CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting
Friday, September 18, 2026
12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (26)	1. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Chair) 2. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 3. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 4. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 5. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami-Dade (HSCMD) 6. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 7. Celina Gonzalez, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 8. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami 9. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Christelle Cesare, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 11. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 12. Hilda Alvarado, Florida Community Care (Medicaid Plan) 13. Tama Jeanchery, FIU Black Mothers Care Plan 14. Shantai Latoya Young, The Jasmine Project University of Miami Miller School of Medicine 15. Natouchka Murray, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 16. Stefanie Gaspard, Liberty Dental Plan 17. Alex Lozana, Connect Familias 18. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 19. Karen Zhang, University of Miami (DOH Intern) 20. Dr. Victoria Orrego Dunleavy, University of Miami 21. Carla J Sabugo, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County WIC program 22. Jaffery Zafreen, The Third Plateau 23. Dr. Michelle Denise Berkovits, University of Miami 24. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida (EAF) 25. Juliet San Juan, Connect Familias 26. Andrea Hickson | NICU Alumni	
Welcome and Introductions	The September 2026 monthly meeting of the Healthy Baby Taskforce was brought to order by Tenesha Avent at 12:33 p.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	

Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Healthy Baby Taskforce August 2026 meeting minutes by Dr. Cristina Brito, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Michelle Denise Berkovits.	
Community Health Workers Presentation.	A presentation on Community Health Workers by Tenesha Avent (Chair) from March of Dimes. Following the presentation, there was a Q&A discussion.	Share presentation slide deck with members
Previous Action Items Community Concerns Conversation & Health Observance Updates	The Healthy Baby Taskforce convened virtually on Friday, September 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Members were reminded of their assigned health observance work items and the initiatives planned for the coming months, including community education events, social media campaigns, hospital and community partner engagement, and family storytelling opportunities. Members were also encouraged to use the Healthy Baby Taskforce hashtag **#keepingmiamibabieshealthy** to enhance collaboration on social media with partners leading monthly observances and to support tracking for monthly reports. Additionally, members were informed that the nomination period for the Co-Chair position has closed and will be updated once deliberations are complete. **The following health observances were highlighted:** • **September:** NICU Awareness Month • **October:** Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month • **November:** Prematurity Awareness	Share Health observances document with members.
FHB FY 26-27 Work Plan Development.	Taskforce will continue to remain actively engaged in developing its contributions to the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY26–27 Work Plan. Major updates as submission of the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY 26-27 Work Plan report to the State is now required through their online dashboard system. The Taskforce bi-annual reporting dates for FY26-27 are as follows; • **Report 1: July 1-December 31, 2026, due to the State by January 15, 2026.** • **Report 2: January 1-June 30, 2027, due to the State by July 16, 2027**. As a reminder, the Florida Healthy Baby FY 26-27 priority areas will remain the same. These include: ○ Well Woman Care ○ Maternal Mortality and Morbidity ○ Infant Mortality ○ Dental or Oral Care	Share Reporting tool with members.

	○ Children's Medical Homes The Taskforce will continue to focus on Infant Mortality and Children's Medical Homes for the FY 26-27.	
Next Steps	Follow up on specific health observance work items sign up.	Share Health Observance sign up form.
Partner Updates	**United Way Miami** • Dr. Cristina Brito provided important legislative updates, a presentation delivered by Dr. Cynthia Lebron during the Children Issues Committee meeting. For more information, Dr. Lebron may be contacted via LinkedIn or email at clebron@miami.edu. • Information was shared about the upcoming *Building Our Mosaic: A Miami-Dade Children's Health and Prevention Summit*, on Monday, November 9, 2026, at the Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science. Registration is free, and participants are encouraged to register by Friday, October 16, 2026, using the link here. Flyer is attached. **NICU Alumni** • Andrea Hickson announced that September is NICU Awareness Month. On Sunday, September 20, 2026, they hosted their first Gala celebrating NICU graduates and the families who brought them home. The theme of the event was "Dancing with the Grads." During the celebration, trophies with little graduation caps were presented as a meaningful way to honor the families and recognize their resilience. Approximately 130 people attended, including 21 NICU graduates and their families. **March of Dimes** • Tenesha Avent noted that September 12–18, 2026, was NICU Nurses Week. To recognize and uplift this observance, March of Dimes visited their hospital partners to show appreciation to nurses by providing lunch and treats. • Also shared were upcoming March of Dimes events for FY 2026–2027, including the Signature Chefs Miami event on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, and the Women of Distinction Awards on Friday, November 20, 2026. Please refer to the attached flyer for additional details. **Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Tobacco Prevention Program**	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

	• Laurie Varona provided updates on the International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest one-day volunteer initiative dedicated to protecting oceans and waterways. The event was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Virginia Key Dog Beach/Hobie Beach. **Other Helpful Resources Shared in Committee Meeting** • Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade Membership Directory: Click here for the Consortium Membership Directory link.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m. The next meeting will be hosted **virtually on Friday, October 16, 2026, through Microsoft Teams from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.