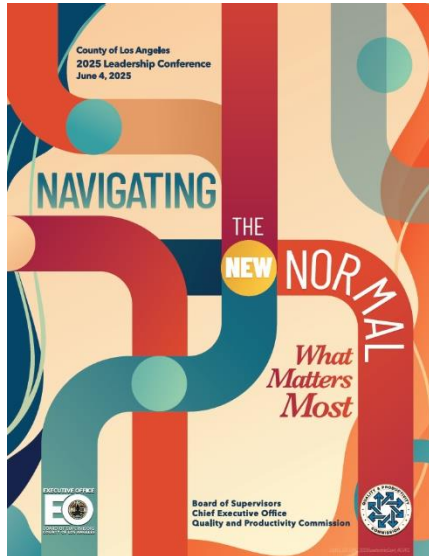


Quality and Productivity Commission Leadership Conference

Navigating the New Normal: What Matters Most

By: William B. Parent (Chair) and J. Shawn Landres (Chair Emeritus and Leadership Conference ad hoc Committee Chair)



The Quality and Productivity Commission (Commission), in collaboration with the Board of Supervisors (Board), Chief Executive Office, and the Executive Office of the Board hosted the 22nd Annual Leadership Conference on June 4, 2025 at the Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion-Grand Hall. The 2025 theme was “Building Resilience in an Era of Polycrisis.” The conference addressed the multiple crises facing the County—the wildfires and climate change, budget cuts, restrictive changes to immigration policy, the undermining of civil liberties and due process, and declines in trade and tourism—

approaching all of these not as siloed problems but as related yet independent challenges.

The conference speakers focused on adaptive leadership under pressure, equity and access, cross-departmental innovation, organizational health, and sources of hope.

Speakers included Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair (Fifth District) and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis (First District); Keynote Speaker, Dr. Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California (USC) Distinguished Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Director of the USC Equity Research Institute; Dr D’Artagnan Scorza, Executive Director of Racial Equity, Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion, Chief Executive Office; Curley L. Bonds, MD, Chief Medical Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; Rafael Carbajal, Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; Dr. Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Officer, Board of Supervisors Executive Office; and Dr. Carrie Miller, Senior Manager, Chief Executive Office, Policy Implementation and Alignment Branch.

The speakers shared insights the deep roots of inequality, recent patterns of immigration in California and Los Angeles, and sources of the current crises. They offered perspectives on preparedness, collaborative innovation “on the fly,” leadership and “stepping up” by County staff, and ultimately the importance of maintaining focus while building resilience, managing self-care, being ready for the unpredictable, and holding fast to hope.

The event was made possible by the outstanding work of Commission Executive Director Jackie Guevarra and her staff and the hard work of the 2025 Leadership Conference ad hoc Committee consisting of: J. Shawn Landres, Chair; Jacki Bacharach, Vice Chair; Huasha Liu, Edward McIntyre, Marsha D. Mitchell, Bill Parent, and Mark Waronek.