CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (42)	**Virtual Via the Microsoft Teams Platform** 1. **Chair:** Leyanee Perez, The American Healthy Weight Alliance 2. **Vice Chair:** Robert Hill, American Heart Association 3. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 4. Simone Cheong, West Kendall Baptist Hospital 5. Trudy Gaillard, Florida International University 6. Melody Velez, United Healthcare Community and State 7. Philene Toledo, Home Heart Florida 8. Susan Holtzman, NAMI Miami-Dade 9. Mayra Garcia, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Olivia Decastro, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 11. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 13. Dana Klein, Gheorg 14. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 15. Mari Carmen Rodriguez, Iman's Light Foundation 16. Carmen Ramos Watson, B/Adaptable 17. Frank Caicedo, Project Access Foundation 18. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 19. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan 20. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Health System 21. Jonathan Jean Charles, Odyssey Health 22. Rose Anderson, Larkin University 23. Alexandra O'Keefe, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida 24. Simisola Olowodola, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 25. Tiffinie Bratcher, Aetna/CVS Health 26. Witson Faustin, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 27. Tiffany Albury, University of Miami 28. Cynthia Umana, Baptist Health South Florida 29. Lilia Bandrich, United HealthCare 30. Khamai Simpson, United Way Miami 31. Olivia Ceavers, Florida International University 32. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Health System 33. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County	

	34. Olatokunbo Osibogun, Florida International University 35. Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic School of Medicine 36. Michelle Fundora, Health Choice Network 37. Jose Gonzalez, Century Risk Advisor 38. Ruth-Ann Bennett, Overtown Children & Youth Coalition 39. Louisenie Remy, Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center 40. Danay Rodriguez-Arritola, Larkin Community Hospital 41. Gwendolyn Grace Sutton, University of Miami Healthier Together 42. Shirley Dominguez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida	
Welcome and Introductions	The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade meeting was brought to order at 2:07 p.m. by Leyanee Perez.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the July 2026 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention meeting minutes by Zadymon Moore, and the motion was seconded by Simone Cheong.	
Executive Board Update	The Executive Board Updates were provided by Robert Hill. • The August Executive Board meeting was held virtually on August 10, 2026. • The Board continues the conversation on optimal health and addressing the drivers of health. • The Board is awaiting developing topics from the 2027 Legislative Session. • Updates to the Consortium website are currently on hold due to the transition of the webmaster from the agency. • The Board welcomed Candace Williams, the Government Operations Consultant III as she will now oversee the Optimal Health Team and Zadymon Moore, the Health Education Program Manager who will supervise the CET Team, to the committee.	
Member Spotlight	This month's Member Spotlight was presented by Khamai Simpson, program manager in health and wellbeing, at United Way Miami, which focuses on health & wellbeing, education, resilient communities, and economic mobility by providing resources to Miami-Dade residents, especially asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) households. United Way Miami has multiple key direct initiatives: Center for Excellence in Early Education, Center for Financial Stability, UpSkill Miami, Mission United, and EDEN (Education, Develop, Empower, Nuture) Place. United Way Miami collaborates with various partner organizations, including Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative, BankOn Miami, Community Based Care Alliance, The Food & Nutrition for All (FNFA) Collaborative, Future Bound Miami, Graduate Miami-Dade, HealthConnect, Lotus Village, Miami-Dade Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), NeedyMeds, The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, and Zero Drownings Miami-Dade. United Way Miami's NeedyMeds Drug Discount Card is a free prescription savings card that helps individuals save money on prescription medications, medical equipment, or diabetic supplies. NeedyMeds also offers other resources found through their website NeedyMeds.org. This year, United	

	Way Miami is funding 35 programs under Health & Wellbeing (Access to Health, Healthy Aging, & Mental Health), 31 programs under Education (Early Childhood Education, Strong Academic Transition, & Pathways to Quality), and 18 programs under Economic Mobility (Workforce Development, Housing, & Financial Resilience). For more information, please reach out to Khamai Simpson at simpsonk@unitedwaymiami.org.	

Previous Action Items	Leyanee Perez and Robert Hill continued to lead the discussion from the last meeting with the committee on the following Work Plan committee activities:
	• By September 30, 2030, the committee will work to identify areas for training opportunities open to the community.
	  ○ Leyanee Perez reminded the committee about our upcoming November meeting, which will include a highly engaging training opportunity on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Beacon Suite 212 Large Conference Room. We will have our regular committee meeting followed by CPR training from Robert Hill from the American Heart Association.
	• By September 30, 2030, the committee will work to support/promote a communications toolkit.
	  ○ Leyanee Perez shared that Arely Lozano Cantu from Urban Health Partnerships will be coming in to talk about the Food Finder during a committee meeting.	

Recognition of Improved Performance	The HPDP Committee continues to be one of the committees with the highest number of members in attendance. Last meeting, we had 32 members in attendance.	
Performance Measures in Need of Improvement (Work Plan Review)	Robert Hill led the discussion with the committee on the following Work Plan committee activities: • By September 30, 2030, the committee will work to support the work of the Healthy Baby Taskforce (HBT) and Children's Issues (CI) committee. • By September 30, 2030, the committee will host and/or promote educational trainings related to maternal child health. ○ Robert Hill talked about collaborating with HBT and CI committee to provide infant CPR training from the American Heart Association as the organization has allocated funding and resources for putting together content packages related to teaching infant CPR in multiple languages including Haitian Creole for the community.	
New Business	• Robert Hill shared an update on The Food and Nutrition For All Initiative. We are still waiting for the final report from Deloitte on data management strategy. External funding is also being finalized. Once the funding model comes out, we want it to be collaborative and tied to the primary areas that FNFA aims to focus on. To be a part of FNFA or for more information on the collaboration, please visit the website at https://foodandnutritionforall.org/. • Leyanee Perez shared an update on the food pantries. We have two more supermarkets in Hialeah Gardens and Miami Lakes, in addition to the supermarket in West Park, donating food for the food	

	pantries. The Hialeah food pantry is picking up a lot of the food and is open to the entire community as a resource. A major food distributor in Miami-Dade has been donating a lot of food lately during this summer.	
Partner Updates	• Rose Anderson shared that she is organizing a health fair at Larkin University for November 2026 and is seeking to support an organization in distributing groceries for the Miami Gardens area. If anyone is interested in supporting or providing resources for the health fair, please reach out to Rose at randerson@larkin.edu. • Tiffany Albury shared on behalf of University of Miami, Jackson Health System, and Mount Sinai Medical Center about a community health needs assessment that is available for Miami-Dade residents and closes by the end of the month. Please fill out the survey and feel free to share it with others. Survey link: https://surveys.holleranconsult.com/s3/HFSFCHNA. • Tiffany Albury also shared about the Sylvester Campus-Community Interaction for Research, Collaboration, & Learning Exchange (CIRCLE) on Thursday, August 27, 2026 from 12 to 1 p.m. Register here: https://miami.zoom.us/meeting/register/_FR1EfLIQQ6b1vxapiAx8Q#/registration. For questions, please contact SylvesterCAC@miami.edu. • Susan Holtzman also shared about the Pathway to Hope Conference that will be held at the Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026 to Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The conference is to bring together community first responders, such as faith leaders and other mental health leaders. It is free to attend, and registration is required, which can be found here: Bit.ly/NAMIMiamiPTH26. For more information, please reach out to Susan at susan.holtzman@namimiami.org. • Ruth-Ann Bennett shared that Overtown Children & Youth Coalition is starting a Health Is Wealth series initiative in collaboration with a practitioner from University of Miami. There will be five sessions about Alzheimer's and how it affects older people and their caregivers. More information to come once a flyer is ready. For more information, please reach out to Ruth-Ann at ruthann@overtowncyc.org. • Dr. Philene Toledo shared that if anybody knows of a child up to age 21 with private duty nursing needs, please consider Home Heart Florida for their private duty nursing services. They also specialize in the family Home Health Aide Program. For information, please visit the website homeheartfl.com or reach out to Dr. Toledo at philene@homeheartfl.com or call 844-721-1433. • Gwendolyn Grace Sutton shared that Healthier Together, a group of University of Miami medical students, will be teaching the community about nutrition for free either six weeks on Zoom or more of a one-time session. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Gwendolyn at ggs48@miami.edu. • Dr. Mari Rodriguez shared that Iman's Light Foundation will be hosting International Fentanyl Awareness Day at Miramar City Hall Plaza by turning the city lights purple and providing free	

	resources to the community on Monday, August 31, 2026 from 6 to 9 p.m. RSVP at FentanylAwarenessDay.eventbrite.com. For additional questions, please reach out to Dr. Rodriguez at Imanslightfoundation@gmail.com.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m. The next Health Promotion and Disease Prevention committee meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**	