

Children's Council Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2025

| <b>0..<br/>Council Member</b> | <b>Appointed Council<br/>Member or Alternate</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>                         | <b>Title</b>                         | <b>Present</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Alejandre, Melissa            | Alternate  | Family and Children Services               | Program Manager                      | X              |
| Arreola, Jose                 | Member   | Community Alliance for Safety and Peace    | Director                             | X              |
| Askew, Wendy                  | Member   | District #4                                | Supervisor                           |                |
| Astengo, Berenice             | Alternate  | Monterey County Free Libraries             | Managing Librarian                   | X              |
| Baldwin, Dan                  | Member   | Community Foundation for Monterey County   | President/CEO                        |                |
| Bangs, Randy                  | Member   | Soledad Unified School District            | Superintendent                       | X              |
| Bhardwaj, Jaskiart "Jessica"  | Alternate  | City of Salinas                            |                                      |                |
| Blitch, Susan                 | Member   | County Counsel                             | County Counsel                       |                |
| Boykin, Zulieka               | Member   | Housing Authority                          | Executive Director                   |                |
| Butler, Ashley                | Alternate  | Public Defender Office                     | Public Defender                      |                |
| Castagna, Katy                | Member   | United Way Monterey County                 | President and CEO                    |                |
| Castro, Michael               | Alternate  | Community Foundation of Monterey County    | Director of Community Investments    |                |
| Chapman, Susan                | Member   | Public Defender Office                     | Public Defender                      |                |
| Cota, Caroline                | Member   | So Mo Co Joint Unified School District     | Superintendent                       | X              |
| Cutino, Annette               | Alternate  | County Counsel                             | Deputy County Counsel                |                |
| DaSilva, Charles              | Alternate  | Monterey County Sheriff's Office           | Program Manager-Monterey County Jail | X              |
| Diffenbaugh, PK               | Alternate  | Monterey Peninsula Unified School District | Superintendent                       |                |
| Dunn, Laura                   | Member   | Child Care Planning Council                | Chair                                | X              |
| Franks, Roderick              | Member   | Department of Social Services              | Director                             |                |

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|-----------------------|--|---|--|---------|
| Guss, Deneen          | Member                                   | Monterey County Office of Education       | Superintendent                             | X       |
| Gomez, Claudia        | Alternate                                | Door to Hope                              | Director of Family Services                |         |
| Jeronimo, Eva         | Member                                   | Department of Social Services             | Deputy Director                            | X       |
| Jimenez, Elsa         | Member                                   | Monterey County Health Department         | Director of Health                         | X       |
| Kenyon, Julie         | Alternate                                | Probation Department                      |  |         |
| Lal, Monica           | Member                                   | Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce    | President/CEO                              |         |
| Lavorato, Sam Jr.     | Alternate                                | Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division | Judge                                      |         |
| Luzader, Lori         | Member                                   | Special Kids Connect                      | Executive Director                         | X       |
| Madfis, Josh          | Alternate                                | United Way Monterey County                | Vice President Community Investments       | X       |
| McCabe, Ramona        | Alternate                                | First 5 Monterey County                   | Director of Programs                       |         |
| McCrae, Robin         | Member                                   | Community Human Services                  | Executive Director                         |         |
| Mora, Eric            | Alternate                                | District #4                               | Policy Analyst                             | X       |
| Moreno, Dr. Edward    | Alternate                                | Monterey County Health Department         | Health Officer & Director of Public Health |         |
| Nassoura, Lana        | Alternate                                | Monterey County District Attorney Office  | Assistant District Attorney                |         |
| Nieto, Tina           | Member                                   | Monterey County Sheriff's Office          | Sheriff                                    |         |
| Netniss, Jennifer     | Alternate                                | Special Kids Connect                      | Education Director                         |         |
| Quinones, Vanya       | Member                                   | CSU Monterey Bay                          | President                                  |         |
| Pacioni, Jeannine     | Member                                   | Monterey County District Attorney Office  | District Attorney                          |         |
| Pierce, Virginia R.   | Member                                   | CAPC                                      | Director                                   | X       |

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|-------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| Porras, Ralph                 | Alternate  | Monterey County Office of Education             | Assistant Superintendent  |                |
| Pulido, Ruben                 | Alternate  | Chualar Union School District                   | Superintendent  |                |
| Ramirez, Jose                 | Alternate  | Probation Department                            | Chief   | X              |
| Rhodes, Melanie               | Member   | Behavioral Health                               | Director  |                |
| Rodd, Francine                | Member   | First 5 of Monterey County                      | Executive Director  | X              |
| Reuther, Krista               | Alternate  | Ohana Montage Health                            |   |                |
| Swick, Susan                  | Member   | Ohana Montage Health                            | VP/Chief Mental Health Officer  |                |
| Theyer, Hillary               | Member   | Monterey County Free Libraries                  | Director  |                |
| Wouden, Michelle              | Alternate  | Public Defenders Office                         | Public Defender   |                |
|                               |  |   |   |                |
| Koehler, Sonja                | Non-Member                                       | Bright Beginnings                               | Director  | X              |
| Perez Diaz, Mayra             | Non-Member                                       | United Way                                      | Coordinator of MCCC and Community Impact<br>Director, Early Childhood Investments | X              |
| Diaz, Relindis                | Non-Member                                       | County of Monterey Children's Behavioral Health | RLP Facilitator   | X              |
| Niaomi Hrepich                | Non-Member                                       | WIC Nutrition Program                           |   | X              |

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| Item  | Summary of discussion/review   | Action/deliverable   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>   | Meeting called to order at 12:10p.m. by Chair, Jose Ramirez  |  |
| <b>2. Public Comment</b>  |  | None   |
| <b>3. Action Items</b><br>a. Approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, meeting Monterey County Children's Council meeting |  | a. The minutes of the August 11, 2025, meeting were approved. Motion by Hilary Theyer and seconded by Eva Jeronimo.  |
| <b>4. Presentations/Discussions</b><br><br>a. Sustainability of Nutrition Education Programs -                              | Niaomi Hrepich presented to the COUNCIL an overview of challenges to the sustainability of nutrition education programs. | <a href="#"><u>Sustainability of Nutrition Education Programs presentation</u></a><br><br>Council provided some ideas in supporting outreach through their respected agencies and alternatives to look into for collaboration in services. |
| <b>6. Meeting Adjourned</b>   |  | 1:30pm   |