



MONTEREY COUNTY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deneen Guss, Ed.D., Superintendent, Monterey County Office of Education, (Ralph Porras, Alternate)
Elsa Jimenez, Director, Health Dept. (Miriam Mendoza, Alternate)
Roderick Franks, Director, Dept. of Social Services (Eva Geronimo, Alternate)
Jose Ramirez, Chief, Probation Department (Julie Kenyon, Alternate) Chair
Katy Castagna, CEO, United Way Monterey County (Josh Madfis, 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

**Dan Baldwin**, Community Foundation for Monterey County, (TBD, 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 (TBD, 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)  
**Sam Lavorato**, Judge, Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division (TBD, Alternate)  
**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)  
**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)  
**TBD**, Community Alliance for Safety and Peace Jaskiart "Jessica" Bhardwaj, 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, September 14, 2026  
1:30pm to 2:30pm

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions**, Dr. Deneen Guss, Chair  
Public Comment for items not on the agenda (limit to 3 minutes per person)
2. **Action Item:**
  - a. Approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes – *Attached*
3. **Discussions:**
  - a. Debrief of the September meeting and plan for October meeting
4. **New Business/Announcements**
5. **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** October 12, 2026