

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Membership Total (36)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Cristina Brito, West Kendall Baptist Hospital (Committee Chair)</li> <li>2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Vice Chair)</li> <li>3. Betty Aguiar-Perez, Educational Leadership Institute</li> <li>4. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Hospital</li> <li>5. Katie, Hope for Miami – Project Bridge</li> <li>6. Lilia Bandrich, United Healthcare</li> <li>7. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami, School of Medicine</li> <li>8. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade</li> <li>9. Evelyn Corrales-Randle, Community Care Plan</li> <li>10. Debi La Belle, The Education Fund</li> <li>11. Michelle Espinosa, United Way Miami</li> <li>12. Britney Gilliam, Miami-Dade County CAHSD</li> <li>13. Vanessa Guillen, Easterseals/Early Steps</li> <li>14. Jeff Hurst, Department of Children and Families (DCF)</li> <li>15. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Hospital</li> <li>16. Dana Klein, Gheorg</li> <li>17. Danielle Leys, Parent to Parent of Miami</li> <li>18. Teronna Maddox, UM</li> <li>19. Vanessa Madrazo, NAMI Miami-Dade County</li> <li>20. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health</li> <li>21. Neseayah McFarlane, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD)</li> <li>22. Tamia Medina, UHealth</li> <li>23. Talli Menchion, Easterseals/Early Steps</li> <li>24. Sofia Mino, Kristi House</li> <li>25. Dr. Imelda Moise, UM</li> <li>26. Taylor Roberts, FFCR</li> <li>27. Karem Rodriguez, Florida Foster Care Review</li> <li>28. Justin Sanchez, CMWP</li> <li>29. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan</li> <li>30. Melody Velez, United Healthcare</li> <li>31. Helen Vuku, FIU</li> </ol>	

**CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE**  
Children Issues/Oral Health Committee Meeting  
Friday, July 18, 2025  
10-11:30 a.m. EST

	<p>32. Sandra Echeverry-Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p> <p>33. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p> <p>34. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p> <p>35. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison)</p> <p>36. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	The July 2025 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee Meeting was brought to order by Cristina Brito and Tenesha Avent at 10:04 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the June 2025 minutes by Tenesha Avent, and the motion was seconded by Jeff Hurst.	
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board update was provided by Dr. Cristina Brito. The Executive Board did not meet in July but will convene in August. A reminder was announced the Consortium's digital brochure was approved by the Florida Department of Health Communications team. The digital brochure can now be disseminated in English. There are plans to translate the brochure into Spanish and Haitian Creole to ensure broader accessibility. The digital brochure was presented to the committee members to review as they will be receiving to disseminate at community meetings, health fairs and events.</p> <p>The Consortium Event Planning Taskforce has begun to convene. Dr. Brito provided updates on the sites visits to the potential venues (Miami Vineyard and Milander) we are looking to host the Annual Event and Worksite Wellness Awards. The next planning meeting will be on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Please contact your committee liaison if interested in signing up to be a part of the Taskforce.</p>	Share digital brochure with promo email.
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. Tenesha Avent shared that the Taskforce last met virtually in June. During this meeting, the Taskforce had a presentation by Postpartum Support International (PSI). She also shared the Taskforce will have a follow-up presentation by The Women's Fund Miami-Dade on the Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) Miami-Dade initiative. The Taskforce will meet later today at 12:30 p.m. following Children Issues.	
Previous Action Update	The committee continues to review the upcoming quarterly health observances that relate to children's health and well-being. For more updates on upcoming events, please review the Partner Updates section further in the meeting minutes.	
Health Observance Updates		

<p>Community Concerns Conversation</p>	<p>Dr. Brito and Tenesha Avent continued the discussion with the committee members to share any challenges faced or expected concerns related to changes in funding. These updates are being shared to raise awareness of current funding updates on surrounding programs part of organizations you may be working with on related to other key community initiatives. The partners discussed and shared their current experiences as well as potential opportunities to see how to link community residents to needed services during this time. Key updates were shared and noted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community challenge that was shared is finding qualified teachers in childcare learning centers and being able to pay them appropriately. On this same topic, it was also noted a challenge is also for parents to find quality childcare.</li> <li>• Data was shared from a recent webinar hosted on the different implications of federal legislation that could impact factors like food insecurity, childcare workforce, low-income and target populations who receive Medicaid, and foster care impacts. Additionally, the partners discussed extensively the housing crisis and where they could go to connect the families they served. It was noted <a href="#">Camillus House</a> provides compassionate services including housing, healthcare, job training, and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade County. It was also share health plans could be a great resource to possibly help with housing assistance.</li> <li>• The committee members present discussed the importance of understanding and utilizing your health plans benefits. This is an opportunity to share with the communities and populations you are serving to look at their over the counter (OTC) benefits. There were recommendations to consider using innovation to connect our community and leverage resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Sunshine Health Over the counter (OTC) Benefits</a>: For any questions related to Sunshine Health, please contact Suecia Mendez Padilla via email at <a href="mailto:Supadilla@sunshinehealth.com">Supadilla@sunshinehealth.com</a>.</li> <li>◦ <a href="#">UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Over the counter (OTC) Benefits</a>: For any questions related to United Healthcare, please contact Melody Velez via email at <a href="mailto:Melody.velez@uhc.com">Melody.velez@uhc.com</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Recognition of Improved Performance</p> <p>Work Plan Success</p>	<p>Dr. Brito highlighted the committee's success of the 2019-2025 work plan in which 45 of 48 committee activities have been met. There are three remaining committee activities that have not been met on the work plan but will be transferred to the new 2025-2030 work plan. The committee took a moment to commend themselves for all of the hard work they have been able to do since the inception of the workplan. It was shared in the next committee meeting, they will review the work plan to see which activities the committee would like to continue over the next 5 years and also develop new activities to focus on building further impact.</p>	

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Performance Measures in Need of Improvement (Work Plan Review)	<p>The committee has three remaining work plan activities that are behind. During this meeting, the committee was reminded of the following two work plan activities that need improvement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By September 30, 2024, the Children's Issue Committee will increase education to childcare providers about food allergies. The committee plans to broaden this objective to include children's overall health. Updates will be shared when available.</li> <li>2. By September 30, 2024, the Children's Issue will fund a children's book related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Dr. Brito shared the Alzheimer's Association has a new staff person and she will be working to re-establish connection with them. More updates will be provided once partner meeting occurs.</li> </ol>	
New Business  CHIP Annual Meeting Recap	<p>A high-level recap of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Annual Meeting to the Children Issues Committee members. This meeting was hosted at FIU North Wolfe University Center on Monday, June 23, 2025. There was a total of 116 attendees. During this meeting, the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessment results were shared, and community members had the opportunity to vote and discuss the issues impacting health and wellness in Miami-Dade County. During this meeting, a total of five priority areas were selected. The new 2025-2030 CHIP Priority Areas will include Access to Care, Chronic Disease, Behavioral &amp; Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. The new priority areas will assist with the development of the new 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Dr. Brito and Ms. Avent along with the partners shared their experience from the meeting and how the results from the CHIP meeting will inform the committee work plan.</p>	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BreastfeedMIAMI:</b> August is National Breastfeeding Month. The upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day will be held August 23, 2025 at the Doral Legacy Park Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a lot of exciting activities, giveaways and workshops. Families can <a href="#">sign-up and RSVP here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade:</b> A reminder was shared on the available Consortium resources. These include the <a href="#">Consortium Directory</a>, <a href="#">Community Event Request (CHER) Form</a>, and the <a href="#">Consortium Membership Form</a>.</li> <li>• <b>DCF:</b> An update was shared by Jeff Hurst. He shared he is currently working on emergency response for their licensing inspectors when they go out because sometimes they see different situations and that may be outside of our scope or outside of child protective investigations, and so he is working to connect and link them to appropriate services like to Easter Seals and United Way.</li> <li>• <b>Easterseals/Early Steps:</b> An update was shared by Talli Menchion. Talli took a moment to introduce Vanessa Guillen who is the Early Steps new Family Resource Specialist. Upcoming event flyers will be shared via email by Early Steps. The next Lunch and Learn play group will</li> </ul>	

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be on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at the Coral Reef library. For any questions, please contact Talli Menchion at [tmenchion@fl.easterseals.com](mailto:tmenchion@fl.easterseals.com).

- **Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade:** Neseyah McFarlane shared an update on the T.E.A.M. Dad Program: By *Teaching, Empowering, Advocating, and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.)*, this program works with expecting dads and fathers of children aged birth to three years to achieve their goal of having a positive impact in their children's lives. This program provides home visiting services to fathers using the 24/7 Dad evidence-based curriculum and is tailored to meet the individual needs of each family. The referral form is available in English, Spanish, and Creole for distribution to the Consortium if they would like to refer any fathers to our services. The forms will be emailed to the committee members.
- **Hope for Miami – Project Bridge:** Hope for Miami is hosting their annual Back to School Drive! It will be at their office location on Flagler and will be a school supplies hand out with food and fun activities on August 9, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Event flyer was shared.
- **Kristi House:** Sofia Mino shared they are hosting The Healing Sanctuary's first-ever Back-to-School Community Open House in Homestead on Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event location is at 250 N Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030.
- **March of Dimes:** Tenesha Avent shared a new date will be sent for the *Engaging Fathers and Partners to Advance Maternal and Infant Well-Being* webinar. An email will be shared once date is confirmed. It was also announced upcoming July 19-25 is Black Maternal Mental Health Week.
- **Sunshine Health:** Suecia Mendez Padilla shared if you want to be added to her list of diaper distribution events for the flyers you can email her to receive updates.
- **The Women's Fund Miami-Dade:** Val Butler, Project and Grants Manager, Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health Miami-Dade of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade, introduced herself to the Taskforce as a new member and recently joining her organization and excited to stay connected and work together. RSVP and sign up for [Town Hall with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava](#) event that will take place on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Tree of Life:** Tree of Life Contact Info: <https://www.treeoflifemiami.org/> and Phone 305-442-9448 (same for both locations) North location (Thursday and Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm) Address: 1701 NW 66 ST., Miami, FL, 33147
- **United Healthcare:** Melody Velez shared there will be a Back-to-School Immunization Fair on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at the Jessie Trice Community Health System from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attached in this email includes the event flyer.
- **University of Miami, School of Medicine:** Michelle Berkovits, Psychologist, Director with the North Dade Early Steps program, shared they are looking for a bilingual Creole speaking Child Development Specialist for their Evaluation Team. To learn more, visit [Child Development](#)

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	<p><a href="#"><u>Specialist (H) in Miami, Florida, United States of America   Allied Health at University of Miami</u></a></p> <p>She also shared they have other openings upcoming for Service Coordinators. Additionally, she shared an update for UM Mailman Center, on August 22, 2025, they will be doing in partnership with the UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) a one-hour Lunch and Learn CEU on behavioral feeding. Once the flyer is available, it will be shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>West Kendall Baptist Hospital:</b> Dr. Brito shared the next Baby Boot Camp will be hosted on August 9, 2025, and Miami Diaper Bank will be present. Dr. Brito also shared the Taste of West Kendall Donation Drive is currently taking place. This is where we incentivize the donations by sharing out coupon sheets with partners who are providing donations. These donations support Project Up Start students and some non-profits with back-to-school supplies too.</li> </ul>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. The next Children Issues Committee meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday, August 15, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	