

## CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting

Friday, June 20, 2025

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Membership Total (19)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Esther Rose Louis, Metro Mommy Agency (Healthy Baby Taskforce Co-Chair)</li> <li>2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Healthy Baby Taskforce Co-Chair)</li> <li>3. Betty Alonso, ConnectFamilias</li> <li>4. Viviana Alvarado, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade</li> <li>5. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami North Dade Early Steps</li> <li>6. Cortes Maria Lewis James, Southern Birth Justice Network, Inc.</li> <li>7. Neseayah McFarlane, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD)</li> <li>8. Talli Menchion, Easterseals/Early Steps</li> <li>9. Tara Pawlikowski, Humana and Postpartum Support International (PSI)</li> <li>10. Eliana Ramos, The Honeycomb House</li> <li>11. Carla Sabugo, DOH-Miami-Dade WIC</li> <li>12. Juliet San Juan, ConnectFamilias</li> <li>13. Michelle D. Suero, Postpartum Support International (PSI)</li> <li>14. Catherine Toms, Green Cars for Kids</li> <li>15. Islamiyat N. Adebisi, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>16. Monica FilsAime, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>17. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>18. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>19. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison)</li> </ol>	
Welcome and Introductions	The June 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 12:30 p.m. All members were welcomed and introduced themselves.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the May 2025 Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting minutes by Viviana Alvarado, and the motion was seconded by Candice Schottenloher.	
Postpartum Support International (PSI) Presentation	The Healthy Baby Taskforce had a presentation on Postpartum Support International (PSI) presented by Tara Pawlikowski and Michelle D. Suero. The purpose of PSI is to increase awareness among public and professional communities about the emotional changes that women experience during pregnancy and postpartum. Some key facts were shared. Approximately 15% of all women will experience postpartum depression following the birth of a child. Up to 10% will experience depression or anxiety during pregnancy. It was noted PSI's goal is to provide current information, resources, education, and to advocate for further research and legislation to support	Presentation shared on calendar invite.

	<p>perinatal mental health. Other key initiatives that were shared on included Perinatal Mental Health Alliance for People of Color, La Alianza en Espanol, The Climb, and Postpartum Support Services and Trainings. Following the presentation, the Taskforce members had a discussion with the presenters exploring opportunities for collaboration together to address mental health challenges among childbearing individuals. While maternal mental health has been discussed previously, this partnership introduces new avenues for support and engagement. For any questions, please contact Tara Pawlikowski at <a href="mailto:tpawlikowski@humana.com">tpawlikowski@humana.com</a>, Michelle D. Suero at <a href="mailto:michellesuero@lmhc@gmail.com">michellesuero@lmhc@gmail.com</a> and Andrea Vásquez Ferreiro at <a href="mailto:avasquezferreiro@ufl.edu">avasquezferreiro@ufl.edu</a>. Other resources that were shared include <a href="#">Certification in Perinatal Mental Health   Postpartum Support International (PSI)</a> and <a href="#">Training   Postpartum Support International (PSI)</a>.</p>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p> <p>Future Taskforce Presentation</p>	<p>A high-level update was shared on future Taskforce presentation ideas and confirmed presenters. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ During the May Taskforce meeting Viviana Alvarado and Marya Meyer with The Women's Fund Miami-Dade presented on the Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) dashboard.</li> <li>○ It was shared we are going to work on setting up a follow up presentation in July or August due to low attendance back from our in-person meeting in May.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>BreastfeedMIAMI Community Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Lebron has been invited to present the findings of BreastfeedMiami community Report; confirmation is pending, and updates will be provided once finalized.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Members are encouraged to suggest additional partners for future presentations.</p>	
<p>New Business</p> <p>Community Concerns Conversation</p>	<p>Tenesha Avent and Esther McCant led a discussion with the Taskforce members to share current updates on the funding landscape. These updates are being shared to raise awareness of current funding updates on surrounding programs part of organizations you may be working with on related to other key community initiatives. The partners discussed and shared their current experiences as well as potential opportunities to see how to link community residents to needed services during this time. The resources Tenesha Avent shared included <a href="#">HHS Grants Terminated</a> and <a href="#">Grant Watch</a>.</p> <p>A reminder shared the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Annual Meeting will be hosted at FIU North Campus at the Wolfe University Center on Monday, June 23, 2025. It was shared during this meeting; attendees will review the results of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessments that will help inform the 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Participants will vote on the new 2025-2030 CHIP</p>	<p>Future townhall or panel discussion.</p>

	priority areas. Dr. Brito reminded the committee this is an opportunity to participate and discuss the most pressing community concerns in Miami-Dade.	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BreastfeedMIAMI:</b> The upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day will be held August 23, 2025 at the Doral Legacy Park Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a lot of exciting activities, giveaways and workshops. Families can <a href="#">sign-up and RSVP here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade:</b> A reminder was shared on the available Consortium resources. These include the <a href="#">Consortium Directory</a>, <a href="#">Community Event Request (CHER) Form</a>, and the <a href="#">Consortium Membership Form</a>.</li> <li>• <b>ConnectFamilies:</b> An update was shared by Juliet San Juan. She shared the Community Baby Showers <i>Healthy Mommy</i>, <i>Healthy Baby</i> are free for expecting moms and moms of newborns under 11 months. She shared during the baby showers they have presentations in which they learn about important topics of prenatal and postnatal care, breastfeeding, and the stages of child development. The baby showers are hosted on Saturday's from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, please email <a href="mailto:HMHB@ConnectFamilies.org">HMHB@ConnectFamilies.org</a>.</li> <li>• <b>DOH-Miami-Dade WIC:</b> An update was shared by Carla Sabugo. WIC continues to provide families with food assistance every month, although we have a monthly caseload of 70,000 women, infants and children. We have approximately 15,000 pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women who qualify for WIC and aren't taking advantage of the WIC Program. We are one of the few social service programs that do not require citizenship, legal status or are part of the public charge. The WIC breastfeeding helpline number is (786) 336-1336. Also, the new income guidelines were updated federally yesterday (this occurs every June), the new guidelines are on the <a href="http://www.miamidadewic.org">WIC landing page: www.miamidadewic.org</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Easterseals/Early Steps:</b> An update was shared by Talli Menchion. She shared her organization is hiring for Service Coordinators (SCs). If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact her.</li> <li>• <b>Southern Birth Justice Network:</b> An update was shared by Cortes Maria Lewis James. She shared the upcoming Titi Talk and Blessing Way event will be hosted on June 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, please visit <a href="#">here</a>. Event flyer was also shared during meeting.</li> <li>• <b>The Women's Fund Miami-Dade:</b> Viviana Alvarado shared updates on behalf of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade on their upcoming <a href="#">July 2025 Impact Collaborative: Too Hot to Handle: Reproductive Health in an Overheating Miami - The Women's Fund Miami-Dade</a>. In case you missed it, here's the link to the <a href="#">Advocacy 106 training</a>. The heat and pregnancy health website for more information can be found here: <a href="https://womensfundmiami.org/heathealth/">https://womensfundmiami.org/heathealth/</a>. If</li> </ul>	

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	<p>you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Viviana Alvarado via email at <a href="mailto:viviana@womensfundmiami.org">viviana@womensfundmiami.org</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>University of Miami, School of Medicine:</b> An updated was shared by Michelle Berkovits. For North Dade, they are also hiring for Service Coordinators (SCs) and for a Creole Speaking ITDS.</li> </ul>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting will be held in will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday, July 18, 2025, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.	