

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (31)	1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 3. Talli Mencion, Easter Seals/Early Steps 4. Marena Bajo, DentaQuest 5. Cristiane Rocha, Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures 6. Lilia Bandrich, United health Care 7. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 8. Noel Rodriguez, DentaQuest 9. Carla Sabugo, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County WIC 10. Sofia Mino, Kristi House 11. Sophia Lacroix, Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP Florida International University (FIU) 12. Andrea Hickson NICU Alumni 13. Danielle Kristine Jorge, University of Miami CAMAT Program 14. Dr. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer, University of Miami IDEAS Consortium 15. Violet Ryland, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 16. Emily Jones, University of South Florida 17. Jeffrey Hurst, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 18. Stephanie Thomas, City of North Miami 19. Gilda Ferradaz, Department of Children and Families 20. Danielle Leys, Parent to Parent of Miami 21. Alexandra O'Keefe, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida 22. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan 23. Teronna Maddox, University of Miami Hospital and Clinics 24. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 25. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 26. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health 27. Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County	

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, April 17, 2026

10am-11:30a.m. EST

	28. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 29. Dana Klein, Gheorg 30. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby 31. Val Butler, AIM -The Women's Fund Miami-Dade	
Welcome and Introductions	The April 2026 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:04 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee March 2026 meeting minutes by Zadymon Moore, and the motion was seconded by Talli Menchion.	
Executive Board Update	The Executive Board met virtually on Monday, April 13, 2026. The Board also continued the conversation on optimal health and addressed the drivers of health. The Executive Board reviewed the Consortium Strategic Plan and added Consortium objectives to the healthy weight/physical activity, and nutrition priority area. Strategies to meet these objectives will be discussed at the next meeting. Revisions to the Consortium Bylaws were discussed with the inclusion of timeline of requests and approvals needed from the Board and DOH for grant/funding opportunities. During this meeting, the Consortium Bylaws were finalized and approved by the Board. DOH-Miami-Dade is awaiting approval for the CHA and CHIP.	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The April 2026 Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting was canceled.	
Previous Action Items	In this meeting, Dr. Cristina Brito shared major updates from the executive board. Healthy Baby Taskforce updates were shared by liaison Eunice Mesumbe. Committee members were reminded of the Community Health Event Request (CHER) form on the Consortium website as they can invite the Consortium and the Department of Health to participate in their events. Dr. Cristina also shared a link to a study that was released, tied to toxins inside infant formula, candy and bread. It was discussed in this meeting that the Florida Department of Health report tied to candy testing and arsenic levels was also published online.	

Health Observances	The following health observance months were uplifted, ○ Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17) ○ Autism Awareness Month (April) ○ Mental Health Awareness Month (May) ○ National Water Safety Month (May) Dr. Cristina shared pictures, and a presentation highlight from the Black Maternal Health Week Symposium event that was held on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Also, members were prompted to share on their organization's updates, any resources or events they have available that would benefit our community. During this meeting, Gilda Ferradaz, from the Department of Children and Families, shared some feedback. Gilda was able to refer a family in need that met the criteria for care coordination to Nicklaus Children's Hospital following their presentation during our March 2026 meeting. It was highlighted during this meeting that Consortium reporting for Florida Healthy Baby is now biannually. Also, as a reminder, the 2025-2030 CHIP Priority Areas include Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Behavioral & Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition.	
New Business	A presentation on Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CAMAT) Program by Dr. Danielle Jorge and Dr. Liz Bocanegra from the University of Miami was confirmed for the in-person May meeting. Another presentation on Jackson's Telehealth Maternity Care program in Miami Dade by Leiann Palma from the RHISE program at Jackson's The Women's Hospital was confirmed for the June meeting.	Follow up on presentation materials.
Partner Updates	University of Miami (UM) IDEAS Consortium: Updates as they are conducting another wave of kindergarten parent health and development survey with The Children's Trust and M-DCPS. They are looking for community help in certain areas of the County for partnerships with parents who have children ages 3-5 or enrolled in kindergarten. Contact Dr. Rebecca Shearer at rshearer@miami.edu. Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CAMAT) Program: The CAMAT program is happy to get involved in back-to-school events (or mental	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

health awareness events) to connect families with the free mental health services they offer for youths. Please reach out to Dr. Danielle Jorge at d.ibarra@umiami.edu.

Green Family Foundation, Neighborhood Health: Sophia Lacroix shared updates as they help link families to resources by inviting them to be visited by their team of students (medical, nursing, social work). They are open County wide now. People who are insured or uninsured can get visits and have access to free primary health care on their mobile Health Center at no cost or low cost. To refer families to their program, please visit this link: [NeighborhoodHELP Community Partner Household Referral](#). Upcoming is their event by FIU COM GFF NeighborhoodHELP in July at Allapattah. Email Sophia Lacroix at slacroix@fiu.edu.

Kristi House: Sofia Mino shared updates as Kristi House always has free virtual presentations. During the month of April, they will be covering Wellness and Me in English and Spanish. They will also be hosting Project Headstrong, which is a mental health series covering Shame and Guilt on Tuesdays. Visit their calendar link for more training details: <https://kristihouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Kristi-House-Training-and-Edu-Flyer-January-June-2026.pdf>.

- Also shared was the Lauren's Walk that occurred on Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10, 2026, in Homestead and Miami locations, advocating for children who have been victims of human trafficking.
- In addition, the State Attorney's office now has an office number for victims (**dial 305 Fix Stop**). Individuals can refer to Kristi House's Project Gold, which is their drop-in center for human trafficking victims or possible human trafficking victims at any time.

DOH-Miami-Dade Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: Carla Sabugo shared major updates as they have some changes to their food package, specifically their contract formula. Due to these changes, the WIC program will be conducting trainings for their medical providers and will be working with the state to speak with all their OBGYNs and pediatricians over the course of the next three months. An annual training about WIC will be included in the presentation.

Upcoming is their 15th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day Event on August 22, 2026, at Doral Legacy Park. Please save the date. Flyers are forthcoming <https://www.breastfeedmiami.org/events-1/15th-annual-breastfeeding-awareness-family-day>

United Way Miami: Dr. Cristina Brito shared updates on their investment cycle as their grant decisions goes to their board for final allocation approvals on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. They are going through contract negotiations to discuss funding for the next five years. These contracts will start on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

- Also shared on behalf of Miami Vineyard Community Church, they will host their Second Chance Day job fair and Seal & Expunge event with the State Attorney's office on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Registration required. More details in link <https://miamivineyard.com/secondchance/>.
- Shared also, The Melissa Institute (TMI) is hosting their 30th Annual Conference: From Prevention to Healing: Research-Based Solutions to Address the Youth Mental Health Crisis in America on Friday, May 1, 2026, from 08:30am. This will be a full day virtual conference discussing anxiety, depression, trauma, suicide risk, resiliency, and social connectedness. The conference will also offer continuous education credits. Register [Here](#).
- United Way will be hosting a disability sensitivity training at their Miami location on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 1:00 PM. A registration link will be shared with members.
- In addition, United Way will also be hosting the Longest Table Miami at the Underline with 10 days of connection celebrating 10 years on Friday, May 1, 2026, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. View registration link [The Longest Table Miami at The Underline](#).
- Also, on Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., they are hoping to host a potluck for over 200 people to meet and greet.
- Shared also on Thursday, May 7, 2026, is the Alliance for Aging Conference. Details are forthcoming.
- Upcoming on Sunday, May 17, 2026, is the Baptist Health Splash Day event in honor of the National Water Safety Month. It is going to be hosted at Little Swimmers at the Miccosukee Golf and Clubhouse. They award 100

	swimming scholarships annually and do free swimming evaluations. Flyers will be shared. ○ On Thursday, May 21, 2026, is the Age Friendly Initiative Capacity Building Event. More details to come. ○ On Wednesday, May 27 -Thursday, May 28, 2026, United Way of Broward is hosting their mental health conference. Details will be shared with members. ICU Baby: Leah Jayanetti shared updates as they had a wonderful NICU grad connector. They worked with Andrea Hickson to provide their post NICU babies and their families with extra help and support as they navigate life after NICU. In addition, this April, they are working on a special podcast episode for their families and the community about Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) and Retinopathy of prematurity. Also, their team will be going to Washinton, DC in June to attend NICU on the Hill to advocate for the NICU Babies Bill of Rights. They had the largest representation from Florida among all 50 States in 2025. NICU Alumni: Andrea Hickson shared, the History of Miami Museum is hosting a free family fun day on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in collaboration with 10 Days of Connection. The NICU team will be attending event. Register here https://historymiami.org/event/free-family-fun-day-10/ Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures: Provides free dental screenings and oral health education for children up to 12 years old. This is a free service, however, for the past two years, they have now required an agreement between agencies. Colgate also has some educational bookings where they go to libraries to read to the kids. Reach out to Cristiane Rocha at bp_cristiane_rocha@colpal.com, Tel: 786-426-6902 if in need of their services. Other Helpful Resources Shared in Committee Meeting • Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade Invitation to Join. To become a member, please complete the membership form here. To learn more, check	
--	--	--

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, April 17, 2026

10am-11:30a.m. EST

	out the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade website at https://www.healthymiamidade.org/ • Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade Community Health Event Request form: https://www.healthymiamidade.org/forms/community-health-event-request-form.html#gsc.tab=0 • Healthy Florida First Building a Healthier Florida	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting will be hosted In-person on Friday, May 15, 2026, at United Way Miami (Training Room) from, 10:00 a.m. to Noon (12 p.m.).	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.