

**Executive Committee**  
**Monterey County Children’s Council**  
**August 2, 2018**  
**901 Blanco Circle Salinas, CA**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Henry Espinosa ∞ Elsa Jimenez ∞ Nancy Kotowski ∞ Marcia Parsons

**Others Present:** Megan Kennedy-Chouane ∞ Cynthia Nelson-Holmsky ∞ Mayra Perez Diaz ∞ Francine Rodd

**Welcome**

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Kotowski called meeting to order at 8:04am.

**Administrative Items**

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Parsons moved to approve the Minutes of July 16, 2018. Espinosa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Information/Discussion:**

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- I. Recap of Executive Meeting Retreat
  - a. Parson expressed mapping idea is a really good way to begin to engage council members.
  - b. Kotowski mentioned Castagna’s point on item L on executive minutes of how we can really “harvest the energy” to engage all members in the initiatives.
  - c. All members agreed that MCCC did a good job of focusing on the two initiatives of Bright Beginnings and Bright Futures. Our effort and focus on those areas were consistent and led to a deeper connection. There is still more work to do to harness the energy of our members, but this has been a good start.
- II. General Assembly Agenda Setting
  - a. Kennedy-Chouane went over PP presentation showing potential framework of alignment of council and initiatives and infographic to show “where they fit and can do” as overview of what was discussed at the retreat and can be shared at the general meeting.
  - b. Kotowski suggested PP presentation to add BF alignment to have for general meeting presentation as framing the overview so members can see themselves engage in proposed framework.
  - c. Kennedy-Chouane suggested an activity as small group discussion
  - d. Rodd brought forth example: youth referral network idea – Kotowski brought forth example of alternative program @ MCOE aligning and Parson agreed these could be successful ways to show alignment as examples to the members.
  - e. Kennedy-Chouane brought forth to be mindful and really engage members on specific strategies to not overwhelm them.
  - f. Kotowski wants members to “plug in” but have time to think and process
  - g. Nelson-Holmsky questioned what format would we present to the council in order to get them engaged
  - h. Kotowski brought forth “mental health” fits throughout the spectrum

- i. Espinosa suggested “a meeting within meeting” to be in a smaller group and strategically engage members to discuss particulars of what their interest, mission, goals for the year are to then use their feedback for next meeting to see where they can engage in the framework.
- j. Kotowski proposed to break out in smaller groups by common interest areas for discussion; the groups could be led by executive members.
- k. Rodd suggested to first present overview then follow with small group breakouts. At the next general meeting, ask for participation in specific strategies or work.
- l. Kotowski proposed a Step 2 for next general meeting would be where member, their organization fits in because leaders don’t want additional work if they don’t see alignment.
- m. Nelson-Holmsky brought forth concern about “overwhelming members and concerned with having lack of connections with many of them
- n. Espinosa stated it’s the executive committee’s role to show members there is alignment and find an nexus.
- o. All members agreed on small group discussion on cross-cutting strategies by the following themes:
  - 1. *Criminal Justice* – led by Parsons with the following members: Arreola, Bernal, Chapman, Flippo, McKee, and Whilden
  - 2. *Education* – led by Kotowski and Nelson-Holmsky with the following members: Addleman, Burns, Rico, and Tribley
  - 3. *Children in all policies*- led by Jimenez and Espinosa with the following members: Gonzalez, Baldwin, Hansen, Lundquist, and Parker
  - 4. *Direct Service Providers/Philanthropy*- led by Kennedy-Chouane and Rodd with the following members: Barnes, Castagna, McCrae, McDonnal, Medina, Miller, and Watkins
- p. Kennedy-Chouane and Perez Diaz will work on facilitator guide for small group discussion activity
- III. MCCC focus project for 2018-2019: Youth Referral, Prevention, Identification Triage
  - a. All members agreed to remove active referral adoption at this time as it will be incorporated as part of the discussion during overall framework.

## **General Assembly Agenda Setting**

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- I. Action Items
  - a. Approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Monterey County Children’s Council meeting
- II. Discussion Items
  - a. Overview of Children’ Council General Assembly Recommendations
  - b. Overview of Executive Committee Retreat planning for 2018-2019
  - c. Harnessing our energy for children in Monterey County
  - d. Interest based small group discussion
- III. Information/Announcements

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23am

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