

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee

Friday, August 21, 2026

10am-12:00p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (28)	1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair) 2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Co-Chair) 3. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 4. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 5. Melody A Espinozacordova, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 6. Danielle Barratteau, DCF Office of Licensing 7. Jeffrey Hurst, Department of Children and Families (DCF) 8. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 9. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 11. Candace M Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan 13. Marena Bajo, Great Dental plans 14. Christelle Cesare, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 15. Suecia Mendez Padilla, Sunshine Health 16. Sara St. George, University of Miami, 17. Leah Jayanetti, ICU Baby 18. Sofia Mino, Kristi House 19. Deborah LaBelle, The Education Fund 20. Hannah Mosher, DOH Miami-Dade Intern 21. Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 22. Natalie Anderson, Nicklaus Children's Hospital 23. Juliet Sanjuan, Connect Families 24. Alexander Lozana, Connect Families 25. Natalia Rodriguez, CREATE Kids 26. Sophia Lacroix, FIU Neighborhood HELP 27. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 28. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County	
Welcome and Introductions	The August 2026 monthly meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:07 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	

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Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee July 2026 meeting minutes by Jeffrey Hurst, and the motion was seconded by Danielle Barratteau.	
The Tobacco Free Workgroup (TFW) and The CREATE Program Presentations.	- The Tobacco Free Workgroup (TFW) Highlight Presentation by Melody Espinoza Cordova from the Florida Department of Health Miami- Dade Tobacco Prevention program. - A presentation on the CREATE Program by Natalia Rodriguez. Following the presentations, there was a Q&A discussion on how committee members could support these programs.	Share presentation slide deck with members.
Executive Board Update	The August Executive Board meeting was held virtually on August 10, 2026. The Board continued the conversation on optimal health and addressing the drivers of health. The Board is awaiting developing topics from the 2027 Legislative Session. In addition, updates to the Consortium website are currently on hold due to the transition of the webmaster from the agency. The Board welcomed Candace Williams, Government Operations Consultant III as she will now oversee the Optimal Health Team and Zadymon Moore, the Health Education Program Manager who will supervise the CET Team, to the committee. During the meeting, a summary of the 2025 Status of Women Report Presentation was shared.	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	The Healthy Baby Taskforce convened in person on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at United Way Miami. During this meeting, members received follow-up on their specific health observance work items. The Taskforce also held a final vote confirming their collaborative social media hashtag: keepingmiamibabieshealthy. Additionally, Tenesha Avent was introduced as the new Chair of the Healthy Baby Taskforce (HBT), and a call for nominations for the HBT Co-Chair position was announced. The meeting also included a presentation by Eunice Mesumbe highlighting Report 2 partner contributions to the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY 25–26 Work Plan.	
Previous Action Items	The Children Issues Committee convened in person on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at United Way Miami. During this meeting, members were encouraged to utilize the newly developed monthly reporting survey to submit their contributions in alignment with the approved 2025–2030 Children Issues Work Plan. Members were also reminded to submit monthly articles for inclusion in the Consortium newsletters. Additionally, it was announced that the Co-Chair position for the Healthy Baby Taskforce is now open. Partners interested in co-leading the Taskforce are invited to nominate themselves or another member for consideration.	
Next Steps	Share reporting survey link to collect member contributions and updates to the progress of the 2025-2030 work plan.	Share survey with members monthly.

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2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Indicators	- By September 30, 2030, the committee will collaborate to organize presentations on access to health care resources. - By September 30, 2030, the CI Committee will partner with the Tobacco Free Workgroup to educate and increase awareness to the students of the dangers of Tobacco use, smoking and vaping to improve health and quality of life. - By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues Committee will partner with the Tobacco Free Workgroup to improve health and quality of life for maternal and child health to promote healthy behaviors including smoke and nicotine-free environments. - By September 30, 2030, increase the number of mental health partners to join and participate in the Children Issues Committee. - By September 30, 2030, the Children Issues Committee will distribute educational resources on promoting the importance of mental health to the community (e.g., managing emotions, breathing exercises, managing stress, etc.).	
Partner Updates	United Way Miami: Dr. Cristina Brito shared updates on the Miami- Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) 2026 Referendum. For more information, visit their website Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Official Site. - Members also received the United Way Miami NeedyMeds drug discount card to share with the community, family, and friends to help reduce medication costs. Please see attached materials for more details. - Updates as the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) unveiled a new proposed rule, “Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs.” Visit website to learn more Office of Head Start (OHS) The Administration for Children and Families. Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF): Jeffrey Hurst shared families can visit their website for public search on childcare facilities and review inspection reports: https://caressearch.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch. Also, shared was that there are only six licensed Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) sites allowed with an exemption to provide care for two to three-year-olds. The Education Fund: Debi Labelle provided updates on the recent changes to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools meal programs. For more information, visit their website Parent & Family Resources Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Kristi House: Sofia Mino shared Kristi House will be starting an interview youth-based coalition, incorporating a presentation based on health and well-being. Email Sofia for more at smino@kristihouse.org.	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

	FDOH Miami-Dade County – Office of Community Health and Planning: A reminder was shared about the FDOH Miami-Dade County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program's 15th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day Event on August 22, 2026, at Doral Legacy Park. Healthy Baby Taskforce: The Co-Chair position for the Healthy Baby Taskforce is now open. Partners interested in co-leading the Taskforce may nominate themselves or another member. All nominees must be active members of the committee. <i>*An active member needs to have attended 50% of the meetings.</i> Please be advised that the nominations will close on September 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Please use the survey link below to enter your nominations. Thank you so much. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DB93DX7	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting will be hosted virtually on Friday, September 18, 2026, via Microsoft Teams from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.