



Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Benito County

Epicenter
440 San Benito St.

**February 5, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Gwen Baquiran, Tom Breen, Ashlyn Canez, Shannon Gomez, Kim Gutierrez, Isabel Littlejohn, Josh Mercier, Jennady Bonilla (Youth Intern), Dianeth Arana-Paramo (Youth Intern), and Esther Curtice (Coordinator)

Absent: Nancy Barocio, Kendra Bobsin, Krystal Lomanto, Aurelio Melgoza

Guest present: Rocio Flores, Vicki Fortino, Luisa Power, Michael Salinas

Public present: None

1. **Call Meeting to Order & Roll Call:** Josh Mercier called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.
2. **Acknowledge Posting of Agenda:** January Agenda was posted at the County building and County Website.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the January 2026 Minutes was made by Isabel Littlejohn, Seconded by Tom Breen, all in favor, motion was approved.
5. **Welcome to the Community Based Organizations in Attendance:** Rocio Flores with Rebekah Children Services, Luisa Power with First 5 San Benito, Vicki Fortino with United for San Benito and Michael Salinas with Youth recovery Connections.
6. **What is CAPC?** Josh Mercier gave a brief overview of CAPC's history, Mission and structure of CAPC of San Benito County and strategic goals.
7. **Community Presentation** – Vicki Fortino gave a presentation on United for San Benito, its prior affiliation with United Way of Santa Cruz, the current structure, the 211 program and the need to strengthen the 211 program by providing and building as much information as possible. Vicki requested for all the organizations in attendance to email their services to her so she can add those to the 211 data base.
8. **Old Business (Discussion Only):**
 - 1) **Unsung Hero Event** – The date is set for April 16 from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm at Vets Hall. Josh will submit the contract to the County for completion and to pay for deposit.
 - 2) **Nomination form** was revised to a fillable PDF and distributed to council members and to email the form to their assigned organizations.

We've received nominations from YRC and Hollister High School, however photos of nominees are missing.

Follow up reminders are needed in 2 weeks, nomination deadline is Feb. 28.

- 3) Discussed the possibility of a keynote speaker- the council suggested perhaps a presenter who can speak about their experience of abuse and neglect.
- 4) A photographer is still needed for the event, perhaps BenitoLink can provide the volunteer service.
- 5) Social Media Project – Jennady and Dianeth met with Esther and Olivia regarding social media post and creating the next newsletter. They are projecting to have it completed by the end of March. They requested to have a group photo taken at the end of the meeting.
- 6) Small grants – Josh will be researching the process of offering small grants to the community.

9. New Business (discussion only):

- 1) No pending items
- 2) Location of CAPC meetings will remain at the Epicenter, however we are moving into the larger conference room.
- 3) CAPC subcommittees for Community Outreach – tabled.

10. Action Items:

- a) Nominations for new leadership due to resignations from Erica Elliott and Olivia Tavinkl (move) Tom Breen made a motion to approve the following: Josh Mercier to be the CAPC Chair, Isabel Littlejohn to be the CAPC Vice-Chair and Gwen Baquiran to be the CAPC Secretary. Ashlyn Canez Seconded the motion, the members voted in favor, motion approved.

11 Member Announcements: Gwen announced Family Well Being Festival scheduled for March 26 at 4:00 pm at Vets Hall.

12 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:02 pm made by Tom Breen, seconded by Kim Gutierrez, all in favor, motion approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thu., Mar. 5 at 4:00 pm** at the Epicenter

Respectfully submitted by E. Curtice