

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting

Friday, July 18, 2025

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (10)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Healthy Baby Taskforce Co-Chair) 2. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami North Dade Early Steps 3. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 4. Vanessa Guillen, Easterseals/Early Steps 5. Neseayah McFarlane, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) 6. Talli Menchion, Easterseals/Early Steps 7. Monica FilsAime, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 8. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 9. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 	
Welcome and Introductions	The July 2025 monthly meeting of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade Healthy Baby Taskforce was brought to order by Tenesha Avent at 12:37 p.m. All members were welcomed and introduced themselves.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the June 2025 Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting minutes by Neseayah McFarlane, and the motion was seconded by Talli Menchion and Dayamyra Perez Fernandez.	
Previous Action Items Future Taskforce Presentation	<p>A high-level update was shared on future Taskforce presentation ideas and confirmed presenters. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ A reminder was shared with the Taskforce due to low attendance back from our in-person meeting in May, the AIM presentation has been rescheduled for Friday, August 15, 2025, and will be presented by Val Butler, Project and Grants Manager, Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health Miami-Dade of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade. • BreastfeedMIAMI Community Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An update was shared Dr. Lebron has been invited to present the findings of BreastfeedMiami community Report; confirmation is pending, and updates will be provided once finalized. <p>There were no further suggestions for future presentations.</p>	

<p>New Business</p> <p>Community Concerns Conversation</p>	<p>Tenesha Avent led and continued the discussion with the Taskforce members from the June meeting 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. Previously recommended by Taskforce partners was to host a future townhall or panel discussion. 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. Key discussion points are noted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICU Baby shared they are starting to see the effects of some of these changes to the populations they serve and continue to stay up to date on additional updates. • Another key point the Taskforce partners discussed was the closing of four maternity wards in our community which include Hialeah, North Shore, Jackson West, and Palmetto General. It was noted possibly Jackson South maternity department would be closing later this year. Val Butler was going to further research and learn more to share with the partners. The Healthy Baby Taskforce would like to further understand and get to the root causes (e.g., lack of patients, insufficient/timeliness of Medicaid reimbursements) of these closures. • Tenesha Avent shared the following updates on behalf of March of Dimes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Federal Medicaid Cuts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A recently signed federal tax and spending bill includes major Medicaid reductions anticipated to cut roughly \$4 billion annually from Florida's Medicaid funding. b. About 4.3 million Floridians—nearly 19% of the state's population—rely on Medicaid, including a large portion of pregnant women and infants. c. “Extreme blow” that could force hospital service reductions, increase travel distances for care, and drive up healthcare costs for low-income families. d. Medicaid pays for 42% of births in Florida, these cuts threaten prenatal and postpartum care access for pregnant people. e. Miami-Dade County alone has over 18,000 pregnant/postpartum women on Medicaid. f. New eligibility work requirements, reduced retroactive coverage, and provider payment restrictions—further jeopardizing access to care. 2. State-Level Health Program Reductions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Florida's FY 2025–26 budget includes \$260.8 million in cuts to the Community Public Health Program, which supports health promotion and maternal services. b. The FY 2025–26 budget wiped out nearly \$188 million from children's services, reducing access to prenatal care and screenings. 	
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	<p>c. Healthcare Innovation Council's funding—designed for low-interest loans to strengthen maternal health infrastructure—is being repealed. This undermines workforce capacity, clinic innovation, and maternal-child coordination.</p> <p>d. Florida hospitals rely on Medicaid payments, but cuts force closure of labor & delivery units—especially in rural areas</p>	
<p>New Business</p> <p>CHIP Annual Meeting Recap</p>	<p>Tenesha Avent reported a high-level recap of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Annual Meeting to the Healthy Baby Taskforce partners. This meeting was hosted at FIU North Wolfe University Center on Monday, June 23, 2025. There was a total of 116 attendees. During this meeting, the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessment results were shared, and community members had the opportunity to vote and discuss the issues impacting health and wellness in Miami-Dade County. During this meeting, a total of five priority areas were selected. The new 2025-2030 CHIP Priority Areas will include Access to Care, Chronic Disease, Behavioral & Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. The new priority areas will assist with the development of the new 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Partners shared their experience from the meeting and how the results from the CHIP meeting will inform work plan.</p> <p>In alignment with the CHIP, updates were shared on the new Florida Healthy Baby FY 25-26 priority areas. These priority areas will include Well Woman Care, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, Infant Mortality, Dental or Oral Care, and Children's Medical Homes.</p>	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BreastfeedMIAMI: Leah Jayanetti shared August is National Breastfeeding Month. The upcoming 14th 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 sign-up and RSVP here. • Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade: A reminder was shared on the available Consortium resources. These include the Consortium Directory and the Consortium Membership Form. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez also shared how to request services through the Community Event Request (CHER) Form and the Journey to Wellness Rx Prescription Pads Request Form Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade. • ICU Baby: Leah Jayanetti shared updates on upcoming events and community engagements they will be hosting for the next quarter. In August they are partnering with BreastfeedMIAMI and Nicklaus Children's Hospital to host a Lunch and Learn focusing on breastfeeding, particularly in the NICU. This is extremely important to ensure that the population they are serving is supported and excited about what can be really challenging in the NICU, which is breastfeeding. Visit Events ICU Baby to learn more about upcoming events which include the Little Miracles Luncheon in September and the Hope Parade in late October. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easterseals/Early Steps: An update was shared by Talli Menchion. Talli took a moment to introduce Vanessa Guillen who is the Early Steps new Family Resource Specialist. It was noted Beverly Montgomery is no longer with the agency and Vanessa will be serving in her role. Upcoming event flyers will be shared via email by Early Steps. For any questions, please contact Talli Menchion at tmenchion@fl.easterseals.com. • March of Dimes: Tenesha Avent shared a new date will be sent for the <i>Engaging Fathers and Partners to Advance Maternal and Infant Well-Being</i> webinar. An email will be shared once date is confirmed. • The Women's Fund Miami-Dade: Val Butler, Project and Grants Manager, Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health Miami-Dade of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade, introduced herself to the Taskforce as a new member and recently joining her organization and excited to stay connected and work together. RSVP and sign up for Town Hall with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava event that will take place on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. • University of Miami, School of Medicine: Michelle Berkovits, Psychologist, Director with the North Dade Early Steps program, shared they are looking for a bilingual Creole seeking Child Development Specialist for their Evaluation Team. To learn more, visit Child Development Specialist (H) in Miami, Florida, United States of America Allied Health at University of Miami She also shared they have other openings upcoming for Service Coordinators. Additionally, she shared an update for UM Mailman Center, on August 22, 2025, they will be doing in partnership with the UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) a one-hour Lunch and Learn CEU on behavioral feeding. Once the flyer is available, it will be shared. 	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m. The next Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting will be held in will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday, August 15, 2025, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.	