

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 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	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	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	
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

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Guss, Deneen	Member	Monterey County Office of Education	Superintendent	X
Gomez, Claudia	Alternate	Door to Hope	Director of Family Services	X
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	X
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	X
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	X

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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	
Rodd, Francine	Member	First 5 of Monterey County	Executive Director	X
Reuther, Krista	Alternate	Ohana Montage Health		X
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	X
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
Alcaarez, Nina	Guest	First 5 Monterey County		X
Dabrowski, David	Guest	MCOE		X
Gamez, Iris	Guest	Bright Beginnings		X

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Amezcuca, Tony	Guest	Bright Futures		X
Laura	Guest	Bright Futures		X
Carlos	Guest	Bright Futures		X

Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chair, Jose Ramirez	
2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting Monterey County Children's Council meeting b. Approve Designated Alternate Krista Reuther for Member Susan Swick		a. The minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting were approved. Motion by Eva Jeronimo and seconded by Deneen Guss. b. Designated Alternate Krista Reuther for Member Susan Swick was approved. Motion by Deneen Guss and seconded by Francine Rodd.
4. Presentations/Discussions a. The State of Systems in Monterey County: An Examination of Supports for Children Ages Prenatal to Five	Jennifer Rigney from First 5 Monterey County presented to the COUNCIL an in-depth overview of the state of systems of supports for children 0-5 in Monterey County.	The State of Systems in Monterey County presentation

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6. Meeting Adjourned		1:25pm