



# MONTEREY COUNTY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Astengo, Alternate

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Jose Ramirez**, Chief, Probation Department (Julie Kenyon, Alternate) Chair

**Katy Castagna**, CEO, United Way Monterey County (Josh Madfis, Alternate)

**Roderick Franks**, Director, Dept. of Social Services (Eva Geronimo, 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)

**Mayra Diaz**, Coordinator for Mo. Co. Children's Council

**Relindis Diaz**, Reflective Practice Facilitator

**Sonja Koehler**, Director, Bright Beginnings

## MEMBERS

**José Arreola**, Community Alliance for Safety and Peace Jaskart "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)

**Caroline Cota**, So Co Mo Joint Unified School District (Ruben Pulido, Alternate)

**Laura Dunn**, Child Care Planning Council (TBD, Alternate)

**Michael Gutierrez**, Hartnell Community College (TBD, 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)

**Jeannine Pacioni**, District Attorney (Lan Nassoura, Alternate)

**Virginia R. Pierce**, Child Abuse Prevention Council (Claudia Gomez, Alternate)

**Vanya Quinones**, CSUMB (Karen Myers Bowman, Alternate)

**Timothy P. Roberts**, Judge, Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division (Sam Lavorato Jr, Alternate)

**Melanie Rhodes**, Behavioral Health (Liz Perez-Cordero, 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 (Krista Reuther, Alternate)

**TBD**, Department of Social Services (Melissa Alejandre, Alternate)

**Hillary Theyer**, Monterey County Free Libraries (Berenice,

## 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, December 8, 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 November 10, 2025, Monterey County Children's Council meeting – *Attached*
  - b. Approve Designated Alternate Dr. Jason Garrett for Member Dr. Michael Gutierrez
4. **Presentations/Discussions:**
  - a. Bright Beginnings Monthly Update
  - b. Reflective Practice – Relindis Diaz
  - c. Context on Food Insecurity – Roderick Franks DSS
  - d. Reflective Practice – Relindis Diaz
5. **Announcements** –
6. **Adjourn**

**Next meeting:** January 12, 2026