

San Bernardino County Public Service Recognition Award for Excellence Recipients 2026

Commitment to Community

Amy Ortiz – Sheriff's Department

Amy is a driving force in creating and leading programs that promote health, expand youth opportunities and bring residents together across the county. Through her work with the Debbie Chisholm Memorial Foundation and the Golden Circle of Champions, she provides children battling cancer and their families with meaningful, no-cost experiences that support healing and connection. As co-founder of Saddle Up, she empowers at-risk youth with hands-on learning that builds confidence, responsibility, and respect for agricultural traditions. She continues to mentor, support, and connect young people to opportunities that shape their futures. Caring and deeply dedicated, Amy consistently puts others first, making a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families she serves.

Brian Newcomer – Innovation and Technology Department

Dedicated to improving communities' quality of life, Brian fosters positive relationships that encourage investment in the county. Known for his integrity and leadership, he prioritizes safety and environmental stewardship, ensuring the protection of natural resources, the public and the personnel he leads. His work has resulted in significant savings for the county by improving radio system efficiency for more than 18,000 users, reducing errors and minimizing downtime for critical services. His efforts extend beyond technology, having worked tirelessly under extreme conditions to support storm-impacted communities with resilience and compassion. Brian's unwavering commitment to service reflects a deep dedication to the well-being and strength of the communities he serves.

Griselda Flores – County Library

Griselda is recognized for her ethical leadership, collaborative approach, and commitment to workforce development in support of the Countywide Vision. While serving in an interim leadership role, she ensured stable operations and uninterrupted public service by mentoring staff and strengthening team efficiency. She consistently demonstrates integrity, transparency, and a strong focus on staff and public safety in her decision-making. Griselda fosters collaboration by sharing innovative ideas and scalable solutions that improve services and strengthen partnerships. Her dedication, humility and commitment to continuous improvement have enhanced organizational effectiveness and positively impacted the community.

Guy Biakop – Department of Behavioral Health

Guy has an undeniable commitment to serving individuals experiencing homelessness through the InnROADs program. He consistently collaborates with clinics, county departments and care teams to ensure clients receive timely behavioral health services. In one instance, he traveled to Apple Valley on behalf of his team's concern for a vulnerable client adjacent to the wash, coordinating same-day access to critical medication with the behavioral health team at a nearby clinic. His proactive, client-centered

approach ensures care is delivered when and where it is needed most. Guy's dedication, teamwork and compassion reflect a strong commitment to continually improving outcomes for the community.

Jody Goetsch – Transitional Assistance Department

Jody excels at strengthening workforce pathways that connect residents to skills, work experience and employment. She aligns leadership, staff and community partners to expand access to meaningful work opportunities. Her efforts have increased engagement and helped customers gain job readiness skills, leading to employment and self-sufficiency. Known for her integrity and collaborative leadership, she builds strong partnerships and is trusted to deliver results across teams and departments. Jody's commitment to service, innovation and opportunity has strengthened the workforce, promoting economic stability and improved outcomes for the community.

Kory Hand – Department of Public Health

Kory provides compassionate, high-quality public health services to diverse populations. She connects individuals and families to critical resources, reducing barriers to care and ensuring vulnerable populations receive timely, appropriate and compassionate support. Her work with the Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation includes collaboration with multidisciplinary teams and specialized case management for youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. She contributes to program development and supports system improvements that enhance services countywide. Through outreach, education and advocacy, Kory helps ensure vulnerable populations receive the care and support they need.

Rosmery Martinez – Community Development and Housing

Rosmery has demonstrated adaptability and dedication in the Grants Unit, where she applies her expertise to complex program operations. She is deeply committed to serving vulnerable populations, connecting individuals and families to essential resources that support stability and well-being. Her patience and proactive approach consistently enhance customer satisfaction and strengthen the department's reputation. Rosmery leads with initiative and sound decision-making, playing a key role in improving the Emergency Solutions Grant program. Through collaboration and process improvements, she has increased efficiency and delivered transformative results that support the department's mission.

Shannon Lehrter – Agriculture/Weights and Measures

Shannon protects the county's agriculture and natural resources, working in inspections and pest detection. She prevents the spread of harmful invasive species, supporting both local industries and environmental health. In 2025, her attention to detail led to 59 high-priority pest interceptions and recognition by the California Department of Food & Agriculture for preventing the spread of a plant-based bacterial disease. In addition to completing 26 nursery inspections - covering more than 144 acres, she detected 13 pests of concern, directly reducing the risk of crop loss. She communicates effectively with the public and provides valuable guidance to industry professionals. Through her work, Shannon helps safeguard the county's economy and quality of life.

Suzette Dang – Board of Supervisors, Fourth District

Suzette is recognized for her outstanding work ethic, reliability and consistent commitment to serving residents. She delivers high-quality work with strong attention to detail, ensuring projects, events and community needs are handled with professionalism, positivity and care. She has taken on a key role

coordinating District 4 special events, successfully managing logistics, partnerships and communication to ensure seamless execution. Known for her willingness to step up, she embraces new challenges and contributes to solutions that benefit the community. Suzette's positive attitude, teamwork and steadfast dedication have made a meaningful impact on residents and the county.

Tamara Serrao-Leiva – County Museum

Tamara is recognized for her commitment to building respectful, trust-based relationships with the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation and other Indigenous tribes across the county. Her expertise in Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act law and ethical stewardship has positioned the museum as a regional leader in culturally responsible practices. She is widely sought for her guidance, helping institutions strengthen partnerships with tribal communities while mentoring colleagues. She fosters a culture of open communication, collaboration and staff development through thoughtful leadership initiatives. Tamara's emotional intelligence, humility and dedication have bolstered community partnerships and the workplace environment.

Tiffany Acklin – Children and Family Services

Tiffany's compassionate and collaborative service supports children in dependency cases with a goal of permanency through adoption. She demonstrates professionalism and humility, forming strong partnerships with families, caregivers and service providers to help navigate complex and sensitive situations. In challenging cases, she works diligently to support families, encourage solutions and prioritize the well-being and stability of children. Her ability to listen, build trust and coordinate care has helped families overcome obstacles and achieve successful outcomes, including finalized adoptions. Tiffany's dedication, teamwork and commitment to the community have made a lasting impact on the children and families she serves.

Timothy Mezin – Land Use Services

Timothy addresses complex code enforcement issues that impact public safety, neighborhood stability and environmental health. He takes ownership of challenging cases, ensuring they are resolved lawfully, thoughtfully and with compassion for residents. He led efforts to investigate and stop illegal dumping of bio-digestate, while collaborating with the Planning Division to help develop an ordinance to prevent future violations. As supervisor of the North Desert Regional Team, he improved case resolution timelines and upheld high standards for compliance and documentation. Timothy's leadership, mentorship and professional conduct have strengthened both his team and the communities they serve.

Excellence In Every Engagement

Alicia Corsey – Department of Aging and Adult Services - Public Guardian

Alicia drives operational excellence by streamlining administrative processes and bolstering operational efficiency. Through her coordination of a workflow for Education Assistance Program approvals, she helped increase staff participation in key programs and training opportunities such as the A.P.S. Multidisciplinary Team Conference. Her strategic approach to executive scheduling has aligned leadership calendars, improved overall coordination and planning, and prevented conflicts. For the department's 2025 strategic planning session, she successfully managed logistics and materials, ensuring productive and well-executed outcomes. Through her attention to detail and commitment to excellence, Alicia improves operations and supports organizational success.

Alicia Meza – Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Alicia sets the standard for excellence in every engagement by delivering exceptional customer service as the first point of contact for visitors and callers. She creates a welcoming environment by greeting individuals with professionalism, respect and a positive attitude. She efficiently manages calls and inquiries, reducing wait times and ensuring accurate connections that build trust in county services. Her proactive approach supports smooth operations for staff and leadership, thereby enhancing productivity and collaboration. Through her reliability, integrity and attention to detail, Alicia consistently enhances the overall customer experience.

Branson Tay – County Administrative Office, Communications Group

Branson elevates engagement through high-quality multimedia content that informs and connects the community. Known for his strong work ethic, he combines technical expertise with creativity and reliability to deliver quality and professional results with care under tight deadlines. He fosters trust in clients and colleagues alike by mentoring teammates, supporting a collaborative environment, and promoting a customer-first approach. Through professionalism, dedication, and accountability, Branson helps keep residents informed, engaged and connected to their communities.

Catherine Zabloudil – Real Estate Services Department

Cathy exemplifies outstanding performance through administrative support and leadership within her department. In addition to supporting the director, she manages the department's Board Agenda Item submittal process and serves as office manager, ensuring operations run smoothly and efficiently. She consistently provides support and high-quality services to internal and external customers. Cathy fosters a positive work environment through teamwork and a commitment to excellence, making her an invaluable asset to the county.

Cindy Dalton – Board of Supervisors, Second District

Cindy demonstrates a high standard of service in every interaction, supporting leadership with her attention to detail, structure and professionalism. She ensures leadership initiatives are well-organized, timely, and clearly communicated. Drawing on her extensive experience, she has developed systems that improve training, accuracy and accessibility across the team. Her detail-oriented approach and ability to anticipate needs support high-level operations with precision. Cindy's kindness, patience and positive presence make her a trusted team member who unites staff and enhances the workplace environment.

Jessica Salcido – County Counsel

Jessica is recognized for exemplifying the Countywide Vision through her collaborative, ethical, and service-driven work. She provides exceptional support to the Juvenile Dependency Unit and appellate attorneys, helping ensure cases involving vulnerable children are handled efficiently, accurately, and with care. Her professionalism, adaptability, and leadership enable timely court proceedings and strengthen the quality of legal services. She fosters a respectful, collaborative environment where best practices are modeled and shared. Jessica's commitment to learning, teamwork, and excellence enhances public service and supports better outcomes for children and families across the county.

Karina Macias – Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk

Karina's leadership and service have been instrumental in expanding access to essential services across the county through her work on the A.R.C. Mobile Unit. She plays a key role in ensuring residents in remote and underserved communities receive timely and accurate support regardless of location. Her commitment to service advances the Countywide Vision of a more inclusive, efficient, and accessible government. In addition, she contributes to workforce development by training and mentoring new staff. Karina's dedication to service and knowledge sharing strengthens operations and reflects a standard of excellence in every interaction.

Pamela Limon – Risk Management

Pam contributes to robust operations through her expertise, reliability and commitment to teamwork. She plays a vital role in cross-training efforts that ensure continuity of services and minimize disruptions. Her willingness to assist others and take on additional responsibilities reflects her dedication to shared success. Pam supports new employees and anticipates team needs, contributing to a positive and productive work environment. With her solution-focused mindset and enthusiasm, she elevates the performance of her entire division.

Robert James – Human Services, Information Technology and Support Division

In appreciation of his exceptional customer service, Robert is recognized for delivering consistent results and responsive support to the community. He fosters trust and collaboration through a solution-driven approach that enhances the experience of all stakeholders. His consistent follow-through and commitment to excellence reflect the Countywide Vision of effective, ethical and service-oriented governance. Alongside the desktop support team, he has contributed to the successful completion of more than 20 projects that enhanced services and improved outcomes for residents. Robert's teamwork and focus on results continue to have a lasting impact on the county.

Thomas C. Lynch – Registrar of Voters

Thomas leads with distinction by delivering high-quality training that strengthens the integrity and efficiency of elections. He ensures staff are well-prepared, knowledgeable, and confident in carrying out their responsibilities. His focus on equity, compliance, and customer service helps ensure every voter can participate fully and confidently, building public trust in the electoral process. By modernizing training methods and using feedback to drive continuous improvement, Thomas enhances preparedness for complex and high-turnout elections. His leadership, collaboration, and commitment to excellence support a fair, secure, and reliable democratic process.

Tyler Reed – Public Defender

Tyler advances impactful service by expanding outreach efforts that connect community members to critical legal services. He builds strong relationships with community partners and actively engages the public to increase awareness of available resources. His dedication is reflected in his commitment to support individuals in need and meet with them personally to address their questions and concerns. Tyler approaches his work with empathy, integrity, and a commitment to helping others succeed.

Through his steadfast efforts, he creates meaningful opportunities that improve lives and strengthen the community.

Yvonne Wooten – Veterans Affairs

Yvonne is recognized for exemplifying open, ethical, and customer-focused public service and support. She provides exceptional assistance to a diverse customer base, consistently doing what is necessary to ensure individuals receive the help they need. With 18 years of dedicated service, she anticipates needs and maintains efficient operations, bringing professionalism to every interaction. She is highly attuned to office operations, proactively supporting additional tasks and ensuring smooth daily functions. Yvonne's strong relationships with customers and unwavering commitment to service make her a valued and trusted member of the county.

Leaders in Action

Jennifer Sowards – Workforce Development Department

Jennifer exemplifies leadership in action by fostering a positive, mentorship-driven culture that advances workforce development. She empowers staff through training and coaching, thereby helping them to support residents build skills that support long-term success. Her collaborative, solution-oriented leadership ensures efficient operations and scalable best practices. She leads with integrity, enthusiasm and a strong commitment to high-quality service. Through her positive energy, calmness under pressure, and dedication, Jennifer cultivates trust and fosters a strong sense of community within her team.

Jill Gregory – District Attorney

In every role she holds, Jill demonstrates humility, patience, and kindness, leading with quiet strength and unwavering integrity. She guides the attorneys she supervises with grace and brings a calm, measured presence to high-stakes situations. Her ability to de-escalate conflict through empathy, thoughtfulness, and composure fosters clear-headed resolution and respectful collaboration. Jill's leadership not only improves outcomes in complex cases but also cultivates a workplace culture grounded in professionalism, mutual respect and resilience. Beyond her supervisory duties, she mentors junior attorneys and staff, modeling a deep commitment to public service and exemplifying the qualities of an outstanding leader.

Keisha Slack – Human Resources

Keisha advances the Countywide Vision through solution-focused leadership, commitment to excellence, and dedication to workforce development. She provides expert guidance in Employee Relations, ensuring consistent, fair, and effective decision-making across departments. In 2025, she actively mentored and coached HR Business Partners, strengthening their skills and confidence in handling complex cases. She fosters collaboration and continuous learning, improving team effectiveness and service delivery. With nearly 36 years of county service, Keisha's long-standing dedication, expertise, and commitment to service have positively impacted the organization.

Krista Gutierrez – Regional Parks

Krista has been instrumental in aligning operations at Mojave Narrows Regional Park with the county's 2025 vision through proactive leadership and a focus on continuous improvement. She leads key projects that enhance both daily operations and long-term park development, elevating visitor satisfaction, and maintaining a welcoming, well-kept environment for all. Her efforts ensure that visitors, regardless of background or purpose, can enjoy and appreciate the park's amenities. Krista consistently supports colleagues across the department with a positive, solution-oriented approach. Her willingness to contribute beyond her assigned responsibilities reflects her dedication to the success of Regional Parks.

Maria Caridad Arnobit – Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

Maria advances neonatal care through innovative, evidence-based practices that improve patient safety and long-term outcomes for newborns. Through her leadership, unplanned extubations were reduced via neuroprotective care and team-based interventions, decreasing complications and shortening hospital stays for fragile infants. Her focus on teamwork also strengthened neonatal resuscitation readiness, including streamlining emergency supply access to reduce retrieval time and improving response during critical events. Maria fosters collaboration that enhances team performance and emergency readiness, making her a transformational force.

Mary Ashley – District Attorney

Mary has devoted more than 25 years to exemplary public service, building a career defined by integrity, compassion, and a resolute commitment to justice. From her early work prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases to leading the creation of the Family Violence Unit, she has been a relentless advocate for vulnerable children and victims of abuse. She has overseen multiple offices and helped shape the direction and effectiveness of critical county operations. Mary has also made a lasting impact beyond the courtroom by mentoring future legal professionals, advising the civil grand jury, and championing a peer support program that strengthens employee well-being. She has demonstrated a profound commitment to serving the community and improving the lives of those facing their most challenging moments.

Noel Mondragon – Special Districts

Noel manages critical infrastructure projects that support community safety and long-term sustainability for a future-ready workforce. In 2025, he improved governance and efficiency by uniting teams across divisions, applying leadership skills from the county's Executive Development Program to enhance accountability, transparency, and decision-making. His leadership strengthens collaboration, accountability, and operational excellence. He invests in staff development, empowering employees to grow and succeed. Known for bridging strategy and collaboration, Noel leads with integrity and accountability, delivering tangible results for the community.

Ricky Barajas – Department of Child Support Services

Ricky empowers her team to deliver high-quality service that supports families and community well-being. In 2025, she led her team to achieve the largest increase in court orders in years, directly improving financial stability for children across the county. Her clear communication and hands-on guidance helped staff navigate process changes, maintain performance, and reduce resistance during

periods of transition. Ricky's leadership has been recognized at the state level for her proactive approach to ensuring responsive and effective services for families. Through her empathy, mentorship, and results-driven focus, she continues to make a meaningful impact.

Robert Silva – Human Services, Program Development Division

With more than 20 years of service, Robert guides initiatives that strengthen services for children and families. In 2025, he led efforts on programs such as the Immediate Response Referrals pilot, Flexible Family Supports funding, and the Ignite program, expanding resources and opportunities for youth and families. He also guided the development of six award-winning submissions to the National Association of Counties, reflecting innovation and excellence in public service. His expertise and collaboration support the successful implementation of key initiatives. Robert is a trusted resource who fosters strong partnerships and helps ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

Ryan Niesen – Economic Development Department

Ryan is the driving force for innovative economic development initiatives that support local businesses. He led the creation and launch of the BizHub platform, a free and comprehensive resource providing businesses access to grants, training tools, and professional technical services. His leadership strengthens internal operations and promotes a culture of collaboration and high performance. He balances strategic vision with practical execution to achieve meaningful results. Ryan's ability to pair visionary leadership with staff development and effective day-to-day management makes him a standout public servant.

Scott Ward – Board of Supervisors, Third District

Scott demonstrates leadership in action through his commitment to communication, transparency, and public service. He leads strategic messaging across social media, newsletters and public outreach, translating complex information into clear, accessible content that builds public trust. During emergencies and extreme weather events, he serves as a critical communications lead, working extended hours to keep residents informed, safe and connected to essential services. Scott builds strong relationships with partners to address community needs effectively while fostering engagement and a sense of community.

Tina Sutera – Office of Emergency Services

Tina oversees grants that strengthen preparedness and resilience across the county. Through her strategic management of funding, she has supported critical initiatives such as C.E.R.T. training, L.I.S.T.O.S. outreach and other emergency readiness programs that equip residents and staff with life-saving skills. She ensures grant resources are distributed equitably and responsibly, enhancing public safety infrastructure and coordination among county departments and local jurisdictions. Tina is also a trusted resource to her team and partners, consistently providing guidance, clarity, and responsive support on complex grant requirements. She demonstrates exceptional leadership through her dedication, expertise, and commitment to community safety.

Partners in Collaboration

Amy Smith – Transitional Assistance Department

Amy demonstrates partnership in collaboration by fostering teamwork and open communication within the department. She ensures staff have the guidance, tools, and support needed to provide timely and accurate services to the community. Amy provides personalized support to assist vulnerable families, exemplifying service with compassion and urgency. Her mentorship strengthens staff confidence and professional growth while promoting a positive work environment. Through her collaborative leadership, she translates the Countywide Vision into actionable results, supporting responsive and high-quality service for residents.

Anna Duarte – Department of Behavioral Health

In her role, Anna has taken on complex special projects, mastering new skills under tight deadlines while collaborating across divisions and engaging with executive leadership. She approaches every challenge with a positive, solution-oriented mindset, consistently supporting her team and fostering a respectful, collaborative work environment. Anna's contributions strengthen workforce capacity by promoting innovation and enhancing services that improve community health and well-being. She contributes to the Countywide vision of a skilled and engaged workforce through her integrity, compassion, and commitment to continuous learning.

Demis Cano – Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA)

Through his dedication and initiative, Demis has significantly strengthened collaboration across multiple county departments, hospitals, and external stakeholders. In 2025, he played a key role in coordinating a multi-agency disaster drill focused on pediatric care and reunification to identify critical gaps in emergency response. His charismatic approach engages participants and strengthens partnerships within the Healthcare Coalition. Demis effectively communicates regulations, planned drills, and best practices to enhance overall readiness, building strong networks that improve community health and emergency preparedness.

Efrain Torres – Purchasing Department

Efrain consistently advances the Countywide Vision through exceptional customer service, accountability, and operational excellence. He ensures departments receive accurate, timely, and cost-effective print solutions by closely tracking deadlines, coordinating internally and proactively communicating with customers. His attention to detail prevents errors and delays, saving time and resources while maintaining high-quality standards on critical and high-visibility projects. Efrain's work ethic and positive attitude foster strong relationships across departments, reinforcing trust and improving the overall customer experience.

Frank Trujillo – Fleet Management

Frank plays a critical role in supporting public service through his strong collaboration within and outside the department. By working closely with the West Valley Service Center team, he ensures fleet vehicles are repaired promptly and ready to respond to essential operations. His efforts also directly support key departments, including the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department and Public Works, helping maintain reliable services for the community. Frank consistently demonstrates professionalism, dependability, and a strong work ethic in all interactions. His reliability and commitment to operational readiness make him an asset to county operations.

Jessica Avena – Board of Supervisors, Fifth District

From her interactions with constituents to her daily work behind the scenes, Jessica consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to service and integrity. She supports colleagues and constituents with a positive, solutions-focused approach while maintaining focus on her core responsibilities and contributing to the overall team success. Jessica takes initiative to streamline office processes, improving scheduling, coordination and the efficiency of daily operations. Her positive attitude and strong communication skills foster effective collaboration with county staff and external partners, ensuring a smooth and welcoming experience for all.

Jevita Webster – Office of Homeless Services

Through collaboration and innovation, Jevita improves service delivery across departments. She played a key role in coordinating a complex, multi-department outreach effort, where she streamlined communication and developed a survey tool to better align teams. Her forward-thinking approach is evident in her creation of new modules within the county's Homeless Management Information System and her contributions to launching county kiosks that expand access to resources for the unhoused population. She was selected to present at the 2026 ESRI Conference, highlighting a resource map that connects individuals to critical services across the county. Jevita is recognized for her ability to bring people together, develop practical solutions, and drive meaningful impact.

Juan Solis – Children's Network

Juan is a subject-matter expert who excels at building partnerships, bringing together multiple agencies, school districts, and community organizations to advance father engagement programs that support healthy child development and positive family involvement. He helped develop and sustain the Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition and launched innovative efforts such as the "Father's Tool Box" campaign, increasing access to culturally responsive resources for fathers. In 2025, Juan led trainings, workshops, and community events, reaching hundreds of families and professionals to strengthen parent engagement. His ability to connect systems, empower families, and promote prevention-focused approaches makes him a trusted leader of father engagement throughout the county.

Monique Lang-Townsend – Children and Family Services

Monique has made an extraordinary impact on the county through decades of dedicated service. She is a strong leader and advocate for adoption social workers, ensuring they are supported, guided, and empowered to serve vulnerable children and families. Her leadership has helped thousands of children achieve permanency through adoption, providing stable, loving homes and brighter futures. Monique

consistently steps up to take on additional responsibilities when needed, ensuring continuity of services and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations. She is recognized for making a difference through her unwavering dedication, positive attitude, and collaborative spirit.

Robin Mazzoni – Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk

Robin is a collaborative leader contributing to both daily operations and special projects. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication and professionalism throughout his county career. As a trusted resource, he consistently coached and supported staff, helping them build confidence and develop their skills. He has shown initiative by volunteering to test critical systems, including Comp Data, A.E.S., Marshall & Swift, and, most recently, the P.I.M.s system, contributing to operational improvements. Robin excels in a high-pressure environment, providing steady guidance with patience and a commitment to excellence.

Tina Abarca – Human Services, Auditing

Tina embodies exceptional dedication to public service through her consistent support of her team and multiple county initiatives. She plays a vital role in the HS Auditing Team PRIDE, contributing to morale-building efforts by organizing recycling initiatives that fund team events and strengthen workplace unity. She is a dependable team player who steps in to assist with high workloads, including processing payments during busy periods. Tina also supports community efforts such as the Point-in-Time Count of the county's homeless population and fosters a positive workplace culture through her kindness, generosity, and uplifting spirit. With 25 years of county service, her hard work, fairness, and commitment make her a highly deserving award recipient.

Valerie Murphy – Department of Child Support Services

Valerie is an inclusive and approachable leader who strengthens teamwork and fosters trust among colleagues. She played a critical role in maintaining service continuity in 2025, during a major operational disruption affecting court processes. She quickly mastered the new XSpouse system and led comprehensive training for staff and leadership. Her efforts ensured a smooth transition, allowing the department to continue delivering accurate, timely, and compliant services. She has expanded her impact by providing training to other counties statewide. Through her collaborative and solution-oriented approach to problem-solving, Valerie contributes to operational excellence.

Quality and Innovation

Alyssa Sulikhanyan – Probation Department

Officer Sulikhanyan's steadfast commitment to quality and innovation led to the development of programs at ARISE Secured Youth Treatment Facility that equip youth with occupational skills for adulthood. She consistently models the department's core values and fosters a supportive and positive environment. Officer Sulikhanyan collaborates effectively with colleagues to implement initiatives that directly benefit residents. Her forward-thinking approach strengthens youth development and community outcomes. Through her dedication and creativity, she advances the Countywide Vision of a skilled, empowered, and engaged community.

Charlie Earl – San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

Recognized for her fiscal transparency and resource management, Charlie has streamlined financial reporting, enhancing capital project tracking and making budget information more accessible to frontline teams. She proactively trains staff to interpret financial data, strengthening internal capacity and informed decision-making. Her collaborative approach ensures that county resources are allocated responsibly and equitably. Through her innovative methods, she supports sustainable service delivery and builds a more transparent, accountable government.

Elsy Banks – Project and Facilities Management

Elsy exemplifies quality in her work by managing complex county construction projects with precision and efficiency. She proactively resolves challenges, ensures fiscal responsibility, and maintains compliance with building codes and safety standards. Elsy fosters collaboration and clear communication among stakeholders, strengthening trust and accountability. She mentors team members and shares expertise to ensure long-term project success. Her dedication and solution-oriented approach directly enhance public infrastructure and advance the Countywide Vision.

Eric Perez – Human Services, Administrative Support Division

Eric's leadership in 2025 reflects a strong commitment to collaboration, accountability, and operational excellence in support of the Countywide Vision. He ensured vendors were paid accurately and on time, proactively resolving issues and strengthening the county's reputation as a reliable partner. By working closely with Purchasing and A.T.C., he improved coordination and helped streamline processes across departments. He supports staff growth while successfully managing high-priority assignments and critical projects, and continues to make a meaningful impact in delivering outstanding service to internal and external customers.

Jared Green – Airports

Through his collaborative and dedicated leadership, Jared maintains and improves the Desert Airports infrastructure. In 2025, he implemented proactive maintenance practices that have improved safety, compliance, and operational efficiency. He is a mentor to staff and promotes team collaboration across challenging geographic locations. His support of broader initiatives, from the department's diversity committee to community engagement events, reflects a holistic approach to public service and a commitment to county services today and building long-term capacity for the future.

Jose "Freddie" Barrera – In Home Supportive Services Public Authority

Freddie is being honored for leading cross-departmental initiatives that enhance service delivery and operational efficiency. In partnership with other departments, he contributed to the successful implementation of the BOUNDS program and supported the Campaign for Giving initiative. He ensures seamless processing of I.H.S.S. enrollment and payroll, maintaining continuity of critical services for residents. His proactive oversight fosters teamwork, accountability, and service excellence. Freddie's commitment to collaboration and innovation advances the Countywide Vision and strengthens both internal operations and community outcomes.

Kimberly VandenBosch – First 5 San Bernardino

Kimberly plays a vital role in ensuring department messaging aligns with the Countywide Vision. Her work strengthens public awareness of children's health and reinforces consistent, impactful messaging across the county. She has led the evolution of the new campaign in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, "Little ME, Big Responsibility," expanding awareness efforts to include child nutrition and early screening and intervention. Kimberly's attention to detail, creativity, and commitment to excellence have elevated First 5 as a trusted voice in the community.

Rosa Gonzalez – Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Rosa's transformative leadership during the countywide S.A.P. implementation contributed to a skilled workforce and supported sustainable, high-quality infrastructure through technology and effective change management. She demonstrated exceptional professionalism by developing a comprehensive communication strategy that ensured transparency and elevated customer service standards for SAP end-users. Rosa oversaw the creation of high-quality training resources to empower employees and support long-term operational success. Her leadership established a strong foundation for future growth, reflecting a commitment to open, ethical governance and cross-sector collaboration.

Silvia Peinado – Preschool Services Department

Silvia's outstanding leadership has advanced the Countywide Vision of building a skilled workforce to support a vibrant community. She consistently supports colleagues and partners to ensure staff are well-trained and properly credentialed. She led efforts to reduce vacancies by actively engaging in recruitment events and strengthening community partnerships. She also developed and coordinated a Workforce Development Cohort program that provides entry-level staff with paid, on-the-job training and support to earn credentials as teacher aides. Silvia's innovative approach contributed to a reduction of more than 20 percent in teacher classification vacancies following the program's second cohort.

Tyson Fristrom – Department of Public Works

Tyson is recognized for his outstanding leadership and exceptional work ethic during the severe winter storms of 2025. He worked extended hours, leading crews and contractors to remove debris, restore drainage systems, protect properties, and reopen critical routes for residents and emergency services. His coordinated response efforts ensured safe access while minimizing damage to infrastructure and supporting impacted communities. Tyson also demonstrates ongoing commitment to operational excellence and quality through staff training, data-driven decision-making, and a strong dedication to public service.

Zainya Ureña – Department of Public Health

Zainya is recognized for advancing accountability, collaboration, and quality through her leadership in support of the Countywide Vision. She took the initiative to identify and resolve systemic billing errors, reducing financial burdens on vulnerable patients and strengthening interdepartmental collaboration and operational accountability. She also partnered with clinic leadership to train supervisors and implement processes that improved documentation, reduced claim denials, and strengthened staff

readiness. Zainya's actions have enhanced the quality of patient care, protected vulnerable populations, and reinforced ethical, patient-centered public service.