



# 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 Monterey County.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas, CA MCOE

Monday, June 8, 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 May 11, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes – *Attached*
3. **Discussions:**
  - a. Debrief of the June meeting
  - b. Finalize plan for the Executive Committee Annual Retreat meeting
4. **New Business/Announcements**
5. **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: July 13, 2026**