

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, May 15, 2026

10am-12:00p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (22)	1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 3. Lilia Bandrich, United health Care 4. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 5. Carla Sabugo, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County WIC 6. Sophia Lacroix, Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP Florida International University (FIU) 7. Dr. Danielle Kristine Jorge, University of Miami CAMAT Program 8. Dr. Liz Bocanegra, University of Miami CAMAT Program 9. Raysa Perez, Amigos for Kids 10. Danielle Barratteau, DCF Office of Licensing 11. Joyce Granda, Jackson Health System 12. Jeffrey Hurst, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 13. Debi LaBelle, The Education Fund 14. Esther Louis, Metro Mommy Agency/ MOMCHA Program 15. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 16. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 17. Suzonne Sherley Merilos, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 18. Gilda Ferradaz, Department of Children and Families 19. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 20. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 21. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby 22. Val Butler, AIM -The Women's Fund Miami-Dade	
Welcome and Introductions	The May 2026 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:09 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee April 2026 meeting minutes by Zadymon Moore, and the motion was seconded by Jeffrey Hurst.	

"Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CAMAT)" Presentation	The Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CAMAT) Program connecting families with free mental health services for youths. <i>Presented by Dr. Danielle Jorge and Dr. Liz Bocanegra from the University of Miami.</i> Following the presentation, there was a Q&A discussion on how committee members could support this program.	Share presentation slide deck.
Executive Board Update	The Executive Board met virtually on Monday, May 11th, 2026. The Board also continues the conversation on optimal health and addressing 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. During this meeting, the Workplan was finalized and approved by the Board. The Board discussed the finalized bylaws and reviewed the Letter of support electronic form process. The Bylaws have been sent to Legal for review and will be uploaded to the Consortium website once available. An IT ticket will be opened to upload the electronic letter of support form to the Consortium website as well. DOH-Miami-Dade is currently awaiting final approval of the budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year.	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The Healthy Baby Taskforce met in-person on Friday, May 15, 2026, at United Way Miami following the Children Issues Committee meeting at 12:30 pm. In this meeting, they had a presentation on Heat and Health-The Intersection of Extreme Heat Awareness and Maternal Health by Val Butler from The Women's Fund- Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health Miami-Dade (AIM). In this meeting, Taskforce partners engaged in signing up to lead monthly health observance for the remainder of the year 2026. Taskforce also continued discussions on their social media engagement efforts. The Healthy Baby Taskforce June virtual meeting was canceled in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday on Friday, June 19, 2026. Partners were also reminded to submit report 2 for the FHB/Healthy Baby Taskforce FY 25-26 Work Plan Development, spanning from <i>January 1 to June 30, 2026, by COB Monday, July 6, 2026.</i> The new Florida Healthy Baby FY 25-26 priority areas include Well Woman Care, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, Infant Mortality, Dental	

	or Oral Care, and Children's Medical Homes. The Taskforce will focus on Infant Mortality and Children's Medical Homes.	
Previous Action Items	The Children Issues Committee met in-person on Friday, May 15, 2026, at United Way Miami. In this meeting, Dr. Cristina Brito shared major updates from the executive board. Healthy Baby Taskforce updates were shared by Eunice Mesumbe and Esther Louis. During this meeting, members were engaged to complete a fill in the blanks activity to create a funny Mother's Day story which was read by Dr. Cristina Brito at the end of the meeting. Partners also shared major updates and upcoming events. In this meeting, the Chair, Dr. Cristina Brito encouraged members to participate in and support the Age Friendly Initiative- Community Gathering coming up on Sunday, June 28, 2026. This is an activity that is tied to our 2025-2030 work plan to host and/or support an Intergenerational Community Event. The June virtual meeting was canceled in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday on Friday, June 19, 2026. Major May 2026 health observances were Highlighted. Which include, ○ National Fitness and Sports Month ○ National Women's Health Month ○ Older Americans Month ○ Mental Health Awareness Month ○ National Water Safety Month ○ National Asthma Day (May 5) ○ International Day of the Midwife (May 5) ○ Maternal Mental Health (May 7) ○ National Hypertension Day (May 17) ○ Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (May3- 9) ○ National Nurses Week (May 6-12) ○ National Epilepsy Week (May 24-30)	
2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Indicators	• By September 30, 2030, the committee will collaborate to organize at least presentations on access to health care resources. • By September 30, 2028, the Children Issues Committee will create a plan on how to develop their efforts working on the behavioral and mental health priority area.	

	(E.g., linkage to mental health resources and services, community resource guide). - By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues Committee will distribute educational resources on promoting the importance of mental health to the community (e.g., managing emotions, breathing exercises, managing stress, etc.). - By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues Committee will host and/or support a minimum of one community event to educate on healthy communities, nutrition, and physical activity. (e.g. cooking demonstration for awareness months, “Know Your Numbers” Pop-Up Health Stations: Free checks for blood pressure, A1C, cholesterol, BMI, and waist, nutrition tailored education).	
Partner Updates	Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CAMAT) Program: The CAMAT program Dr. Danielle Jorge and Dr. Liz Bocanegra from the University of Miami gave a presentation on the CAMAT program 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. Flyers were shared with members Green Family Foundation, Neighborhood Health: Sophia Lacroix shared information on their Neighborhood Help free program at the Florida International University that connects families to health and social services in our community. Please visit this link: NeighborhoodHELP Community Partner Household Referral. Upcoming is their event by FIU COM GFF NeighborhoodHELP on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Allapattah. Email Sophia Lacroix at slacroix@fiu.edu. Also, save the date for the Art of Breastfeeding event on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the City of North Miami Beach. Flyers are forthcoming. Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD): They will be hosting a Prematurity Symposium on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. More details to come so, save the date. DOH-Miami-Dade Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: Carla Sabugo shared on WIC’s upcoming 15th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day Event on August 22, 2026, at Doral Legacy Park. Please save the date. Flyers are	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

forthcoming <https://www.breastfeedmiami.org/events-1/15th-annual-breastfeeding-awareness-family-day>.

Also, WIC will be moving their West Dade and University locations to a new address by Monday, June 1, 2026. Please visit their website for more details [here](#).

United Way Miami: Supported by the Baptist Foundation, Dr. Cristina Brito shared United Way Center for Financial Stability is providing one-time financial assistance to families who have Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) related needs. They can assist up to \$500 in medical bills and up to \$1500 in Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) needs specifically housing, transportation and food insecurity. Please contact the Center for Financial Stability at 3056467171. Flyers are forthcoming.

- Sunday, May 17, 2026, was 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. Family engagement activities included a pool safety presentation, CPR demonstration, swimming lesson readiness assessment, drawing for swim lesson scholarships, face painting, a bounce house and skin cancer screenings. Flyers were shared with members.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026, is Splashing Safely: Water Safety Tips for Parents of Children with Autism. Families attending will be entered to win a free scholarship for swimming lessons for their child.
- On Thursday, May 21, 2026, there is the Age Friendly Initiative Capacity Building Event at Arcola Lakes Senior Center Inside the Banquet Hall
- On Sunday, June 28, 2026, is the Age Friendly Initiative Community gathering for older adults and advocates event at Oak Grove Park in Miami. Members are encouraged to collaborate in this event to support our work plan to participate in an Intergenerational Community event (By **September 30, 2030**, the Children Issues Committee will host and/or support a minimum of one community event to educate on healthy communities, nutrition, and physical activity).

Metro Mommy Agency:

	Esther Louis shared she is hosting a virtual breastfeeding support group every other Thursday of the month. Also, she is opening a space for the community to support pregnant and postpartum moms on the last Saturday of the month. A CPR instructor will be integrated into these sessions to run a CPR class for families to learn basic level CPR skills to be launched in June. Esther is launching a mental health application soon and will be conducting a pilot study of the application in June. More updates to come. In addition, she will host a free cohort on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at Co-Space sharing business tips for entrepreneurs. Save the date for their 4th annual MOCHA Family Wellness Fair on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at KIPP Academy – Miami-Dade College North Campus. Visit link to get tickets here. Nicklaus Children Hospital: They host creative workshops to promote mental health wellness in after school programs, and summer camps. They focus on eight modules that incorporate self-expression, patterns in motion, promote creativity through art and more. Also, Julie katz shared Nicklaus, WIC and Head Start have officially launched a Health Information exchange to do e-referrals for WIC and Head Start enrollments. This will permit WIC and Head Start to be able to submit e-referrals through their Electronic Health System. Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF): Jeffrey Hurst shared families can visit their website for public search on childcare facilities and review inspection reports: https://caressearch.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch. Also, shared was that there are only six licensed Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) sites allowed with an exemption to have three-year-olds. Coming up is The Children’s Trust Family Expo is on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Arnold Hall. Visit site here. ICU Baby: Leah Jayanetti shared that Friday, May 15, 2026, was the International Kangaroo Care Awareness Day. Raising awareness of the benefits of skin-to -skin	
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	contact between parents and newborns. This day honors the practice of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), which involves skin-to-skin contact between a baby and a caregiver, often the mother, to provide warmth, comfort, and stabilization. Reach out to Leah at leah@icubaby.org to learn more. 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 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	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting will be hosted <u>virtually</u> through Microsoft Teams on Friday, July 17, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.