

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<p>Membership Total (40)</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. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 4. Stephanie Thomas, City of North Miami 5. Gilda Ferradaz, Department of Children and Families 6. Melody Espinoza Cordova, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 7. Danielle Barratteau, DCF Office of Licensing 8. Michelle D'Ambrosio, Project Bridge (Intern) 9. Christine Toledo, Florida Atlantic University 10. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 11. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health 12. Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 13. Michelle Denise Berkovits, University of Miami – Early Steps Program 14. Dr. Ruby Natale, University of Miami 15. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 16. Dana Klein, Gheorg 17. Debra Dhaity, Children's Movement Florida 18. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby 19. Val Butler, AIM -The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 20. Isabel Afanador, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe 21. Kenya Snowden, SASC Health and Wellness 22. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 23. Heather Baker, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 24. Melody Velez, United Health Care 25. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 26. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 27. Jordan Kutcher, NOVA University 28. Raysa Perez, Amigos for Kids 29. Evelyn Corrales-Randle, Community Care Plan 30. Stefanie Gaspard, Liberty Dental Plan 31. Simisola J Olowodola, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 	

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, February 20, 2026

10am-11:30a.m. EST



	<p>32. Adebisi Islamiyat N, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 33. Ryan Thomas Hood, University of Miami 34. Taylor Roberts, Foster Care Review 35. Carla J Sabugo, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, WIC 36. Rob Collins, The Miami Foundation 37. Cristina Leon Pujol, University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development 38. Venus Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 39. Violet R Ryland, Department of Children and Families 40. Jenny Audain, Memorial Healthcare System</p>	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>The February 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.</p>	
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee January 2026 meeting minutes by Isabel Afanador, and the motion was seconded by Tenesha Avent.</p>	
<p>Executive Board Update</p>	<p>The Executive Board recently met virtually on Monday, February 9, 2026. Major updates from the Mayor’s Initiative on the Food and Nutrition for All (FNFA) Collaborative included pursuing appropriation to fund Urban Health Partnerships (UHP) and the collaborative. In addition to that, the Quest Foundation is also funding Urban Health Partnerships to steer this work with the team at Deloitte. The Board had a presentation by Miami Streets Clinic provided by Dr. Dan Bergholz, Founder of Miami Street Medicine, which shared about how their organization provides medical care and support to home-insecure residents throughout Miami-Dade County. The 6th Annual Bounty of Health held on December 12, 2025, at the Officer Ronnie E. Tookes West Perrine Health Center. The free event open to the public held 176 attendees and served 129 households with food items from Caring for Miami’s mobile food market.</p> <p>The Executive Board also reviewed their brainstorm notes and draft Executive Board work plan and Consortium Strategic Plan from their December 2025 meeting. The Board briefly reviewed and discussed Consortium Bylaws with the inclusion of timeline of requests and approvals needed from the Board and DOH for grant/ funding opportunities. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting. At the end of this meeting, the board had a moment to wish farewell to Candice Schottenloher as she transitions into her new role with MCI at Baptist.</p>	
<p>Healthy Baby Taskforce Update</p>	<p>The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. The Taskforce will meet later today Friday, February 20, 2026, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Taskforce Leader shared they will be providing updates on a BIG WIN regarding the recent</p>	

	<p>passage of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act and the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act. Also, shared was the taskforce is having discussions into engaging better with social media. They will be working on a plan to get back into the foundation of bringing more community awareness to support/ engage families and younger individuals by leveraging social media. Also, it was highlighted that there has been a change in their Florida Healthy Baby FY 25-26 work plan reporting frequency to the state from quarterly to now biannually. The taskforce will review major accomplishments that were reported for the first half of the fiscal year and go over what they are looking forward to in the next reporting phase during their February 2026 meeting.</p> <p>The Taskforce has also reviewed their 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.</p>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p> <p>2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development</p>	<p>During this meeting, Dr. Cristina Brito shared major highlights on policy updates regarding Immunization, KidCare and Federal policy changes in rare disorders. Also, committee had discussions on the National Observances for the month of February. Tuesday, February 24, 2026, was highlighted as Children’s Day. Additionally, some members of the committee stated they will be attending the Children’s Week Florida event February 22-27, 2026, in Tallahassee. Members/partners were asked if they have any updates on specific initiatives they are working on, regarding the National observances and how committee can support and engage in their individual organizations. A brief update regarding the elimination of property taxes by the Florida Governor was shared by Dr. Brito. Also, leaders led conversations regarding the Florida Senate Bill 1756 (2026), titled the "Medical Freedom Act," aimed to establish an exemption for school-required immunizations.</p> <p>Also, during this meeting, members completed the draft 2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development for Committee Partners for each of the new activities for all the priority areas. The draft Children Issues/Oral Health Committee 2025-2030 work plan was also shared with members after the meeting to review for final approval during the March 2026 meeting. 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>Share completed draft 2025-2030 Work Plan to members following the meeting.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>A presentation on “Children’s Medical Homes” was confirmed from Nicklaus Children’s Hospital to be presented by Dr. Maria Milla during our virtual March 2026 meeting.</p>	<p>Follow up with presenter on presentation</p>

		materials and confirmation
Partner Updates	<p>Miami Street Medicine Miami Street Medicine (MSM): A nonprofit free clinic that provides high-quality healthcare services to unsheltered individuals in Miami. Their goal is to bridge gaps in existing healthcare services. Visit site here Home Miami Street Medicine.</p> <p>Dan Bergholz, MD UCLA Internal Medicine, PGY3 Founder, Miami Street Medicine Vice President, Dade County Street Response c: (630)-297-6798 p: 40387</p> <p>DOH-Miami-Dade Office of Community Health and Planning (OCHP): OCHP hosted their 6th Annual Bounty of Health held on December 12, 2025, at the Officer Ronnie E. Tookes West Perrine Health Center. The free event open to the public held 176 attendees and served 129 households with food items from Caring for Miami's mobile food market.</p> <p>Project Bridge: Michelle D'Ambrosio from Project Bridge shared on their upcoming Youth Mental Health First Aid training on Friday, March 6, 2026. Event flyer was shared with members. Email Michelle D'Ambrosio or Hayly at PBintern@hopeformiami.org & hayly@hopeformiami.org respectively for more information. Register for event Here</p> <p>Sunshine Health: Suecia Padilla shared updates as they have every first Wednesday of the month their Breastfeed support and the third Thursday of every month is their food distribution at their Community Connection Center location in the welcome room at 9552 SW 160 St. Miami FL 33157. Their next diaper distribution will be on March 12, 2026. Also, Sunshine health no longer handles Children Medical Services. The program has now been granted to another plan. Contact Suecia Mendez at supadilla@sunshinehealth.com, Tel: 7863469789, for more details.</p> <p>Healthy Start Coalition of Miami- Dade: Upcoming is their next Fetal and Infant Mortality (FIMR) Community Action Group (CAG) meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026. They will also be hosting a Prematurity Symposium over in November 2026. More details forthcoming.</p>	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

March of Dimes: Updates as they will be having their Kickoff Happy Hour event on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Kitchen 57. Please RSVP by February 27 to sbloom@marchofdimes.org. On March 14, 2026, they will be partnering with Simply Healthcare at their Hialeah location to host a Healthy Heart Pregnancy Wellness event to uplift maternal Hypertension awareness. Diapers, food and health education resources will be distributed during this event. Registration links will be shared. Also, their Miami March for Babies event is coming up on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Zoo Miami. Flyers were shared with members.

Florida Department of Children and Families: They are partnering with several agencies to put on a training series (virtual and in-person sessions) over the next few months from February to June 2026. Flyer was shared on the training and registration details.

DOH-Miami-Dade Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: Carla Sabugo shared major updates as the WIC infant formula has now moved to Similac formula as of February 1, 2026. More information in link. [wicfl-wic-infant-formula-changes-2026-02.pdf](#).

- Carla highlighted a tri-agency collaboration with Nicklaus Children's Hospital, WIC and Head Start on the development of a Health Exchange (MDxACCESS) to improve how we share important health information, so families receive faster and more coordinated support.
- Breastfeeding support group at the Sunshine Health room, Palmetto Bay and Hialeah.
- Save the date: The WIC program will be hosting their 15th year Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day event on August 22, 2026. [Women, Infants, and Children - Florida Department of Health](#); WIC line: 7863361300

United Way Miami: Dr. Cristina Brito shared they are in their third phase of their investment cycle, wrapping up with Q&A sessions and moving into deliberations in March 2026 for contracts that will begin July 1, 2026. This investment cycle will be for five years.

Other Helpful Resources Shared in Committee Meeting

- [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#)
- [Vaccine Education Center | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)
- [Miami-Dade Schools Expand Virtual Health Care Access for Students - In the News - Hazel Health](#)

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	<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 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be hosted <u>virtually</u> through Microsoft Teams on Friday, March 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Create meeting invite and send reminder.