



MONTEREY COUNTY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Katy Castagna, CEO, United Way Monterey County (Josh Madfis, Alternate)
Deneen Guss, Ed.D., Superintendent, Monterey County Office of Education, (Ralph Porras, Alternate)
Elsa Jimenez, Director, Health Dept. (Dr. Edward Moreno, Health Officer, Alternate)
Roderick Franks, Director, Dept. of Social Services (Eva Geronimo, Alternate)
Jose Ramirez, Chief, Probation Department (Julie Kenyon, Alternate)
Sonja Koehler, Director, Bright Beginnings
Mayra Perez Diaz, Coordinator for Mo. Co. Children's Council
Relindis Diaz, Reflective Practice Facilitator

MEMBERS

José Arreola, Community Alliance for Safety and Peace
Jaskiart "Jessica" Bhardwaj, Alternate)
Dan Baldwin, Community Foundation for Monterey County,
(Michael Castro, Alternate)
Randy Bangs, Soledad Unified School District (PK Diffenbaugh, Alternate)
Susan Blitch, County Counsel (Annette Cutino, Alternate)
Zulieka Boykin, Housing Authority of Monterey County (TBD, Alternate)
Susan Chapman, Public Defender (Ashley Butler, Alternate)
Laura Dunn, Child Care Planning Council (TBD, Alternate)
Melanie Rhodes, Behavioral Health (TBD, Alternate)
TBD, Department of Social Services (Melissa Alejandre, Alternate)
Monica Lal, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Lori Luzader, Special Kids Connect (Jennifer Netniss, Alternate)
Robin McCrae, Community Human Services
Tina Nieto, Sheriff (Charles DaSilva, Alternate)
Vanya Quinones, CSUMB (TBD, Alternate)
Jeannine Pacioni, District Attorney (Lan Nassoura, Alternate)
Caroline Cota, So Co Mo Joint Unified School District (Ruben Pulido, Alternate)
Virginia R. Pierce, Child Abuse Prevention Council (Claudia Gomez, Alternate)
Timothy P. Roberts, Judge, Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division (Sam Lavorato Jr, Alternate)
Francine Rodd, Monterey County First 5 Commission (Ramona McCabe, Alternate)
Wendy Root Askew, Supervisor District 4, (Eric Mora, Alternate)
Susan Swick, Ohana Montage Health (TBD, Alternate)
Hillary Theyer, Monterey County Free Libraries (Berenice, Astengo, Alternate)

Mission

The Children's Council provides leadership and policy direction to encourage the development of a comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services to children and youth in Monterey County.

GENERAL MEETING

901 Blanco Circle, Salinas, CA
MCOE

Monday, October 13, 2025
12:00-1:30pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Jose Ramirez, Chair
2. **Public Comment** for items not on the agenda (limited to 3 minutes per person)
3. **Action Items:**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, Monterey County Children's Council meeting – *Attached*
 - b. Approve Designated Alternate Liz Perez-Cordero for Member Melanie Rhodes
 - c. Approve Designated Alternate Karen Myers-Bowman for Member Vanya Quinones
4. **Presentations/Discussions:**
 - a. [Bright Beginnings Update](#)
 - b. Smart Referral Network Presentation via Zoom – Josh Madfis, UWMC and Dave McCann
 - c. Reflective Practice – Relindis Diaz
5. **Announcements** –
6. **Adjourn**

Next meeting: November 10, 2025