

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Alejandre, Melissa	Alternate	Family and Children Services	Program Manager	
Askew, Wendy	Member	District #4	Supervisor	X
Astengo, Berenice	Alternate	Monterey County Free Libraries	Managing Librarian	X
Bangs, Randy	Member	Soledad Unified School District	Superintendent	
Bhardwaj, Jaskiart "Jessica"	Alternate	City of Salinas		
Blicht, Susan	Member	County Counsel	County Counsel	
Boykin, Zulioka	Member	Housing Authority	Executive Director	
Buenaventura, Raymond	Member	Public Defender Office	Public Defender	
Butler, Ashley	Alternate	Public Defender Office	Public Defender	X
Castagna, Katy	Member	United Way Monterey County	President and CEO	X
Castro, Michael	Alternate	Community Foundation of Monterey County	Director of Community Investments	X
Chavez, Jackie	Member	Department of Social Services		X
Cota, Caroline	Member	So Mo Co Joint Unified School District	Superintendent	X
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

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Franks, Roderick	Member	Department of Social Services	Director	
Garrett, Jason	Alternate	Hartnell Community College	Interim Dean of Academic Affairs	X
Guss, Deneen	Member	Monterey County Office of Education	Superintendent	X
Gutierrez, Michael	Member	Hartnell Community College	Superintendent	
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	
Kenyon, Julie	Alternate	Probation Department		
Lal, Monica	Member	Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce	President/CEO	
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	X
McCrae, Robin	Member	Community Human Services	Executive Director	
Mendez, Miriam	Alternate	Monterey County Health Department	Assistant Director of Health Services	X
Nassoura, Lana	Alternate	Monterey County District Attorney Office	Assistant District Attorney	
Nieto, Tina	Member	Monterey County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff	

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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	
Perez-Cordero, Liz	Alternate	Behavioral Health		X
Pierce, Virginia R.	Member	CAPC	Director	X
Porras, Ralph	Alternate	Monterey County Office of Education	Assistant Superintendent	
Pulido, Ruben	Alternate	Chualar Union School District	Superintendent	
Ramirez, Jose	Alternate	Probation Department	Chief	X
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

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Perez Diaz, Mayra	Non-Member	United Way	Coordinator of MCCC and Community Impact Director, Early Childhood Investments	X
Diaz, Relindis	Non-Member	County of Monterey Children's Behavioral Health	RLP Facilitator	
Macias, Jessica	Non-Member	YWCA		X
Roque, Maribel	Non-Member	SVMH		X
DiTullio, Tiffany	Non-Member	SVMH		X
Gonzalez, Abbygale	Non-Member	Read to Me Project	Program Director	X

Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:03p.m. by Jose Ramirez	

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2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, Monterey County Children's Council meeting		a. The minutes of the January 12, 2026, meeting were approved. Motion by Eva Jeronimo and seconded by Eva Berenice Astengo.
4. Presentations/Discussions a. Bright Annual Report Presentation b. MCCC Annual Report Da Round Cafe	Sonja Koehler provided an in depth overview to the COUNCIL of the Bright Beginnings annual report.	Bright Beginnings annual report presentation This presentation is moved to next month.
6. Meeting Adjourned		1:23pm