biological parents, foster parents, and child welfare staff. This panel was designed to discuss the impact of the work that

is jointly done to reach the goal of reunification.

Maria provided a safe and loving environment to one of the Department's young children with the goal to have her return home. While the challenges were many, Maria prayed to have the strength that this child's mother needed to work towards a successful return home. Maria had no problems with working directly with the biological mother, and because they shared similar cultures and language Maria was able to engage her, help her feel comfortable despite those feelings parents often have of foster parents, and help guide and teach her. They both worked together with the support of their case worker to reach reunification.

While the reunification process was successful, Maria remains an important part of this mother and child's life. They often spend time together on weekends and talk often. Maria provides support, advice, and sometimes that break that many parents need. Maria is very proud of this mother and feels that they all received a great deal of support throughout the process. Maria is a firm believer that reunification can be successful and that more joint efforts between the "parents"—foster and biological—will only support the ultimate goal to get children and families back together.

Maria's hope is that more foster parents, biological parents, and workers will see reunification as a way of enhancing the life of a child.

Emergency Care Plan for Children with Undocumented Caregivers

By Maria Calderon

Immigration raids on companies accused of employing undocumented workers sparked concern for servicing and responding to the needs of Department children and families who might be affected by such raids. Immigration raids raised concerns about how undocumented caregivers and the children in their homes could be impacted. Of utmost concern was having a care plan for children of both intact and placement cases in the event a caregiver was detained. Child welfare staff contacted the Latino Advisory Committee (LAC) to inquire about how to respond to these emergencies.

In the spring of 2007, LAC, the Latino Consortium, and the Office of Latino Services (OLS) began discussions about the need to develop a protocol to guide staff with implementing a child care plan in the event a caregiver is detained and possibly faced with deportation. LAC contacted D. Jean Ortega-Piron of the Guardian's Office to facilitate this process as legal parameters and approval at various levels was required. It was the intent of the work group and the Guardian's office to include guidance for child welfare staff in developing a plan of action, enable the family's access to both legal and social resources, and more effectively respond to the crises. The result was a DCFS transmittal and policy to ensure compliance for both the DCFS and POS sector.

It was the goal of our DCFS Guardian Ortega-Piron to have

this policy issued along with other crucial immigration policies:

- **Policy Guide 2008.01**
Licensing, Payment and Placement of Children with Undocumented Relatives
- **Policy Guide 2008.02**
Mexican Consulate Notification of Mexican or Mexican American Minors in the Custody/Guardianship of the Department
- **Policy Transmittal 2008.10**
Immigration/Legalization Services for Foreign-Born DCFS Wards, where the care plan can be found known as Emergency Care Plan for Children with Undocumented Caregivers (Procedures 327, Appendix F, Attachment 2) to address expressed concerns involving immigration.

As stated in the policy, Procedures 327, Appendix F Immigration/Legalization Services for Foreign-Born DCFS Wards describes the application process for attaining legal (citizenship) status for a child born outside of the United States. Attachment 1, Immigration Services Alert, informs DCFS and POS workers of the requirement to determine a child's legal (citizenship) status and explains the benefits and services that may be unavailable to a child who does not become a legal permanent resident of the United States. Attachment 2, Emergency Care Plan for Children with Undocumented Caregivers, describes DCFS or

POS workers' responsibility to develop an emergency care plan for children in the event that their caregiver is detained due to his or her undocumented legal status in the United States. Attachment 2 also includes a list of resources and advocates for immigrants and the consulates in Illinois.

When assisting families in developing their care plan, caseworkers should review existing policy for guidance should an emergency placement become necessary. The Emergency Care Plan is for all undocumented DCFS/POS caregivers; a list of consulates, resources, and agencies servicing immigrant families is also included with the guide.

LAC would like to thank and acknowledge D. Jean Ortega-Piron as an instrumental leader whose diligence made this care plan policy possible and Director Erwin McEwen for his approval of this policy. The LAC members who initiated the work group and worked with Guardian Ortega-Piron are Evelyn Martinez, Sylvia Fonseca, and Maria Calderon from LAC, Luis Barrios from the Latino Consortium, and Jose Lopez from OLS.

Caseworkers and supervisors who have questions about developing an emergency plan of care may contact the Immigration Services Unit at 312/814-8600.

Café Con Leche: Support Group for New Bilingual Hires

On May 23, the Office of the Burgos Coordinator held its first Café Con Leche meeting at the 1911 S. Indiana office in Chicago. Café Con Leche is a support group for new bilingual Spanish-speaking staff. The event is a retention effort to address questions and issues of new bilingual staff and assist them in navigating the state's child welfare system.

This project is held through the Office of the Burgos Coordinator with participation from Affirmative Action, Office of Latino Services (OLS), and the Latino Advisory Committee (LAC). Café Con Leche has been approved by Director Erwin McEwen. The official welcome and opening remarks at the inaugural meeting were given by Dr. Roberto Sanabria on behalf of Deputy Director Michael Holmes of Affirmative Action. Additional presentations were given by Jose J. Lopez, Acting Chief of OLS; Beatrice Ramirez, LAC member; and Lourdes Rodriguez, Burgos Coordinator.

Four new staff attended: Sandra Arechar and Kori Acosta from Juvenile Court; Mary Lou Marban, Cook South Placement; and Elisa Corona, Cook North Investigations. The new staff shared their experiences and challenges. The exchange was welcomed by both sides and much was learned in regards to how new staff view DCFS. The findings and new staff recommendations will be shared with Department administrators. Participants received a Café Con Leche coffee mug along with sweet treats.

The Café Con Leche group meets quarterly. Café Con Leche events may be held in other areas of the state depending on the number of new bilingual Spanish Speaking hires regionally. The next meeting will be held on November 25 at 1911 South Indiana Ave., 2nd floor, from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Café Con Leche will be served with a host of Latino pastries. For all new staff, please attend our next meeting.

Welcome New Hires!

Kori Acosta
Sandra Arechar
Brisa Berumen
Esperanza Cantu
Mary Lou Colon
Elisa Corona
Patricia Diamantopoulous
Richard De La Haza
Dianna González-Guerra
Amy Grace
Sergio Jiménez
Mary Lou Marban
Coty Martinez
Aracely Torres
Virginia Romero
Miguel Sandoval-García

If we missed anyone, let us know and they will be included in the next issue of Noticias.

Saludos y Bienvenidos!

El Dia de los Muertos



El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), celebrated on November 2, is practiced in many Latin American countries as well as the United States and is a tradition of celebrating and honoring loved ones who have died.

This is the second year an altar was provided during the Latino Advisory Committee Institute Days for those who wished to honor their deceased loved ones by placing photos, flowers, notes and other mementos on the altar.



Save the Date!

**Illinois Department of
Children and Family
Services 20th Annual
Latino Advisory
Committee Family
Institute Days**

November 13 - 14, 2008

**Pheasant Run
Resort and Spa**
4051 East Main Street
St. Charles, Illinois



Latino Advisory Committee

LAC and AAAC Joint Meetings

On December 19, 2007, the Latino Advisory Committee (LAC) and the African American Advisory Council (AAAC) held their semi-annual joint meeting. This was a bittersweet reunion as both groups honored Phyllis Robinson, former Immigration Services Coordinator, who was retiring with over 30 years of state service. Maria Calderón, former chair of LAC, presented Ms. Robinson with a recognition plaque on behalf of the committee. Jimmie Whitelow of AAAC and DCFS Communications also presented her with a recognition award for years of service on behalf of DCFS.

Issues discussed at the meeting included the increased services for incarcerated wards by DCFS, which includes cross training with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to build a good working relationship between DCFS and DOC to assist with service implementation and placement of parolees. In addition, DCFS has contracts established with various community providers to assist with this population.

Michael Burns, AAAC Chairperson, shared information regarding the Permanency Enhancement Symposiums taking place statewide with the hopes of forming groups in each region who will work towards improving community services, participation in education, social services, law enforcement, and other related areas. AAAC hopes to develop their presentation for Core Training as well. AAAC also hopes to create additional events for youth including highlighting the accomplishments of African



*Jimmie Whitelow, Phyllis Robinson
and Victor Flores*

American youth during Black History Month.

LAC shared its presentation given to new employees during Core Training, as well as the Immigration initiative that they were working on with D. Jean Ortega-Piron.

In May 2008, LAC met again with AAAC and informed them that the policy transmittal regarding immigration concerns would be distributed shortly. Details regarding the 20th Annual Latino Advisory Committee Family Institute were also discussed.

AAAC announced that the Cook Symposium would happen shortly and that they have been successful with symposiums held at other areas around the state. Invaluable information has been obtained which will be shared with the regions.

LAC & AAAC sponsored a meet and greet with the Asian American Advisory Council in which ideas were shared with all groups, and AAAC and LAC offered support to this group is in its initial development stage.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

On November 8, 2007, the Mexican Consulate of Chicago and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) signed a renewal of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Consul General Manuel Rodriguez Arriaga and DCFS Director Erwin McEwen signed the document in a ceremony at the Mexican Consulate continuing the cooperation between Illinois and Mexico in protecting and serving children and families of Mexican citizens. Originally, the MOU became effective July 2001 with a termination date of January 12, 2003. It was renewed in June 2004 with the possibility of automatic extensions for periods of equal duration, unless one of the parties declares otherwise. The November 8 signing extended the MOU to January 31, 2011. The historical significance of the Memorandum of Understanding is that it is the first of its kind—child welfare notification to a Mexican consulate—in the nation.

The MOU is a working agreement with the Mexican Consulate that will help place the children of Mexican nationals, whether documented or undocumented, who are separated from their parents. Its purpose is to protect the Mexican minor by providing a method of early identification of Mexican minors and their families in order to provide services which assure all the protections afforded by the Vienna Convention, the Bilateral Convention, and all other applicable treaties and laws. Highlights of MOU are as follows:

1. Determination of Mexican Lineage: DCFS shall determine at the time a decision to take protective custody is made if possible or within ten days of taking custody, if a minor has any Mexican

lineage. DCFS will inform any Mexican minor, and any parent or custodian of a Mexican or Mexican American minor of the rights afforded under the Vienna and Bilateral Conventions through the distribution of jointly created brochures.

2. Notification to the Mexican Consulate: Under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, the State's Attorney has primary notification responsibility. However, DCFS will notify the Consulate in writing of the following:
 - a. DCFS identifies a Mexican minor in its custody
 - b. When the parent/custodian of a Mexican or Mexican American minor has requested that the consulate be notified
 - c. DCFS learns that a non-custodial parent resides in Mexico
3. Shared Information/Contact: Initially, DCFS will provide to the Consulate limited identifying information such as the name and birth date of the minor, the name of the parent/custodian, and the name and telephone number of the case worker directly responsible for the case. DCFS will also allow the Consulate to interview the minor with appropriate consent. Applicable confidentiality laws will be followed.
4. The Consulate will assist DCFS with the following:
 - a. Obtaining necessary documentation from Mexico for the completion of Special Immigration Juvenile Status application
 - b. Obtaining Mexican birth certificate of Mexican American minor in DCFS custody
 - c. Obtaining appropriate home



Consul General Manuel Rodriguez Arriaga and DCFS Director Erwin McEwen signed a renewal of the MOU between Mexico and Illinois.

- a. studies of potential families in Mexico from DIF¹
 - d. Obtaining DIF's cooperation to ensure the minor's welfare when placed in Mexico and provide whatever services are necessary
 - e. Obtaining and forwarding monitoring reports to DCFS prepared by DIF concerning the minor's welfare
5. DCFS and the Consulate shall work together to locate individuals that reside in Mexico and must appear in an Illinois court regarding cases of minor.
 6. Consular Officers and DCFS staff will meet three times a year to discuss, clarify, and coordinate activities in areas of mutual interest and concern.

The Consul General and the Director of DCFS will meet once a year, in order to assess the progress and direction of the Memorandum.

A policy guide for all child welfare staff explaining the MOU was issued in 2004. It was recently revised and reissued in May, 2008.

¹“DIF” is the Agency For Integral Family Development. This is the agency in Mexico charged with ensuring the welfare of minors.

Latino Advisory Committee Institute Days' Cultural Presentations

Marimba Ensemble

By Madeline González-García

The November 2007 Latino Advisory Committee Institute Days was pleased to have a very talented group of young people for dinner entertainment: The Holy Cross/ IHM (Immaculate Heart of Mary) Marimba Ensemble. They performed at length to the rapt attention of the relaxed dinner crowd and those who took to the dance floor in style.

For more than 12 years, this group has been performing every Sunday at the 10 a.m. mass at Holy Cross Parish located at 4541 S. Wood St. in Chicago. Not only have they performed throughout Chicago for special city events, but also around the country. The group includes about 15 regular players, who range from high school age to college age. Their repertoire of music includes Mexican, Caribbean, Polka, Cumbia, traditional Guatemalan, as well as popular classical pieces. If you missed the presentation, you can hear some of their music on the following Web site: www.hcihm.org/ensemble.



Mariachi Band

By Lalia Ortiz

During the second day of the Institute prior to the closing luncheon, participants were instructed to wait in the exhibit area while the banquet hall was being prepared for the lunch reception. As all the participants waited and viewed the exhibits, there came music from down the hall. One could hear trumpet, violin, and guitar music approach as mariachi band members passed and the crowd opened up to let the musicians enter the reception hall. I remember feeling a sense of pride hearing the music from Mexico as everyone followed the group into the reception.

The mariachi group played and sang as the participants enjoyed the music and lunched. It was pleasant to hear the songs that my father sang from when I was growing up. The mariachi members encouraged audience participation. Some people sang with the mariachis and others got out of their seats to dance. It was more so entertaining to the

audience when the mariachis began to sing songs in English and from other countries such as Puerto Rico. It was by far an exciting time to be a part of this reception.



While these were fun and exciting presentations it was also a way for us to remember how to take these experiences back to work with us and encourage us to find ways of exposing our youth to their cultural heritage by way of music and dance and not just limiting ourselves to language and food but rather expanding this to be all inclusive of what our youth need to stay connected to their own identity and culture.



Latino Family Commission

By Madeline González-García

In 2006, Illinois State Senator William Delgado, 2nd District, met with community advocates to discuss improving state agencies' services to Latinos. In 2007, Senator Delgado introduced Senate Bill 1746, which called for the creation of the Illinois Latino Family Commission (ILFC). The Commission will be charged with advising the Governor and legislatures. In addition, it will look at ways to improve and expand state agencies' policies, services, and programs for Latinos.

Prior to this Commission, in 1971 the Spanish Speaking Peoples Study Commission was created to ensure that the needs of Latinos were being met. The Commission looked at language, education, employment, and other issues impacting Latinos. The members

prepared reports and made recommendations to the General Assembly. Hearings were held and research was conducted regarding: migrant workers, consumer fraud, education, occupational health and safety, housing, health, welfare, incarceration, and employment. However, it was abolished by the Legislative Commission Reorganization Act of 1984.

Today, although state agencies have taken some steps to improve services for Latinos, concern remains regarding major indicators of well being within child welfare, health, education, and employment. In addition, Latino families remain underserved in the areas of human services, public health, and mental health services. In addition to ILFC being an avenue of support for Latino families, the commission

will also help Illinois' Governor understand Latino families' unique issues. This Commission was designed to have 15 members, appointed by the Governor and the legislature's leadership, to serve three years. The members are representative from across the state. They will prepare annual reports and be a resource to government, child and family advocates, and other stakeholders.

Let's welcome this group of individuals who will take on the task of ensuring that state agencies provide quality services to Latinos. More importantly, let's support these individuals as they take on the task of ensuring that Latinos receive quality services from culturally and linguistically competent state employees.

Upcoming Latino Events

The Office of Latino Services/Office of Affirmative Action invites you to volunteer and represent your agency! For more information, please contact Jose Lopez at 312-808-5298 or Jose.J.Lopez@illinois.gov.

12th Ward Public Service Office

3rd Annual Health Fair

November 7, 2008

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saucedo Academy, 2850 W. 24th Blvd.

Contact: Maria G. Chavez, 773/523-8250

UIC-LOS Health Fair

November 7, 2008

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Marquette Park, 6734 S. Kedzie Ave.

Contact: Emily Anderson, 312/413-3379

Illinois Welcoming Day

In conjunction with Governor Blagojevich's new initiative, the Latino Leadership Council of Rockford is hosting an Illinois Welcoming Day for all new immigrants residing in Winnebago and Boone Counties on Sept 27, 2008. Members of the local Eastern European, Russian, Laos and Muslim communities will be invited to attend.

The event will be held at the LaVoz Latina grounds, 412 Market Place, Rockford, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Many state agencies and local organizations will be hosting resource tables and booths to provide information about their services.

Attendees may participate in a citizen workshop, a mammogram wagon will be present, and lead screenings will be performed. Cultural food vendors, music and entertainment will also be provided.

Noticias is brought to you by the Latino Advisory Committee and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. It is distributed to DCFS employees, POS agencies, and agencies affiliated with DCFS. The newsletter includes articles pertinent to child welfare, Latino welfare issues, and DCFS/POS programs, and strives to be an informative source for staff by providing updates on new child welfare initiatives as well as upcoming events. It is our hope to continue providing staff with a vehicle for the sharing of information. In this endeavor, we are looking for your input, submission of articles, and suggestions for improving Noticias. Articles related to your experiences with families and

personal stories are also greatly appreciated. Please submit articles, information about upcoming events or news to:

Julia Camacho de Monzon
LAC Newsletter Chairperson
DCFS
1240 S Damen Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60608
Julia.Camacho-de-Monzon@illinois.gov

If you would like more information or would like to participate in one of the LAC subcommittees, contact Hector Vasquez at: Hector.Vasquez@illinois.gov.



Special thanks to the Newsletter Committee Members:

Dahlia Roman, Maria Calderon, Carol Kline, Carmen Alvarez, Victor Flores and Madeline Gonzales-Garcia

Thanks to:

Jenny Florent, DCFS Division of Communications; and Jose Lopez, DCFS Office of Latino Services

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