



MONTEREY COUNTY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

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. (Miriam Mendoza, Alternate)

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**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 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 (TBD, Alternate)  
**Zulieka Boykin**, Housing Authority of Monterey County (Lucila Vera, Alternate)  
**Raymond Buenaventura**, 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, (Jason Garrett, 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)  
**TBD.**, 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, (Yuri Anderson or Kera Abraham, Alternate)  
**Susan Swick**, Ohana Montage Health (Krista Reuther, 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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas, CA

### MCOE

Monday, May 11, 2026  
 1:30pm to 2:30pm

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions**, Jose Ramirez, Chair  
 Public Comment for items not on the agenda (limit to 3 minutes per person)
2. **Action Item:**
  - a. Approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes – *Attached*
3. **Discussions:**
  - a. Debrief of the May meeting and plan for the June meeting
  - b. Planning for the Executive Committee Annual Retreat meeting
4. **New Business/Announcements**
5. **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** June 8, 2026