

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting

Friday, April 18, 2025

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (12)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Co-Chair) 2. Esther McCant, Metro Mommy Agency (Co-Chair) 3. Heather Baker, HSCMD 4. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami North Dade Early Steps 5. Olivia Ceavers, FIU 6. Marya Meyer, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 7. Talli Menchion, Early Steps Southernmost Coast 8. Manuela Thomas, FIU 9. Carla Sabugo, DOH-Miami-Dade WIC 10. Queen Holden, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 11. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 	
Welcome and Introductions	The April 2025 monthly meeting of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade Healthy Baby Taskforce was brought to order by Tenesha Avent and Esther McCant at 12:33 p.m. All members were welcomed and introduced themselves.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the March 2025 Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting minutes by Tenesha Avent, and the motion was seconded by Manuela Thomas.	
The Feasibility and Acceptability of the <i>Count The Kicks</i> mobile application among Black Pregnant People in South Florida Project	Olivia Ceavers, Doctoral Candidate at Florida International University (FIU) presented her dissertation research focused on reducing stillbirths and improving pregnancy outcomes among Black pregnant people in South Florida. Her project explores the use of the <i>Count the Kicks</i> app as a potential tool to increase maternal knowledge, support fetal movement monitoring, and empower individuals to recognize and respond to obstetric emergencies. This project involves assessing current knowledge and app engagement through interview and a short-term intervention. Olivia is currently recruiting participants and seeking community input to enhance outreach and impact.	
Previous Action Items	<p>Health Observance Months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April, Black Maternal Health Week (April 11th - 17th) is observed. The Taskforce members recognized this week and discussed events they participated in for this health observance. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Mommas Matter Alliance is an organization that has great resources and tools for everyone to utilize during this week for social media or programming. If you are interested in policy work, you can access a policy toolkit on their website. 	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Work Plan Alignment Review & Brainstorm Presentation	Tenesha Avent shared that the Taskforce will discuss the workplan alignment during next month's (May) meeting and encouraged members to review March's meeting minutes for the necessary information.	
New Business	<p>A high-level update was shared on future Taskforce presentation ideas and confirmed presenters. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Women's Fund Miami-Dade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the May in-person meeting, representatives from Women's fund Miami-Dade Viviana and Marya Meyer, will present on their AIM Dashboard, which is part of the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. The dashboard highlights key maternal and infant health indicators and ongoing efforts to improve outcomes. BreastfeedMIAMI Community Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Lebron has been invited has been invited to present the findings of BreastfeedMiami community Report; confirmation is pending, and updates will be provided once finalized. Postpartum Support International (PSI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This international organization focused on maternal mental health, has expressed interest in presenting. The Taskforce is exploring opportunities for collaboration with PSI to address mental health challenges among childbearing individuals. While maternal health has been discussed previously, this partnership introduces new avenues for support and engagement. Members are encouraged to suggest additional partners for future presentations. 	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BreastfeedMIAMI: The 14th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day will be hosted this year on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Doral Legacy Park Community Center, 11400 NW 82nd St, Doral, FL 33178, USA. For any questions, please email Carla Sabugo at carla.sabugo@flhealth.gov. Visit BreastfeedMIAMI to learn more here: 14th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day BreastfeedMIAMI The 14th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day will be hosted this year on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Doral Legacy Park Community Center, 11400 NW 82nd St, Doral, FL 33178, USA. For any questions, please email Carla Sabugo at 	

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	<p>carla.sabugo@flhealth.gov. Visit BreastfeedMIAMI to learn more here: 14th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day BreastfeedMIAMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade: Heather Baker shared that their T.E.A.M. Dad program is currently hiring for a Spanish-speaking fatherhood coach to join their visiting team. The position requires a bachelor's degree and experience working with families. It is posted on www.hscmd.roq. The team currently has coaches who speak English and Creole. • DOH-Miami-Dade: Candice Schottenloher reminded attendees to complete the Well-being survey. It was noted to help increase promotion of the Well-being survey to increase responses in specific Miami-Dade clusters with low participation. • Metro Mommy Agency: Esther McCant shared to learn more about the MOMCHA Program and the referral process, please visit here: http://www.momcha.org. If you are interested in to requesting a What Do Doulas Do presentation for your staff, team, or community members, please email Esther McCant via email at metromommyagency@gmail.com. • March of Dimes: March for Babies will be hosting various walk events this month and in May. Palm Beach was hosted on Saturday, April 12th, 2025. Miami-Dade's walk will be hosted on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025. Broward's walk will be hosted on Saturday, May 17th, 2025. • University of Miami – Early Steps Program: Michelle Berkovits shared the program is looking for therapists in the north half of the county as well for Early Steps- to provide services in homes and daycares. For any questions, please contact Michelle via email at mberkovits@med.miami.edu or via phone at 305-243-6660. 	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m. The next Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting will be held in person at the United Way Miami, Ryder Room, located at 3250 SW 3rd Avenue, Miami, FL 33129, on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	