

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<p>Membership Total (36)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Vice Chair and Taskforce Co-Chair) 3. Esther Louis, Metro Mommy Agency 4. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 5. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 6. Stephanie Thomas, City of North Miami 7. Talli Menchion, Easterseals/Early Steps 8. Gilda Ferradaz, Department of Children and Families 9. Melody Espinoza Cordova, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Danielle Barratteau, DCF Office of Licensing 11. Michelle, Project Bridge (Intern) 12. Christine Toledo, Florida Atlantic University 13. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 14. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health 15. Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 16. Kelsey Jo Evans, Camp Boggy Creek 17. Michelle Denise Berkovits, University of Miami – Early Steps Program 18. Wallman Shai, Abby Care 19. Dr. Ruby Natale, University of Miami 20. Sandra P Echeverry-Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 21. Catherine Toms, Green Cars for Kids 22. Monica Gonzalez, Art Foundation 23. Dr. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer, University of Miami 24. Jeffrey Hurst, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) 25. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 26. Dana Klein, Gheorg 27. Debra Dhaity, Children’s Movement Florida 28. Tyjah S Lavern Cosby, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) 29. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby 30. Val Butler, AIM -The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 31. Rocio Velazquez, The Children’s Movement of Florida 	

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, January 16, 2026

10am-11:30a.m. EST



	<p>32. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children’s Hospital 33. Kristin Wallin, Kido Kinetics 34. Isabel Afanador, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe 35. Destiny Witherspoon, Abby Care 36. Catalina Jaramillo, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	The January 2026 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:05 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee November 2025 meeting minutes by Isabel Afanador, and the motion was seconded by Jeffrey Hurst.	
“All in for Early Learning initiative” Presentation	<p>The Children’s Movement of Florida launched a new initiative, “All in for Early Learning initiative,” focused on strengthening early learning access and outcomes across our community. <i>Presented by Rocio Velazquez from The Children’s Movement of Florida.</i></p> <p>Following presentation, there was a Q&A discussion on how the committee members could support this initiative.</p>	Share presentation slide deck.
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board met in-person on Monday, December 08, 2025. The Board had a White Elephant gift exchange and holiday potluck. Dr. Cristina Brito shared updates on United Way Miami, on the environmental, social, and economic conditions that impact health as well as food insecurity with the challenges on frozen funds impacting the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Adding, the Department of Emergency Management reached out to get an environmental scan status on how local agencies were being impacted by the Government shutdown. A Community Survey was sent out to over 60 partners, with United Way also sharing it out with the consortium. This helps make informed decisions and respond to the Department of Emergency Management to really know what is happening in real time.</p> <p>Information on the FNFA Food Finder resource was shared and new updates were provided on that we will be having funding that’s coming in this year 2026 to support that work. In response to the issues of SNAP benefits and food insecurity, we received a big donation of 5 pallets of food, 5 pallets of juices, and about 1,000 snacks which were distributed to local pantries and Caring for Miami’s market. The Children’s Issues Committee together with the Healthy Baby Taskforce did a collection food drive during the November merged meeting, before Thanksgiving and collected 88 items donated to Caring for Miami’s market.</p>	

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	<p>The Board has been brainstorming and discussing ideas for the 2025-2030 Consortium Strategic Plan and Executive Board work plan. They have reviewed accomplishments for Executive Board's 2019-2025 work plan and some of the committees Menti feedback from Children Issues, Elder Issues, and Tobacco-Free Workgroup. During this December meeting, the Board did a post type setup where they were able to identify policies, systems and environmental changes for each of the priority areas which include Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Behavioral & Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. Additionally, the Board will continue to review the Consortium Bylaws and process for grant funding and letter of support requests.</p>	
<p>Healthy Baby Taskforce Update</p>	<p>The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. The Taskforce last met virtually on January 16, 2026. During this meeting, leaders continued conversations on following the theme of no longer working in silos, following the call to action on the importance of collaborative efforts from crucial partner organizations that focus on Maternal and Child health to have more aligned goals for the FY 25-26 as well as inviting leaders from the various organizations to take action. The Healthy Baby Taskforce focuses on reducing infant mortality rates and increasing breastfeeding rates in Miami-Dade County. They work with partners like WIC and BreastfeedMIAMI who provide support groups classes and lactation support to accomplish these efforts.</p> <p>The Taskforce has also been reviewing the new Florida Healthy Baby FY 25-26 priority areas which 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. Additionally, they have been discussing the change in reporting frequency to the state and will determine a deadline during today's meeting.</p>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p> <p>2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development</p>	<p>During this meeting, the members reviewed the 2026 Children Issues Committee meeting schedule. Also, the Children's Medical Homes presentation by Nicklaus Children's Hospital was postponed for the upcoming meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Liaison and DOH-Miami-Dade Team compiled and drafted the 2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development template for this meeting to commence discussions on the Work Plan. During this session, the Committee Partners for each of the new activities for priority area Access to Care was completed. Recommendations for this priority area were captured and included in the Work Plan. The draft Children Issues/Oral Health Committee 2025-2030 work plan was also shared with members after the meeting to review and include any recommendations or feedback to align with the Menti activity results to be included to review and approve during the February meeting.</p>	<p>Follow up rescheduling Nicklaus presentation.</p> <p>Follow up with Members to share their recommendations or feedback to compile in the 2025-2030 Work</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>Plan by no later than Friday, January 30, 2026</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>The Children Issues Committee will continue to review the draft 2025-2030 work plan, discuss and finalize the Committee Partners for each of the new activities for the remaining priority areas which include, Chronic Disease Prevention, Behavioral & Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition during the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>“All in For Early Learning” Presentation Resources & Presenter Contact Info</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in For Early Learning website: https://www.allinforearlylearning.com/ • To participate in the All in For Early Learning on Monday, January 26, 2026, please use Sign up Link All in for Early Learning Day Event. • Share Your Story All In for Early Learning <div data-bbox="499 836 1228 1250" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Keep in Contact</p> <p>🌟 ChildrensMovementFlorida.org ✉️ Rocio.Velazquez @ChildrensMovementFlorida.org</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Follow us on Social</p> <p>📘 The Children's Movement of Florida 🌐 The Children's Movement of Florida 📷 ChildMovementFL 📺 ChildMovementFL</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> </div> <p>DOH-Miami-Dade Office of Community Health and Planning (OCHP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Sleep Baby Safely</i> website is now live and ready to be shared with parents and caregivers across your networks: Sleep Baby Safely - Infant Safe-Sleep Education and Miami-Dade County, Florida - Sleep Baby Safely • Please see <i>Sleep Baby Safely</i> website QR code shared below. 	<p>Share Partner Update email to Members following meeting.</p>



Kidokinetics

- Kidokinetics has some youth drift shirts to donate. 18 months- small various sizes. Mostly 3T/4T & small. If interested, please contact kristin@kidokinetics.com. They are hoping to move items within the month.

Comic Kids

- A resource for the children's book committee activity: <https://www.comickids.org/>
- ATT: Kat Barrow Horth, Comic Kids founder
Email: comickidsorg@gmail.com
Telephone: 305-300-2213

Metro Mommy Agency

- Hypnobirthing classes: <https://www.metromommyagency.com/shop>
- Free Metro Mommy Agency classes Register in advance for this meeting: [Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

University of Miami – Early Steps Program

- The following full-time staff position for a bilingual English/Creole Child Development Specialist is currently available with the North Dade Early Steps Program at the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development. Please share with potential candidates for this position and reach out with any questions to Michelle Berkovits at mberkovits@med.miami.edu.
- Child Development Specialist (Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist/ITDS): Position R100088628 (Bilingual English/Creole Required): <https://careers.miami.edu/us/en/job/R100088628/Child-Development-Specialist-H>

Other Helpful Resources Shared in Committee Meeting

- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)

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Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. The next meeting will be hosted in-person on Friday, February 20, 2026, at the United Way Miami (Ansin Building, Ryder Room) from 10 a.m. to Noon.	