

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, September 18, 2026

10am-11:30a.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (35)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Co-Chair) 3. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 4. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 5. Melody A Espinozacordova, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 6. Hilda Alvarado, Florida Community Care (Medicaid Plan) 7. Gilda Ferradaz, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 8. Lissette Becerra, SurfMed 9. Dr. Danielle Kristine Jorge, CAMAT Program University of Miami 10. Melody Velez, United Healthcare Community (UHC) 11. Rob Collins, The Miami Foundation 12. Dr. Sara Mijares StGeorge, University of Miami 13. Talli Menchion, Early Steps 14. Karen Zhang, University of Miami (Intern) 15. Debra Dhaity, The Children's Movement of Florida 16. Stefanie Gaspard, Liberty Dental Plan 17. Teronna Maddox, University of Miami Hospital and Clinics 18. Dr. Cynthia Nicole Lebron, University of Miami 19. Lola Kay Riley, University of Miami 20. Dr. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer, University of Miami 21. Lisseth Guerra, Strategic Prevention Solutions 22. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 23. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 24. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 25. Carla J Sabugo, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County WIC program 26. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 27. Juliet Sanjuan, Connect Familias 28. Sophia Lacroix, FIU Neighborhood HELP 29. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 30. Andrea Hickson NICU Alumni 31. Alex Lozana, Connect Familias 	

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	<p>32. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida (EAF)</p> <p>33. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade</p> <p>34. Sandra P Echeverry-Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p> <p>35. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	The September 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 August 2026 meeting minutes by Tenesha Avent, and the motion was seconded by Debra Dhaity.	
Legislative updates and an overview of United Way's Guide to Services Presentations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Legislative updates were provided</i> by Dr. Cynthia Lebron. The committee discussed the impact of these updates and potential solutions. • An overview of United Way's Guide to Services by Dr. Cristina Brito. <p>Following the presentations, there was a Q&A discussion on how committee members could support these programs.</p>	Share presentation slide deck with members.
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board meeting was held in-person on September 14, 2026.</p> <p>The Board continues the conversation on optimal health and addressing the drivers of health.</p> <p>The Board continued to discuss potential impacts of the important legislative updates and proposed solutions.</p> <p>The Board discussed the upcoming 2027-2029 committee election cycle. Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair will commence on October 1, 2026, and conclude on October 30, 2026. The Board will announce when elections will be held once the information is finalized.</p> <p>Updates to the Consortium website are still currently on hold due to the transition of the webmaster from the agency.</p>	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	<p>The Healthy Baby Taskforce convened virtually on Friday, September 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. During this meeting, members received a presentation on Community Health Workers by Tenesha Avent (Chair) from March of Dimes. Members were also reminded of their designated health observance work items. Additionally, it was announced that the nomination period for the Co-Chair position of the Healthy Baby Taskforce has closed. The taskforce remains actively engaged in developing its contributions to the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY26–27 Work Plan.</p> <p>As a reminder, the Florida Healthy Baby FY 26-27 priority areas will remain the same. These include, Well Woman Care, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, Infant Mortality, Dental or Oral</p>	

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	Care, Children's Medical Homes. The Taskforce will continue to focus on Infant Mortality and Children's Medical Homes for the FY 26-27.	
Previous Action Items	The Children Issues Committee met virtually on Friday, September 18, 2026, via Microsoft Teams at 10:00 a.m. During this meeting, we had two presentations: the first from Dr. Cynthia Lebron on <i>important potential legislative updates</i> , and the second from Dr. Cristina Brito (Chair), who provided an overview of United Way's Guide to Services. During this meeting, Committee Liaison, Eunice Mesumbe provided a demonstration on how to complete the Children Issues monthly reporting survey. Members were also reminded to use the monthly reporting survey to submit updates on their work plan contributions. Partners were also encouraged to submit monthly articles for inclusion in the Consortium newsletters. In addition, during this meeting, Dr. Cristina Brito announced that the application period for the Food and Nutrition for All (FNFA) Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA) mini-grant program will open on September 24, 2026. Flyer and registration link were shared with members.	
Next Steps	Share Children Issues monthly reporting survey link to collect member contributions and updates to the progress of the 2025-2030 work plan.	Share survey with members monthly.
2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By September 30, 2030, the committee will collaborate to organize presentations on access to health care resources. By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues/Oral Health Committee will collaborate and connect partners to share resources and support efforts to access health care and community-based services in the community. By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues Committee will distribute educational materials for children on healthy communities, nutrition, and physical activity. (e.g. nutrition resources, community gardens, age-appropriate portion guidelines, healthy recipes, physical activity guidelines, healthy lifestyle resources, tobacco-free, etc.) 	
New Business	A presentation from Dr. Shearer Rebecca and team on the results from the 2026 Well-being Survey Data during the October virtual meeting.	Follow up on presentation materials.
Partner Updates	<p>University of Miami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Cynthia Lebron shared important legislative updates. For more information, Dr. Lebron may be contacted via LinkedIn or email at clebron@miami.edu. Also shared by Dr. Cynthia Lebron was the Art of Breastfeeding Brunch and Exhibition event held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the Marjorie & William McDonald Center, in North Miami Beach. 	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

- Additionally, Dr. Sara M. St. George provided information on the *Building Our Mosaic: A Miami-Dade Children's Health and Prevention Summit*, which will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026, at the Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science. Registration is free, and participants are encouraged to register by Friday, October 16, 2026, using the link [here](#). Flyer was shared with members. Email s.stgeorge@med.miami.edu for any questions of the event.

United Way Miami

- Dr. Cristina Brito provided an overview of United Way's Guide to their services. Members interested in a presentation on United Way's services may contact Dr. Brito at britoc@unitedwaymiami.org.
- Partners who would like to obtain physical NeedyMeds drug discount cards or flyers may submit a request through the provided link [NeedyMeds Prescription Discount Card and Collateral Request Form](#).

The Miami Foundation

- Rob Collins shared information on the online fundraising for the Give Miami Day event that will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026. Click [here](#) for your Nonprofit registration by Friday, October 16, 2026. For any inquiries, please contact givemiamiday@miamifoundation.org.

Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD)

- Coming up is their Prematurity Symposium on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. Please save the date. If interested in sponsoring the event, please visit the provided link [here](#). For any inquiries, please email alexandavis@hscmd.org.

March of Dimes

- Tenesha Avent noted that September 12–18, 2026, was NICU Nurses Week. To recognize and uplift this observance, March of Dimes visited their hospital partners to show appreciation to nurses by providing lunch and treats.
- Also shared were upcoming March of Dimes events for FY 2026–2027, including the Signature Chefs Miami event on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, and the Women of Distinction Awards on Friday, November 20, 2026. Flyer was shared with members.

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	<p>Florida Community Care (Medicaid Plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please connect with Hilda Alvarado at hgalvarado@ilshealth.com to collaborate and obtain additional information regarding the Florida Community Care Medicaid Plan. <p>FDOH Miami-Dade County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carla Sabugo provided key updates from the 15th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day Event held on August 22, 2026, at Doral Legacy Park. This year's event welcomed approximately 1,000 attendees and featured a highly successful South Florida Latch-athon, achieving a total of 126 latches. Event photos are available for viewing here. <p>Other Helpful Resources Shared in Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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/ 	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m. The next meeting will be hosted virtually on Friday, Friday, October 16, 2026, via Microsoft Teams from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.