

17th Annual Leadership Conference

“Government in Motion: The Evolving County Workforce”

The Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) hosted the 17th Annual Leadership Conference on June 5, 2019 at the Music Center. This year’s theme was *“Government in Motion: The Evolving County Workplace.”* The Annual Leadership Conference is jointly sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, and the Quality and Productivity Commission.

Commissioner Will Wright served as this year’s Leadership Conference Ad Hoc Committee Chair and Commissioner Andrés Cuervo served as Facilitator during the conference. Commissioner Cuervo welcomed an estimated 165 attendees to the conference. An additional 200 guests participated via web streaming. The conference objective was *“Anticipating the future of work, empowering an increasingly mobile workforce to improve services and extend impact.”* New technologies have changed the workplace and work is no longer limited to the confines of a cubicle; work happens everywhere and anywhere.

The Board of Supervisors commended the Quality and Productivity Commission for their work on innovation. Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, recognized the need to implement changes to enhance the loyalty, commitment, and integrity of our workforce and respect for our employees. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District, expressed that the *“County’s ethos is to encourage continued technological innovation,”* and that the future depends on our choices and actions today. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District, spoke on a joint motion with Supervisor Janice Hahn,

Fourth District, on co-working and confirmed a telework pilot, which cuts down on traffic and greenhouse gases, while increasing staff productivity and morale.

Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer, also emphasized that *“people are the key to innovation”* and technology is a key fundamental driver in how we deliver services, and how we communicate in the workplace.

The keynote speaker was Toni Townes-Whitley, President of U.S. Regulated Industries at Microsoft. Townes-Whitley presented on preparing the future *“Phigital”* workforce for the 4th Industrial Revolution – the technological revolution. How do we prepare a generation that is unwilling or unable to distinguish between the physical and digital world? The *“Phigital”* generation’s relationship with technology has impacted the way it works and learns. The workplace has changed, as we are now using technology in many new ways. The challenge is to equip everyone with the skills to thrive in a digital economy.

This year’s *People, Place, Culture: What’s Next?* panel included Lisa M. Garrett, Director of Personnel; Scott D. Minnix, Director, Internal Services Department; and Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director. The panel moderator was Shawn Landres, Chair, Quality and Productivity Commission. Each of the panelists discussed how new technologies have impacted the workplace and how telework,

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Rental Housing Habitability Survey

Complete the 5-minute survey at
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DPSS and County Partners Address Student Hunger on Local College Campuses

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) kicked off its 9th Annual CalFresh Awareness Month campaign at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in May to highlight its outreach to college students facing food insecurity.

According to a 2018 report by the United States Government Accountability Office, 40 percent of student respondents from University of California and 42 percent from California State University campuses have experienced hunger.

At the event, DPSS convened a group of respected human services stakeholders and CalFresh beneficiaries to share strategies to end hunger at local institutions of higher learning. CSUDH undergraduate student and mother of two, Maria Camacho, shared how CalFresh is helping her feed her family while maintaining her grades. Despite the stigma associated with receiving public assistance, she encouraged anyone who needs assistance to not hesitate to apply.

Working with County and community-based partners, DPSS is supporting efforts by campus administrations to assist low-income students with accessing nutritious food. In addition to the UC and CSU campuses, DPSS is also partnering with the nine L.A. Community College District campuses, where reportedly one in every five of the district's 230,000 students is homeless, and nearly two-thirds are not able to afford adequate, nutritious food. DPSS is hosting CalFresh Enrollment Days on the campuses to provide information about the nutrition benefit available to students.

“While the universities and community colleges are working to find solutions for their students, many – particularly homeless students – are not able to access a sustainable supply of healthy food,” said DPSS Director Antonia Jiménez.

In L.A. County approximately, 1.1 million individuals receive CalFresh benefits, yet there are many more who may be eligible but are not participating. The CalFresh campaign was implemented in 2011 to create awareness about the benefits of the program. DPSS is also partnering with other County departments, including Public Health, to address the issue.

“No family should have to choose between buying healthy food for their family and another basic need like paying for rent,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of the Department of Public Health. “Public Health is focused on strengthening emergency food assistance by partnering with food rescue organizations to scale distribution efforts, providing food insecurity screening at clinics, and linking communities to CalFresh to reduce food insecurity throughout L.A. County.”

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hoteling and coworking are a part of the current workplace model.

Kathleen Selke, Director, Global Business Division, Knoll, Inc. discussed the evolution of the workplace and how it is a determining factor in attracting talent. Selke elaborated that, ultimately, for today's workforce it is all about people, experiences and an engaging workplace. She closed with declaring that “There is no workplace of the future. There is only change.”

Also participating were Leah William, Rabbi of the Temple Menorah, who gave the invocation, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Joel Castellanos from the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Keynote speaker Toni Townes-Whitley