



Home Visiting Day

Speaker Bios



Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

LA County Board of Supervisors, District 1

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis represents the First supervisorial district of Los Angeles County which is home to nearly two million people. The district covers 268.57 square miles and stretches from Silverlake and Eagle Rock east to the San Bernadino County line. The 1st supervisorial district includes portions of 20 cities and 23 unincorporated communities and 25 neighborhoods in the city of Los Angeles.



Barbara Stroud, PhD

Licensed Psychologist, Training and Consultation Services Provider

Barbara Stroud, PhD, is a licensed psychologist with over three decades worth of culturally informed clinical practice in early childhood development and mental health. She is a founding organizer and the inaugural president (2017–2019) of the California Association for Infant Mental Health, a ZERO TO THREE Fellow, and holds prestigious endorsements as an Infant and Family Mental Health Specialist/Reflective Practice Facilitator Mentor.



Kathryn Ewing

LA Best Babies Network, Public Health Research Associate

Kathryn is a part of the Training and Technical Assistance team that supports and trains home visitors. She got her degree in History and dove into advocacy work as the Executive Assistant at a Postpartum Depression Foundation in Chicago. She managed a grant for the Family and Child Health Department in Pittsburgh, coordinating and supporting local strategic efforts to reduce racial inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes. She became a Certified Postpartum Doula and loves finding ways to make new parents feel supported and cared for as they navigate their new role!



Eva Rivera, MSW

Children's Partnership, Advocacy Director, Early Childhood Development

Eva Rivera (she/her/ella) is the Advocacy Director of Early Childhood Development at The Children's Partnership, where she leads key policy and advocacy initiatives focused on children ages 0–5, including the Whole Child Equity Partnership. She brings extensive experience in program development, quality improvement, coaching, and project management. Previously, she held leadership roles at an Educare school and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), overseeing family support services, professional development, and technical assistance. Originally from Mexico City, Eva is bilingual in English and Spanish and is a certified National Facilitator of the Brazelton Touchpoints Approach. She holds an MSW from the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.



Laura Kainsinger, MPH

First 5 LA, Program Officer

Laura Hoyos Kainsinger, MPH, is a Program Officer on the Family Supports Team at First 5 LA, where she manages home visiting programs and leads DEI-focused optimization efforts. She holds a BA in Physiological Science and an MPH in Community Health Sciences from UCLA. Laura previously served as Program Manager for Prevention and Aftercare and as Director of Community Outreach at Growing Great. Her background includes work in parenting education, health access, and academic event planning, with extensive experience supporting culturally diverse, at-risk families through community-based programs.



Ashley Skiffer- Thompson, MBA, CLE

LA County Department of Public Health, Director of Home Visiting Systems

Ashley Skiffer-Thompson is the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Director of Home Visiting Systems and committed to giving back to her community. She has spent majority of her career in the non-profit sector within the home visitation field, gaining experiences in breastfeeding, bonding/attachment, and other maternal and child health topics. In addition to her Home Visiting leadership, Ashley Skiffer-Thompson is invested in the advancement of Black Maternal Health. As a full spectrum doula and Black maternal health advocate, she believes there is empowerment through advocacy and education. By providing empathetic support and encouraging medical advocacy, her hope is that families feel empowered, grounded, and valued throughout their birth journey.



Laurel Murray

LA Best Babies Network, Policy Specialist

Laurel received her BA in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton. Prior to joining LABBN, she worked as a coordinator in several acute units at California Hospital Medical Center. She is a firm believer that the mission of LABBN is incredibly important for the future of Los Angeles County and for California, she feels fortunate to be part of a team with so much dedication to help the community. She is passionate about improving the quality of care and quality of life for the underserved population of Los Angeles County.



Anna Ghukasyan, MPH

LA Best Babies Network, Senior Policy Research Associate

Anna earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Southern California, with an emphasis in Health Services and Policy. In her graduate work, Anna focused on improving access to healthcare services for underserved populations in Los Angeles County through policy and advocacy efforts. Anna is passionate about decreasing rates of adverse childhood experiences among children in Los Angeles County.

Panelists



Leticia Casillas Sanchez

Children Now, Early Childhood Director



Catherine Chavez

The Whole Child, Parent Educator



Edith Avalos, CLE

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Outreach Specialist



Dani Lopez

The Whole Child, Home Visiting Client

