

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Alejandre, Melissa	Alternate	Family and Children Services	Program Manager	
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	
Baldwin, Dan	Member	Community Foundation for Monterey County	President/CEO	
Bangs, Randy	Member	Soledad Unified School District	Superintendent	
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	X
Castro, Michael	Alternate	Community Foundation of Monterey County	Director of Community Investments	X
Chapman, Susan	Member	Public Defender Office	Public Defender	
Cota, Caroline	Member	So Mo Co Joint Unified School District	Superintendent	
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	Alternate	Department of Social Services		X

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Guss, Deneen	Member	Monterey County Office of Education	Superintendent	X
Gomez, Claudia	Alternate	Door to Hope	Director of Family Services	
Hollingsworth, Nicole	Alternate	CSUMB	Director of Governmental and External Relations	X
Jeronimo, Eva	Member	Department of Social Services	Deputy Director	X
Jimenez, Elsa	Member	Monterey County Health Department	Director of Health	
Lal, Monica	Member	Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce	President/CEO	X
Lavorato, Sam Jr.	Alternate	Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division	Judge	
Luzader, Lori	Member	Special Kids Connect	Executive Director	
Madfis, Josh	Alternate	United Way Monterey County	Vice President Community Investments	
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	X
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	

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Porras, Ralph	Alternate	Monterey County Office of Education	Assistant Superintendent	
Pulido, Ruben	Alternate	Chualar Union School District	Superintendent	
Ramirez, Laurie	Alternate	Monterey County Child Care Planning Council	Early Learning Coordinator I	
Ramirez, Jose	Alternate	Probation Department	Interim Chief	X
Rhodes, Melodie	Member	Behavioral Health	Interim Director	X
Rodd, Francine	Member	First 5 of Monterey County	Executive Director	
Reuther, Krista	Alternate	Ohana Montage Health		
Sandoval, Marni	Alternate	Behavioral Health	Director	
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 Director, Early Childhood Investments	X
Diaz, Relindiz	Non-Member	County of Monterey Children's Behavioral Health	RLP Facilitator	X

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chair, Jose Ramirez	
2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, meeting Monterey County Children's Council meeting		a. The minutes of the March 10, 2025, meeting were approved. Motion by Deneen Guss and seconded by Eva Jeronimo.
4. Presentations/Discussions a. Restorative Justice Presentation b. California SB 823: A Transformative Approach to Youth Justice	Kathy Baur, Monica Pulido, Joselyn, and Laura presented to the COUNCIL an overview of restorative justice programs in Monterey County. Michael Palmer from Monterey County Probation Department presented to the COUNCIL an overview of SB 823	Restorative Justice presentation SB 823 Presentation
6. Meeting Adjourned		1:15pm