

Thurlow/Associates' Take on the News: Los Angeles County Raises the Bar for Public-Private Partnerships

This April, Los Angeles County opened the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships, housed within the also newly created Office of Child Protection. The center is the first of its kind in the county. It will work to facilitate and enhance collaboration between the government and the private sector. The purpose: to develop a shared agenda for joint initiatives, focused on improving child welfare.

Kate Anderson joined the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships as executive director, on the April 1. Her robust résumé includes significant experience in the field of child advocacy. She has also served as an attorney and worked on various political campaigns. Over the past month, Kate has been on a far-reaching listening tour and has met with numerous stakeholders in the government and private sectors. We sat down with Kate in mid-April to discuss her new role.

"I'm honored to be leading this initiative," Kate told us. "I truly believe that we're at an inflection point where we can move the needle for our vulnerable families and children in LA County. The Board of Supervisors and the departments serving our families are engaged and we have the philanthropic and nonprofit community committed to this effort. It's exciting to help bring the various stakeholders together to produce better outcomes."

Championed by County Supervisors Hilda Solis and Sheila Kuehl, the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships was developed collaboratively by Southern California Grantmakers, 13 local foundations and the county's Office of Child Protection. The Center will rely on equal parts philanthropic and government funds to support its operations. Already, leaders from across the Southern California philanthropic community have endorsed the effort.

Thurlow/Associates is pleased to add our voice to those supporting this new center. The Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships promises to bring a heightened level of dialogue and cooperation in addressing the needs of children in our county — and we look forward to being a part of this important process.