

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Membership Total (27)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Cristina Brito, West Kendall Baptist Hospital (Committee Chair)</li> <li>2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Vice Chair)</li> <li>3. Isabel Afanador, Early Learning Coalition of Miami</li> <li>4. Gilda Ferradaz, DCF</li> <li>5. Leah Jayanetti, ICU Baby</li> <li>6. Dana Klein, Gheorg</li> <li>7. Esther Rose McCant, Metro Mommy Agency</li> <li>8. Vanessa Madrazo, NAMI Miami-Dade</li> <li>9. Suecia Mendez, Sunshine Health</li> <li>10. Karem Rodriguez, Foster Care Review</li> <li>11. Carla Sabugo, DOH-Miami-Dade WIC</li> <li>12. Talli Menchion, Florida Easter Seals</li> <li>13. Beverly Montgomery, Easter Seals</li> <li>14. Mallory Weintraub, American Heart Association</li> <li>15. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami, School of Medicine</li> <li>16. Keyashden Simmons, Vizcaya Museum</li> <li>17. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan</li> <li>18. Deborah La Belle, Education Fund</li> <li>19. Ketia Harris, Jessie Trice Community Health System</li> <li>20. Violet Ryland, My Florida Families</li> <li>21. Robert Hill, American Heart Association</li> <li>22. Sofia Mino, Kristi House</li> <li>23. Stefanie Gaspard, Liberty Dental Plan</li> <li>24. Sabine Delouche, American Heart Association</li> <li>25. Luis Ferrer, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>26. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>27. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison)</li> </ol>	
Welcome and Introductions	The April 2025 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee Meeting was brought to order by Cristina Brito at 10:05 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	

**CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE**  
Children Issues/Oral Health Committee Meeting  
Friday, April 18, 2025  
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EST

Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the March 2025 minutes by Isabel Afanador, and the motion was seconded by Gilda Ferradaz.	
STEM goes Red Presentation	<p>Robert Hill introduced Sabine Delouche who presented on behalf of the American Heart Association. Sabine provided a brief overview of the STEM Goes Red, a national initiative designed to inspire middle and high school girls-especially those from underrepresented backgrounds to explore careers in STEM. The program offers hands-on experiences career exploration, and mentorship from women in STEM fields.</p> <p>In 2023, the inaugural event was held at Zoo Miami, featuring workshops, panels, and behind-the-scenes learning. Planning is underway for the 2024 event, and the team is currently seeking community partners, organizations serving young women, and STEM professionals to serve as mentors or speakers. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Sabine and Mallory Weintraub for more information.</p>	
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board update was provided by Dr. Cristina Brito and Candice Schottenloher. The Board last met virtually on April 14, 2025. During this meeting they discussed and approved the Consortium's digital brochure, which has since been submitted to the Florida Department of Health Communications team for final approval. Once approved, the brochure will be disseminated in English, with plans to translate it into Spanish and Haitian Creole to ensure broader accessibility. The brochure is designed as a concise, visual resource for members to share information about the Consortium and its committees, especially during introductory conversations or outreach events. Printing of the brochure was also discussed along with updated palm cards and business cards, using funds from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant. Final printing and dissemination will proceed following the state's approval and translation process.</p> <p>It was also discussed that the Consortium Event Taskforce met this week and continues to meet biweekly to advance preparations. Draft materials including the save-the-date, invite, and sponsorship deck were reviewed, with minor edits underway. Venue site visits are being scheduled, and the event is tentatively planned for September or October. Members interested in joining the planning team or supporting the event are encouraged to get involved. Dr. Brito noted sponsorship opportunities will be shared soon.</p> <p>Dr. Cristina Brito shared updates in funding and partnership opportunities. Florida Blue's food insecurity grant is open through May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A Leadership Miami team is creating a food pantry at Miami Edison Senior High and seeking sponsors. Miami Homes for All is recruiting landlords,</p>	Send Miami Homes for All donation list once received.

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	seeking community spaces for housing workshops, and requesting donations for welcome kits. A donation drive will be held during the May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, meeting; a list of needed items will be provided.	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. Tenesha Avent shared that the Taskforce held a virtual meeting March that included a presentation on maternal and child health that reviewed national, state, and local level data. The group reviewed its work plan and discussed the upcoming Black Maternal Health Week. A follow-up meeting will be held today April 18, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. to reflect on the impact of Black Maternal Health week and highlight member participation. Members are encouraged to join and connect with Candice Schottenloher for the meeting link. The next in person meeting for the taskforce is scheduled for May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	
Previous Action Update	<b>National Nutrition Month:</b> Carlos Sabugo participated in an FIU and Florida Blue event presenting WIC services, preeclampsia, and gestational diabetes information. Dr. Cristina Brito announced free monthly prenatal breastfeeding classes in English and Spanish at West Kendall, along with virtual and in-person breastfeeding support groups.	
Health Observance Updates	<b>Pregnancy After Loss Awareness Month:</b> No specific activities were reported. Members were invited to share any related events or involvement.	
National Nutrition Month		
Pregnancy After Loss Awareness Month	<b>National Public Health Week:</b> DOH highlighted themes: workforces strengthening, personal health, local health department, strong families, preparedness. Esther McCant from Metro Mommy Agency attended six events, including a Capitol visit, GirlTrek and Black Moms Miami walks, and emphasized continued advocacy. She also announced she will be speaking at the Nuturely Symposium and Fertility Expo on reproductive and environmental health. Dana Klein shared an update on the donation of children's music the Gheorg application received by Grammy-winning producer Rob Chiarelli.	
National Public Health Week		
Recognition of Improved Performance	The committee highlighted the following work plan objective for improved performance: By September 30, 2024, will increase the use of the Healthy Kids and Healthy Future Curriculum. Dr. Brito shared an update on behalf of West Kendall Baptist Hospital (WKBH) which hosted Grow2Heal garden field trips at the Homestead and West Kendall sites. A total of 220 kindergarten and first grade students participated, with average assessment scores increasing from 54% to 68%	

	and 94% of students reporting they learned something new. Coral Reef Senior High students showed an improvement from 81% to 97%, with 100% indicating new knowledge gained. All participating teachers also reported learning something new. Additionally, a field trip was held for 25 students with autism from a local special needs school, offering them valuable social and educational experiences. These activities directly support progress on the team's nutrition-focused work plan and quarterly reporting objectives.	
Performance Measures in Need of Improvement (Work Plan Review)	<p>The committee has three remaining work plan activities that are behind and that the group has been discussed over these last few months. During this meeting, the committee focused and discussed the following two of work plan activities the need improvement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By September 30, 2024, the Children's Issue Committee will increase education to childcare providers about food allergies. The committee plans to broaden this objective to include children's overall health. Updates are pending from Jeff Hurst, who was not present, Partners are clarify on whether meetings will be held in person or virtually, following restructuring at Miami Children's Initiative.</li> <li>2. By September 30, 2024, the Children's Issue will fund a children's book related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Progress is delayed due to staffing changes at the Alzheimer's Association. The committee will revisit once a local contact is re-established.</li> </ol>	
New Business  Health Observance Month Review Updates	<p>The committee reviewed the following Health Observance Months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Waste Prevention Week is April 7-13, 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ During this week, participation across schools was limited. However, Twin Lakes Elementary highlighted their efforts around composting and water conservation. Dr. Cristina Brito shared details about an upcoming Earth Day event, where staff members are creating sculptures out of food packaging waste. This event will include partners such as Waste Management, FPL, the Miccosukee Tribe, and Zoo Miami.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Black Maternal Health Week is April 11-17, 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For this week there were no formal events or activations reported. However, internal conversations within the Healthy Baby initiative team addressed the importance of this observance and will be further discussed in their meeting later today.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cristina Brito shared that May is National Water Safety Month, and the West Kendal Baptist Hospital team is running an educational campaign in partnership with local organizations to promote swim safety and heat resiliency among students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They will host their annual Splash Day event on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Ocaquatics Swim School's Eureka location, and invited organizations with water or sun safety resources to participate. Also, they will host a hybrid swim safety session on May 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at West Kendall Regional Library, focused on children with autism, in partnership with Nicklaus Children's Hospital and others. Both events will offer swim scholarships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Brito shared the flyers available in English and Spanish for the upcoming Prenatal Breastfeeding Classes. English classes will be hosted on the second Tuesday of every month, starting on May 13, 2025, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Spanish classes will be hosted on the first Tuesday of every month, starting on May 6, 2025, from 6:30 – 8 p.m.</li> <li>• The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day will be hosted this year on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 <a href="mailto:carla.sabugo@flhealth.gov">carla.sabugo@flhealth.gov</a>. Visit BreastfeedMIAMI to learn more here: <a href="#">14th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day   BreastfeedMIAMI</a></li> <li>• Esther McCant shared to learn more about the MOMCHA Program and the referral process, please visit here: <a href="http://www.momcha.org">http://www.momcha.org</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:metromommyagency@gmail.com">metromommyagency@gmail.com</a>.</li> <li>• March of Dimes, March for Babies, will be hosting various walk events this month and in May. Palm Beach was hosted on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Miami-Dade's walk will be hosted on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Broward's walk will be hosted on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</li> <li>• NAMI Mental Health Walk will be hosted this year on Saturday, May 10th, 2025. To learn more, please visit here: <a href="http://www.namiwalks.org/miami">http://www.namiwalks.org/miami</a></li> <li>• 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 <a href="mailto:mberkovits@med.miami.edu">mberkovits@med.miami.edu</a> or via phone at 305-243-6660.</li> <li>• Candice Schottenloher reminded attendees to complete the monthly committee reporting form and 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. The department is also participating in the Nicklaus Children's Hospital's health needs assessments. In addition, a potential Girl Scouts presentation is in the works for next month. Lastly, the survey is planned to close around the beginning of May.</li> <li>• Carla Sabugo promoted Breastfeed Miami's "Bared &amp; Beautiful: The Art of Breastfeeding" event on May 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at United Way Miami. The open mic and art exhibit will</li> </ul>	
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	<p>celebrate breastfeeding through storytelling and community engagement. She invited all to attend and thanked Candice for helping circulate the event information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please see Food Security Grant Program opportunity that was shared by Dr. Brito here: <a href="#">foundation-flyer-grant-food-security.pdf</a>. For more information, please visit the website to access here: <a href="#">Community Investments   Grants   Florida Blue</a></li> </ul>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m. The next Children Issues Committee meeting will be held in-person at United Way Miami, Ryder Room, located at 3250 SW 3rd Avenue, Miami, FL 33129, on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	