

Children's Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026

Council Member	Appointed Council Member or Alternate	Affiliation	Title	Present
Abraham Panni, Kera	Alternate	District #4	Senior Advisor Policy & Communications	
Alejandre, Melissa	Alternate	Family and Children Services	Program Manager	
Anderson, Yuri	Alternate	District #4	Chief of Staff	X
Askew, Wendy	Member	District #4	Supervisor	
Astengo, Berenice	Alternate	Monterey County Free Libraries	Managing Librarian	
Bangs, Randy	Member	Soledad Unified School District	Superintendent	
Bhardwaj, Jaskiart "Jessica"	Alternate	City of Salinas		
Blitch, Susan	Member	County Counsel	County Counsel	
Boykin, Zulieka	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	
Chavez, Jackie	Member	Department of Social Services		X
Cota, Caroline	Member	So Mo Co Joint Unified School District	Superintendent	
DaSilva, Charles	Alternate	Monterey County Sheriff's Office	Program Manager-Monterey County Jail	X

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Diffenbaugh, PK	Alternate	Monterey Peninsula Unified School District	Superintendent	
Dunn, Laura	Member	Child Care Planning Council	Chair	
Franks, Roderick	Member	Department of Social Services	Director	X
Garrett, Jason	Alternate	Hartnell Community College	Interim Dean of Academic Affairs	
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	X
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	
Mendoza, Miriam	Alternate	Monterey County Health Department	Assistant Director of Health Services	
Nassoura, Lana	Alternate	Monterey County District Attorney Office	Assistant District Attorney	X

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Nieto, Tina	Member	Monterey County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff	
Netniss, Jennifer	Alternate	Special Kids Connect	Education Director	
	Member	CSU Monterey Bay	President	
Pacioni, Jeannine	Member	Monterey County District Attorney Office	District Attorney	
Perez-Cordero, Liz	Alternate	Behavioral Health		
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		
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	

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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	X
Diaz, Relindis	Non-Member	Consultant	RLP Facilitator	X
Gonzalez, Abbygale	Non-Member	Read to Me Project	Program Director	X

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Item	Summary of discussion/review	Action/deliverable
1. Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 12:08p.m. by Jose Ramirez	
2. Public Comment		None
3. Action Items a. Approve the minutes of the May 11, 2026, Monterey County Children's Council meeting		a. The minutes of the May 11, 2026, meeting were approved. Motion by Deneen Guss and seconded by Virginia Pierce.
4. Presentations/Discussions a. Building Safe and Thriving Communities	Rosemary Soto presented an overview of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to the COUNCIL. .	Building Safe and Thriving Communities presentation
5. Meeting Adjourned		1:30pm