



**ELDER ISSUES COMMITTEE/  
MAYOR'S INITIATIVE ON HEALTHY AGING AND LIVABILITY**

Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 28, 2025

In person/hybrid Microsoft Teams 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members/Attendees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami*</li> <li>2. Evelyn Capdevila, Quality Physical Therapy*</li> <li>3. Shannon Charles, Epilepsy Alliance Florida – <i>Guest/Presenter</i></li> <li>4. Marla Cocalis, StudentsCare*</li> <li>5. Olivia DeCastro, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>6. Jennifer De Gruccio, Parkinson's Foundation*</li> <li>7. Sabine Dessources, Dessources Therapeutic Touch, Inc*</li> <li>8. Nattaliah Earle, Urban Health Partnerships – <i>Vice-Chair</i></li> <li>9. Ruth Edouard, La Coupe Joseph Farm Project Inc*</li> <li>10. Marilyn Escobar, All One Realty*</li> <li>11. Witson Faustin, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County*</li> <li>12. Mariangelli "Angie" Fernandez, Miami-Dade State Attorney Office</li> <li>13. Trudy Gaillard, Florida International University*</li> <li>14. Mayra Garcia, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>15. Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine*</li> <li>16. Susan O. Holtzman, NAMI Miami*</li> <li>17. Luis Mejer, Jr., 24/7 Nursing Care*</li> <li>18. Barbara (Barby) Morales, United Senior Consultants*</li> <li>19. Dennise Nicola, PACE/Miami Jewish Health – <i>Chair</i></li> <li>20. Dayamira Perez Fernandez, Florida Dept of Health in Miami-Dade*</li> <li>21. Lili Portmann, Center for Independent Living of South Florida*</li> <li>22. Stacey Silver, Mom's Meals*</li> <li>23. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County – <i>DOH Lead, Support Staff</i> *</li> <li>24. Griselle Solorzano, Brain Center*</li> <li>25. Patricia Vila, Patty Vila Media</li> <li>26. Marjorie York, Community Action Agency (via phone)*</li> </ol> <p>*attended virtually</p>	



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Welcome and Introductions	<p>Chair, Dennise Nicola welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 2:06 PM. General meeting guidelines were provided for the attendees by Dennise N. and Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. assisted with the agenda. Attendee introductions were done during <i>Partner Updates</i>, and virtual attendees were encouraged to put their contact information and any organizational updates/announcements in the chat. The meeting was held at host site, Larkin Community Hospital Palm Springs Campus; 1475 West 49th Place, Hialeah, Florida 33012, with an option to join virtually via Microsoft Teams for those unable to attend in person.</p>	
Review and Approval of Minutes	<p>The minutes from the last meeting on September 30, 2025, were reviewed by the Committee members in attendance. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Marjorie Y. and seconded by Angie F. The minutes were approved unanimously without corrections.</p>	
Previous Action Items(s)	<p>Continue developing EIC 2025-2030 Work Plan (session 3).</p>	
Executive Board (EB) Update	<p>Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. provided the updates from the EB meeting held on 10/6/2025, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recap of the 22nd Annual Consortium Event &amp; Worksite Wellness Awards held on Friday, September 19th, 2025, at Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment in Hialeah. Among those recognized were past Elder Issues Committee Chair, Marjorie E. Aloni and Vice-Chair, Susan O. Holzman. Also, recognized as the Outstanding Member was Mariangelli "Angie" Fernandez from the State Attorney's Office. <i>Congratulations to all!</i></li><li>• Consortium Strategic Plan &amp; Executive Board Work Plan conversation continued.</li></ul>	
Legislative Report	<p>In the absence of EIC member, Brenda Lampon, Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor, EIC Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. provided the following update(s):</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SNAP/ EBT benefits for the month of November 2025 may be at risk due to current Federal government shutdown which may lead to increased food insecurity. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has sent out a notice to share information on resources for those affected. The following link to DCF with information and resources was shared in the chat: <a href="https://snap.myflfamilies.com/">https://snap.myflfamilies.com/</a>.</li><li>Cristina B. shared that as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a federally funded nutrition program, may also be affected by the government shutdown. She shared that United Way Miami will be announcing community initiatives addressing food insecurity.</li></ul>	
Presentation: <i>Health Literacy Understanding &amp; Using Communication Skills</i>	EIC partner, Shannon Charles, MPH, Director of Advancement & Community Relations at Epilepsy Alliance Florida, gave a 15-minute presentation, <i>Health Literacy Understanding &amp; Using Communication Skills</i> . The presentation was focused on health literacy for the older adult population. Health literacy is defined as <i>the ability to understand basic health information in order to make appropriate health decisions</i> . Factors such as complex health systems, multiple medications, chronic conditions, age-related changes (hearing, vision, cognition), can all have an impact on health literacy and the ability of older adults to manage chronic illness. Older adults (65+) are at the highest risk for low health literacy, and misunderstandings can lead to medication errors, missed appointments, poor disease management, and increased hospitalizations. Mr. Charles reviewed the principles of clear communication such as using plain language, and the <i>teach-back method</i> . Shannon Charles email is <a href="mailto:SCharles@eafl.org">SCharles@eafl.org</a> . With the consent of the presenter, a follow-up email was sent to all EIC members on 10/29/25 after the meeting with the presenter's contact information, and presentation slides.	Action Item(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Please let us know if you are interested in giving a 15-minute partner presentation at one of the available 2026 virtual meetings, and/or if you would like to host one of the quarterly meetings available at your organization site by sending an email to: <a href="mailto:DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org">DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Nattaliah@urbanhp.org">Nattaliah@urbanhp.org</a>, &amp; <a href="mailto:Mayra.Garcia@flhealth.gov">Mayra.Garcia@flhealth.gov</a>.</li></ul>
Elder Issues Committee 2025-	<b>Elder Issues Committee 2025-2030 Work Plan Development</b> (session 3) was facilitated by Candice Schottenloher, MPH, CHES, Government	Action Item(s):



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<p>2030 Work Plan Development</p>	<p>Operations Consultant III, Office of Community Health &amp; Planning, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>The <b>2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)</b> priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Access to Care</b></li> <li><b>2. Chronic Disease Prevention</b></li> <li><b>3. Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</b></li> <li><b>4. Maternal Child Health</b></li> <li><b>5. Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition</b></li> </ol> <p>The draft version of the <b>2025-2030 EIC Work Plan</b> developed during the two previous sessions held during the Committee's last two monthly meetings in August and September 2025 was reviewed for further discussion. The additional feedback provided by attendees/members was incorporated into the draft work plan document shared onscreen. This included possible activities, measures and collaborative partners not already captured previously for the first three CHIP priority areas (<i>Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</i>), and new ideas and suggestions for the last two areas (<i>Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition</i>). The Committee plans to review and final approve the draft Work Plan at the next meeting to be held in January 2026, as the November and December 2025 meetings are cancelled due to the holidays.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email your suggestion(s) for the 2025-2030 Elder Issues Committee work plan to: <a href="mailto:DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org">DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Nattaliah@urbanhp.org">Nattaliah@urbanhp.org</a>, &amp; <a href="mailto:Mayra.Garcia@flhealth.gov">Mayra.Garcia@flhealth.gov</a>..</li> <li>• At the next monthly meeting in January 2026, review the draft EIC 2025-2030 Work Plan for final approval, and conduct the annual SWOT analysis for the Committee.</li> </ul>
<p>Recognition of Improved Performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 total attendees in September's monthly meeting</li> <li>• 2025-2030 EIC Work Plan Development (session 2) continued at meeting on 9/30/2025</li> </ul>	
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No monthly meeting in November or December 2025.</b></li> <li>• Next monthly meeting will be in 2026, on January 27<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade is a collaboration</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attendees who are not already members were encouraged to join the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade online at <a href="http://www.healthymiamidade.org/membership">www.healthymiamidade.org/membership</a>, and/or share this invite with others who may be interested in participating.</li></ul>	between the Florida Department of Health and community partners/organizations promoting health in Miami-Dade County; register to become a member for free online: <a href="http://www.healthymiamidade.org/membership/">https://www.healthymiamidade.org/membership/</a> .
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Marjorie York, Community Action Agency; shared info about the Veterans Day Parade in Miami Beach on November 11th, 2025 @11AM starting on 5<sup>th</sup> Street &amp; Ocean Drive.</li><li>Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County; shared info about the Drive-Thru Food Distribution with Farm Share on Nov. 6th, 2025 @ Roonie E. Tookes West Perrine Health Center from 10AM to 1PM.</li><li>Nattaliah Earle, Collective Impact Manager, Urban Health Partnerships (UHP), <a href="mailto:nattaliah@urbanhp.org">nattaliah@urbanhp.org</a>, 786-412-0469; asked everyone to support <a href="#">Give Miami Day</a> which supports nonprofits in our community, including UHP.</li><li>Dennise Nicola, Director of Business Development, FL PACE Centers at Miami Jewish Health; <a href="mailto:DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org">DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org</a>, 786-661-564; shared upcoming community events: 1) 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Miami on Nov. 15, 2025, &amp; 2) Coffee with PACE at FL PACE center in Kendall with a presentation on brain health by AARP FL on Nov. 13, 2025, from 11AM to 12:30PM.</li><li>Cristina Brito, Senior Director, Community Impact, United Way Miami, <a href="mailto:Britoc@unitedwaymiami.org">Britoc@unitedwaymiami.org</a>; also, the Co-Chair of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade's Executive Board, and the Chair of the Children Issues Committee.</li></ul>	Action Item(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EIC members who are subject matter specialists in healthy lifestyles and health promoting topics for older adult population are asked to volunteer to submit written article and/or social media postings for 2026 calendar year; please confirm your interest, topic suggestions via email to liaison: <a href="mailto:Mayra.Garcia@FLHealth.gov">Mayra.Garcia@FLHealth.gov</a>.</li></ul> <p><b>Written submissions are due by 15<sup>th</sup> of month prior to publish month.</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Angie Fernandez, PIO Community Outreach, Office of the State Attorney K.F. Rundle; <a href="mailto:MariangelliFernandez@MiamiSAO.com">MariangelliFernandez@MiamiSAO.com</a>; 305-547-0724; <a href="http://www.miamisao.com">www.miamisao.com</a>; shared info about the following: 1) Michael-Ann Russell JCC Annual Senior Health Fair on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-Noon, &amp; 2) Elder and Vulnerable Adult Exploitation Unit (EVA) and Expungement event on Nov. 13th, 2025, at Hammocks Library.</li><li>• Ruth Edouard, CEO and Program Manager, La Coupe Joseph Farm Project Inc., <a href="mailto:lacoupejoseph.florida@gmail.com">lacoupejoseph.florida@gmail.com</a>; shared details of new programs to provide equitable access to in-demand careers for older adults through a partnership with Promising People LLC in which their virtual reality platform will provide training and apprenticeship experience in fields like Green construction, tech, and more.</li><li>• Lili Portmann, Community Engagement Manager at Center for Independent Living of South Florida, <a href="mailto:lili@cilsf.org">lili@cilsf.org</a>.</li><li>• Witson Faustin, Health Services Representative, Florida Dept. of Health in Miami-Dade, Office of Community Health &amp; Planning; 786-732-8863, <a href="mailto:Witson.Faustin2@flhealth.gov">Witson.Faustin2@flhealth.gov</a>.</li><li>• Sabine Dessources, LMT MA#44065, owner of Dessources Therapeutic Touch, Inc., <a href="mailto:dessources.therapeutic@gmail.com">dessources.therapeutic@gmail.com</a>, 786-227-0614; shared they provide compassionate touch massage for elderly, and skincare services (mobile).</li><li>• Patricia Vila, Paty Vila Media; shared information that Dr. Pedro Martinez Clark who offers free screenings for peripheral artery disease.</li><li>• Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Health Services Representative, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County; shared information about the <a href="#">Journey to Wellness Rx prescription pads</a> which can be requested for free online: <a href="https://www.healthymiamidade.org/forms/journey-to-wellness-rx-green-prescription-request-form.html#gsc.tab=0">https://www.healthymiamidade.org/forms/journey-to-wellness-rx-green-prescription-request-form.html#gsc.tab=0</a>.</li><li>• Mayra Garcia, Community Liaison for the Elder Issues Committee (EIC)/Senior Community Health Nursing Supervisor, Office of Community Health &amp; Planning, FL Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, <a href="mailto:Mayra.Garcia@FLHealth.gov">Mayra.Garcia@FLHealth.gov</a>.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evelyn Capdevila, PT, MPT, Physical Therapist, Quality Physical Therapy; <a href="mailto:admin@quality-pt.com">admin@quality-pt.com</a>.</li><li>• Marla Cocalis, Program Manager, StudentsCare, <a href="mailto:marla@students-care.org">marla@students-care.org</a>; We match college students with isolated seniors at facilities, 773-573-7328.</li><li>• Olivia DeCastro CCHW, CTTS, Health Services Representative, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Office of Community Health and Planning, <a href="mailto:olivia.decastro@flhealth.gov">olivia.decastro@flhealth.gov</a>, 786-732-8860.</li><li>• Jennifer De Gruccio, Community Education &amp; Outreach Manager, Florida, Parkinson's Foundation Florida Chapter; <a href="mailto:idegruccio@parkinson.org">idegruccio@parkinson.org</a>.</li><li>• Marilyn Escobar, Broker/Owner, All One Realty, <a href="mailto:AllOneRealtyOfficial@gmail.com">AllOneRealtyOfficial@gmail.com</a>.</li><li>• Trudy Gaillard, FIU, <a href="mailto:tgaillar@fiu.edu">tgaillar@fiu.edu</a>.</li><li>• Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine, <a href="mailto:Ngra@WAUSM.education">Ngra@WAUSM.education</a>.</li><li>• Susan Holtzman, President and CEO, Miami-Dade County Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), <a href="mailto:susan.holtzman@namimiami.org">susan.holtzman@namimiami.org</a>; NAMI Helpline 305-665-2540 (9AM-5PM); programs information go to <a href="http://www.NAMImiami.org">www.NAMImiami.org</a>.</li><li>• Luis Mejer, 24/7 Nursing Care Private in-home care; we care for your loved ones in the comfort of their own home; toll free 855-Nurse44.</li><li>• Barbara (Barby) Morales, President, United Senior Consultants, <a href="mailto:barby.m@unitedseniorconsultants.com">barby.m@unitedseniorconsultants.com</a>.</li><li>• Stacey Silver, RDN, Manager of Healthcare Partnerships with Mom's Meals; <a href="mailto:Stacey.Silver@momsmeals.com">Stacey.Silver@momsmeals.com</a>, 561-512-7761.</li><li>• Griselle Solorzano, Social Services Manager, Brain Center; 305-856-8940 x105, email <a href="mailto:gsolorzano@braincenter.org">gsolorzano@braincenter.org</a>.</li></ul>	
Adjournment	Chair, Dennise N./ Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. adjourned the meeting at 3:36 PM.	
Next Meeting	Next monthly meeting will be in 2026, on January 27 <sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Team	