

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (35)	1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 3. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 4. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer University of Miami (Presenter) 5. Stefanie Gaspard, Liberty Dental Plan 6. Michelle Espinosa, United Way Miami 7. Jeffrey Hurst, DCF 8. Monica FilsAime, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 9. Neseyah McFarlane, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 10. Carla Sabugo, DOH-Miami-Dade WIC 11. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Dana Klein, Gheorg 13. Debra Dhaity, Children's Movement Florida 14. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan 15. Talli Menchion, ES Florida 16. Michelle Berkovits, University of Miami 17. Debi La Belle, The Education Fund 18. Justin Sanchez, Center for Multicultural Wellness and prevention (CMWP) 19. Dr. Philene Toledo, Home Heart Florida 20. Lasonya Rodgers, Humana 21. Hayly Ojeda, Hope for Miami 22. Catherine Toms, Green Cars for Kids 23. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby 24. Karem Rodriguez, Florida Foster Care Review (FFCR) 25. Sandra Echeverry-Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 26. Andrea Hickson, NICU Alumni 27. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health 28. Gilda Ferradaz, DCF 29. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 30. Esther Louis, Metro Mommy Agency	

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE
Children Issues/Oral Health Committee Meeting
Friday, October 17, 2025
10-11:30 a.m. EST

	31. Elizabeth Campos, UM (Presenter) 32. Violet Ryland, DCF 33. Casey Mullins, University of Miami (Presenter) 34. Manavii Kumar, University of Miami 35. Stephanie Thomas, Community Member	
Welcome and Introductions	The October 2025 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee Meeting was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:05 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the August 2025 minutes by Jeff Hurst, and the motion was seconded by Debi La Belle.	
Miami-Dade Early Childhood Population Measure Development and Findings Presentation	The committee had the <i>Miami-Dade Early Childhood Population Measure Development and Findings</i> Presentation presented by: Rebecca Shearer, Casey Mullins, and Liz Campos members of the University of Miami's IDEAS Consortium for Children. The committee also discussed with the presenters further how they could support the parent survey efforts IDEAS resource link: Research IDEAS University of Miami.	Follow-up meeting with UM Team.
Executive Board Update	The Executive Board update was provided by Dr. Cristina Brito. The Executive Board met on Monday, October 6, 2025, and discussed updates on the Food and Nutrition For All (FNFA) Collaborative, addressing food insecurity issues throughout Miami-Dade as it continues to be a community concern. The FNFA hosted the <i>Beyond the Table: Experience–Data–Policy–Action</i> meeting on Friday, October 3, 2025, and had over 60 attendees. During this meeting, a simulation activity led by Bread for the World, a program funded by Humana which is similar to the ALICE simulation, focuses primarily on policy importance and how historically policies are still impacting communities today. A panel from The Children's Trust, Urban Oasis, and Farm Share, talked about how different policies are impacting the food insecurity and, how can we work to address policy issues and make impacts at the local level. The Quest Foundation has awarded the Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative to be one of their grantees as they move into Miami-Dade County. The Black Mother Care Plan with Florida International University (FIU) will be part of this collaborative. The grant will be utilized to address food insecurity in Miami-Dade, and as part of it, will be looking at a mini grant process. The FNFA Board met with the Quest foundation on October 16, 2025, to start discussions with the leadership team. More information will be shared going forward into the grant over the next two years.	

	The Board highlighted some updates on the changes at the federal level indicating that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will not be putting out the food insecurity reporting moving forward and are making cuts to that report. Feeding America putting out a report was suggested as an alternative method to address these changes. During the Consortium Annual Event Dr. Cristina shared the newest ALICE report was just published which looked at the family's needs and what we could be doing in our community. Compared to the 2023 report, there has currently been an increase record of 40,000 more ALICE families in Miami-Dade County. Making it 54% of our residents in ALICE currently. There was an emphasis to continue conversations needed to address these issues. The Board finalized the 22nd Annual Consortium Event & Worksite Wellness Awards SWOT Activity. The Board will further discuss if next year they will host separate events and/or alternate between Consortium Annual Event and Florida Worksite Wellness Awards following every other year. As a reminder, the 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 Executive Board reviewed their current work plan (2019-2025) and its accomplishments. The Board is reviewing their progress to see what still needs to continue to be addressed in the new 2025-2030 Consortium Strategic Plan and Executive Board work plan.	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. The Taskforce last met virtually in August. During this meeting, the Taskforce had a follow up presentation on the Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) initiative by Val Butler, Project and Grants Manager, Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health Miami-Dade of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade to share some updates on Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) initiative. During this meeting, partners continued conversations on the current funding landscape and how it is affecting the partners and communities they serve as well as health observances for this past quarter. Collaboration was welcomed to any organizations that may be working with or on related initiatives that link community residents to needed services, to reach out to the Taskforce team to help support the work of their partners. The Taskforce reviewed the new Florida Healthy Baby FY 25-26 priority areas which include Well Woman Care, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, Infant Mortality, Dental or Oral Care, and Children's Medical Homes. The Taskforce will focus on Infant Mortality and Children's Medical Homes.	

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Previous Action Items Health Observance Updates 2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development – Part 2	The committee continues to review the upcoming monthly health observances on a quarterly basis that relate to children's health and well-being. For more updates on upcoming events, please review the Partner Updates section further in the meeting minutes. Additionally, Dr. Brito shared on the increasing number of measles outbreaks and cases in the US as of October 15, 2025. A high-level recap of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority areas was shared with the Children Issues Committee members. 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. During this meeting, the committee was unable to complete the Menti activity. During the November Committee meeting, the members will complete the Menti activity to develop committee activities for the remaining priority areas which include Maternal Child Health and Healthy Weight/ Physical Activity/ Nutrition.	
Partner Updates	• Home Health Florida: Shared by Dr. Philene Toledo with the Paid Family Caregiver program www.homeheartfl.com, she shared the Comprehensive List of Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC): FloridaHealthFinder Facility/Provider. • DOH-Miami-Dade WIC: Updates were shared by Carla Sabugo. As of October 1, 2025, food packages for WIC have been updated. WIC now provides nutritious foods to meet the special needs of pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to 5 years old. These updated food options offer families more fruits and vegetables, more whole grain choices, and new options like tofu, yogurt, canned fish, and plant-based milks. WIC also supports successful, long-term breastfeeding and helps families build healthy habits for life. To learn more about these updates, please visit here. Save the Date for the 12th Annual Homestead/ Florida City WIC Holiday Health & Resource Fair that will be hosted on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at the Florida City Park -Loren Roberts. Flyers and event details will be shared to the members. • Sunshine Health: Suecia Mendez Padilla shared information on the next Diaper Drive Distribution in partnership with Tree of Life Parenting Center, which will be hosted on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sunshine Health Community Connections Center (CCC) located at 9552 SW 160 ST. Miami, FL 33157. Flyers and link were shared. Ongoing is their food distribution fair every 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 am. The 1st Wednesday of November and December at 10:00 am, they have a Breastfeeding Support Group at the Sunshine Health Welcome Room. Lastly, on	

	December 9, 2025, the next Diaper Distribution will be hosted, and Health Council of South Florida will be present conducting screenings. Open Enrollment period for Medicaid is upcoming from November 1, 2025 to January 15, 2026. • Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade: Shared by Neseyah McFarlane, Healthy Start received additional funding from Sunshine Health for this year 2025, to be used for purchasing both portable cribs and car seats for families who are enrolled in their home visitation program. Families will receive safety education, and the car seats will be installed by child passenger safety technicians. They are working on a partnership with Molina to support similar efforts. The Healthy Start T.E.A.M. Dad program just had their annual conference and are happy to announce that eligibility criteria have been expanded to fathers in their program, which includes more fathers, dad to child or partners who are enrolled in other home visitation programs like the Nurse Family Partnership or the Jasmine Project. It also now includes dads who are incarcerated or are in local jails under one year. Neseyah, also shared a link to their community needs assessment, to help them improve their services and better support pregnant women and families they serve. The survey is completely anonymous and only takes about ten minutes. For more details, please email nmcfarlane@hscmd.org. • Hope for Miami – Project Bridge: Shared by Hayly Ojeda, Hope for Miami is hosting their November session for Youth Mental Health First Aid Training at Sunshine Health (The Welcome Room location), 9552 SW 160th Street, Miami, FL 33157, Thursday, November 13, 2025 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. You can register here or email hayly@hopeformiami.org. • Metro Mommy Agency (MMA): Esther Louis shared update on the MOCHA Family Wellness Fair held on September 28, 2025, at KIPP Miami-Dade College North campus. Over 427 registered, 370 attended, 46 partners who supported the event and 32 vendors. They received 9 sponsors and were able to provide free massages to about 100 families, between 4 massage therapists sponsored by Pascal Pediatrics and their Black Moms Miami group. Thanking the Children's Trust for their support as well as helping to sponsor this event. The MOCHA Fair will be hosted again next year 2026 (more details forthcoming). Over the last few months, they have trained 12 doulas to support moms with some more advanced skills to address issues like diabetes, hypertension, preeclampsia, and dehydration. The March of Dimes supported that training and currently at least 40 plus moms have gotten some additional support from those doulas. Also, with support from the CDC Foundation, their DC hot program, which is their doula climate, health outreach team trained to leverage a model that Dr. Cheryl Holder created so that folks are understanding the impact of climate health on climate change on their	
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	health. the impact of climate health on climate change You tube webinar. Funding challenges that the MOCHA program is facing is more referrals than there is funding available to support these families. Unfortunately, they sometimes have to turn some moms away. Soliciting help from their partners if awareness of any funding available for moms and postpartum moms who need support that they are providing. Please email Esther Louis at metromommyagency@gmail.com. • The Education Fund: Shared by Debi La Belle, an update from the schools. In the past weeks there was a Green Schools Recognition Program Awards Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) that recognized 64 public schools on different criteria from, green initiatives, health and environment curriculum for health and Wellness. Cafeteria integration, in gardens growing at the schools and recycling, were some of the criteria that they judged. Check out the article to learn more about this recognition here. • United Way Miami: Dr. Brito Cristina shared coming up is their United Way Impact Partner Investment Cycle grantee application process. Applications are due November 19, 2025. Based on program registrations, about 92 programs have already submitted applications, that will be reviewed for a grant funding starting in July 2026.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m. The next Children Issues Committee meeting merged with the Healthy Baby Taskforce hosting their Annual Potluck will be held in person at the United Way Miami in the Ansin Building, Ryder Room, on Friday, November 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to Noon.	