

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Alejandre, Melissa	Alternate	Family and Children Services	Program Manager	X
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	X
Cutino, Annette	Alternate	County Counsel	Deputy County Counsel	
DaSilva, Charles	Alternate	Monterey County Sheriff's Office	Program Manager-Monterey County Jail	
Diffenbaugh, PK	Alternate	Monterey Peninsula Unified School District	Superintendent	
Dunn, Laura	Member	Child Care Planning Council	Chair	X
Franks, Roderick	Member	Department of Social Services	Director	

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Guss, Deneen	Member	Monterey County Office of Education	Superintendent	X
Gomez, Claudia	Alternate	Door to Hope	Director of Family Services	
Jeronimo, Eva	Member	Department of Social Services	Deputy Director	X
Jimenez, Elsa	Member	Monterey County Health Department	Director of Health	X
Kenyon, Julie	Alternate	Probation Department		
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	
Madfis, Josh	Alternate	United Way Monterey County	Vice President Community Investments	X
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	
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

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Porras, Ralph	Alternate	Monterey County Office of Education	Assistant Superintendent	
Pulido, Ruben	Alternate	Chualar Union School District	Superintendent	
Ramirez, Jose	Alternate	Probation Department	Chief	
Rhodes, Melanie	Member	Behavioral Health	Director	
Rodd, Francine	Member	First 5 of Monterey County	Executive Director	X
Reuther, Krista	Alternate	Ohana Montage Health		X
Swick, Susan	Member	Ohana Montage Health	VP/Chief Mental Health Officer	
Theyer, Hillary	Member	Monterey County Free Libraries	Director	
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	
Diaz, Relindis	Non-Member	County of Monterey Children's Behavioral Health	RLP Facilitator	

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025

Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:10p.m. by Chair, Jose Ramirez	
2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, meeting Monterey County Children's Council meeting b. Approve Designated Alternate Liz Perez-Cordero for Member – Melanie Rhodes c. Approve Designated Alternate for Karen Myers-Bowman for Member Vanya Quinones		a. The minutes of the Sept 8, 2025, meeting were approved. Motion by Deneen Guss and seconded by Monica Lal. b. The Designated Alternate, Liz Perez-Cordero were approved. Motion by Elsa Jiminez seconded by Francine Rodd. c. The Designated Alternate, Vanya Quinones approved. Motion by Monica Lal and seconded by Katy Castagna
4. Presentations/Discussions a. Smart Referral Network	The meeting focused on the Smart Referral Network (SRN), a digital information and referral system that connects various agencies and programs to facilitate seamless access to services for different populations in Monterey County. A statewide initiative was presented to improve data sharing and care coordination for vulnerable populations across California's counties, with United Ways of California working to establish technology for sharing information about individuals receiving social services across platforms. The discussion covered technical aspects of the system's integration with various case management tools, cybersecurity measures, and potential improvements for referral relationships	SRN Presentation • Josh to create and share a workflow diagram showing how the Smart Referral Network system works. • Josh to develop short educational videos explaining the SRN system functionality. • Josh to compile information about the SRN and send it to all meeting attendees. • Josh to follow up with interested parties about potential pilot programs for the SRN. • Josh to schedule a 30-minute

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025

	between community agencies, while also addressing challenges related to data privacy, network robustness, and client trust.	demonstration session on how the SRN works for interested participants. • Josh to return at the November Children's Council meeting to provide a demo and suggestions for possible collaboration
6. Meeting Adjourned		1:30pm