

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 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	
Askew, Wendy	Member	District #4	Supervisor	X
Astengo, Berenice	Alternate	Monterey County Free Libraries	Managing Librarian	
Baldwin, Dan	Member	Community Foundation for Monterey County	President/CEO	
Bhardwaj, Jaskiart "Jessica"	Alternate	City of Salinas		
Blicht, 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	
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	Alternate	Department of Social Services		X
Guss, Deneen	Member	Monterey County Office of Education	Superintendent	X

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Gomez, Claudia	Alternate	Door to Hope	Director of Family Services	
Hollingsworth, Nicole	Alternate	CSUMB	Director of Governmental and External Relations	
Jeronimo, Eva	Member	Department of Social Services	Deputy Director	X
Jimenez, Elsa	Member	Monterey County Health Department	Director of Health	X
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	
Madfis, Josh	Alternate	United Way Monterey County	Vice President Community Investments	
McCabe, Ramona	Alternate	First 5 Monterey County	Director of Programs	X
McCrae, Robin	Member	Community Human Services	Executive Director	
Moon, Jessica	Alternate	CHOMP-Ohana	Director of Operations	
Mora, Eric	Alternate	District #4	Policy Analyst	
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	X
Quinones, Vanya	Member	CSU Monterey Bay	President	
Pacioni, Jeannine	Member	Monterey County District Attorney Office	District Attorney	
Pierce, Virginia R.	Member	CAPC	Director	

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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	X
Sandoval, Marni	Alternate	Behavioral Health	Director	X
Swick, Susan	Member	Ohana Montage Health	VP/Chief Mental Health Officer	X
Theyer, Hillary	Member	Monterey County Free Libraries	Director	
Bangs, Randy	Member	Soledad School District	Superintendent	
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
Brusa, Susie	Guest	Taylor Farms		X

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Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:16 p.m. by Chair, Jose Ramirez	
2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024, meeting Monterey County Children's Council meeting b. Approve Designated Alternate Ramona McCabe for Member Francine Rodd		a. The minutes of the December 9, 2024, meeting were approved. Motion by Deneen Guss and seconded by Roderick Franks. b. Designated Alternate Ramona McCabe was approved. Motion by Francine Rodd and seconded by Elsa Jimenez.
4. Presentations/Discussions a. Community Schools (RTAC) Update b. Reflective Leadership Practice – Relindis Diaz	Sonja Koehler presented an in depth presentation of the Bright Beginnings accomplished during the 23.24 fiscal year. COUNCIL's reflective practice discussion.	Bright Beginnings 23.24 Annual Report Presentation
6. Meeting Adjourned		1:35pm