



**ELDER ISSUES COMMITTEE/
MAYOR'S INITIATIVE ON HEALTHY AGING AND LIVABILITY**

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Microsoft Teams 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members/Attendees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi, Florida Department of Health 2. Marjorie Epstein Aloni, Tri County Senior Resource Referral Network 3. Joe H. Baldelomar, Alzheimer's Association 4. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami 5. Martine Charles, Alliance for Aging, Inc. 6. Marla Cocalis, StudentsCare 7. Olivia DeCastro, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 8. Nattaliah Earle, Urban Health Partnerships – <i>Vice-Chair</i> 9. Witson Faustin, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 10. Frances Garcia, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue 11. Mayra Garcia, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine 13. Natalie Herradon, Jewish Community Services of South Florida 14. Ryan Patrick MacDonald, University of Miami MD/MPH Intern - <i>Guest</i> 15. Ricardo Maldonado, Total Life 16. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 17. Dennise Nicola, PACE/Miami Jewish Health – <i>Chair</i> 18. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade 19. Carmen Ramos-Watson, B/Adaptable 20. Louisenie Remy, Jackson Health Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center 21. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health – <i>DOH Lead, Support Staff</i> 22. Natalia Shtompel, Barry University School of Social Work 23. Stacey Silver, Mom's Meals 24. Griselle Solorzano, Brain Center 25. Dianna Valenzuela, Public Partnerships 26. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 27. Marjorie York, Community Action Agency (via phone call) 	



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Welcome and Introductions	Chair, Dennise Nicola welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 2:00 p.m.. General meeting guidelines were provided for the attendees by Dennise N. and Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. assisted with the agenda. Attendee introductions were done during <i>Partner Updates</i> , and virtual attendees were encouraged to put their contact information and any organizational updates/announcements in the chat. The meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Team.	
Review and Approval of Minutes	The minutes from the last meeting on October 28, 2025, were reviewed by the Committee members in attendance. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Marjorie Y. and seconded by Carmen R-W. The minutes were approved unanimously without corrections.	
Previous Action Items(s)	EIC 2025-2030 Work Plan draft was final reviewed at later point in the agenda during the meeting.	
Executive Board (EB) Update	Chair, Dennise N. provided the updates from the last EB meeting held on 12/8/2025, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board last met in-person at the Health Council of South Florida on December 8, 2025. January 2026 Board meeting was cancelled. • Over the last couple of months in 2025, the Board has been discussing ideas for the 2025-2030 Consortium Strategic Plan and Executive Board Work Plan. 	
Legislative Report	EIC Vice-Chair, Nattaliah E. provided the following update(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Legislature is considering changes to SNAP eligibility, and funding for older adult services which can have an impact on older adults and loneliness epidemic. information and resources was shared in the chat: https://snap.myflfamilies.com/. • Miami-Dade County Mayor, Daniella Levine Cava, to deliver the 2026 State of the County address on January 28, 2026, at 6 p.m. at FMU. 	

<p>Review & Approval of Elder Issues Committee 2025-2030 Work Plan</p>	<p>In lieu of a partner presentation, the Elder Issues Committee 2025-2030 Work Plan Development review and approval session was facilitated by Candice Schottenloher, MPH, CHES, Government Operations Consultant III, Office of Community Health & Planning, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>The final draft version of the 2025-2030 EIC Work Plan developed during the three previous sessions held during the Committee's last three monthly meetings in August, September and October 2025 was reviewed. Additional comments, partners, and suggestions were added, and the work plan was approved unanimously by the attendees.</p> <p>2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Care 2. Chronic Disease Prevention 3. Behavioral & Mental Health 4. Maternal Child Health 5. Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition 	
<p>Elder Issues Committee SWOT Analysis</p>	<p>In lieu of a partner presentation, Chair, Dennise N. led the Committee's SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, as well as the resulting discussion. The SWOT analysis is conducted every five years (last done December 2020) and reviewed annually (last done January 2025) and updated with comments made by members/attendees. M. Garcia captured comments and suggestions from attendees with regards to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the EIC while screen sharing the SWOT analysis (included for the record on the last page at the end of these meeting minutes).</p>	
<p>Recognition of Improved Performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person meeting hosted at Larkin Community Hospital Palm Springs on 10/28/2025 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 total attendees (7 in-person & 19 virtually) at October 2025 monthly meeting • Health Literacy presentation by Shannon Charles, Epilepsy Alliance Florida at the October 2025 monthly meeting • Session 3 of the EIC 2025-2030 Work Plan Development at the October 2025 monthly meeting 	
Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next monthly meeting will be virtual on Feb. 24, 2026 • 2026 monthly meetings (need partner presentations for May-October meetings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., March 31 at 2PM ○ In-person meeting on Tues., April 28 at 2PM to be hosted at the Florida PACE Centers in Westchester ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., May 26 at 2PM ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., June 30 at 2PM ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., July 28 at 2PM ○ In-person meeting on Tues., August 25 at 2PM to be hosted at Alliance for Aging in Doral (confirmed by Martine Charles via follow-up email) ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., September 29 at 2PM ○ Virtual meeting on Tues., October 27 at 2PM ○ November and December meetings to be cancelled • Join the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade online at www.healthymiamidade.org/membership, and/or share this invite with others who may be interested in participating. 	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade is a collaboration between the Florida Department of Health and community partners/organizations promoting health in Miami-Dade County; register to become a member for free online: https://www.healthymiamidade.org/membership/.
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi, Florida Department of Health, Islamiyat.Adebisi@flhealth.gov. • Marjorie Epstein Aloni, Tri County Senior Resource Referral Network, 305-766-2976, marjorie.aloni@aol.com. • Joe H. Baldelomar, Alzheimer's Association, jhbaldelomar@alz.org. 	

- Cristina Brito, Senior Director, Community Impact, United Way Miami, Britoc@unitedwaymiami.org; also, the Co-Chair of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade's Executive Board, and the Chair of the Children Issues Committee.
- Martine Charles, Director Planning and Population Health, Alliance for Aging, Inc., charlesm@allianceforaging.org; for information about older adult programs, email Programs@AllianceforAging.org; shared save-the-date for May 7 annual conference, New Face of Aging: <https://afaconference.miami/>.
- Marla Cocalis, Program Manager, StudentsCare; We train college students to volunteer with senior facilities to do monthly activities and weekly one-on-one visits, 773-573-7328, Marla@students-care.org.
- Olivia DeCastro CCHW, CTTS, Health Services Representative, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Office of Community Health and Planning, olivia.decastro@flhealth.gov, 786-732-8860.
- Nattaliah Earle, Collective Impact Manager, Urban Health Partnerships (UHP), nattaliah@urbanhp.org, 786-412-0469; shared invite in chat to upcoming Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Meeting on Feb. 20, 2026, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; register here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/age-friendly-initiative-stakeholder-advisory-committee-meeting>.
- Witson Faustin, Health Services Representative, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Office of Community Health & Planning, 786-732-8863, Witson.Faustin2@flhealth.gov.
- Frances Garcia, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Dept., Community Assistance/Elder Links Coordinator; garciaf@miamidade.gov; please stay safe ahead of cold temps and the use of space heaters; bring animals & plants indoor if possible: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWRrl_Gcd8k.

- Mayra Garcia, Community Liaison for the Elder Issues Committee (EIC)/Senior Community Health Nursing Supervisor, Office of Community Health & Planning, FL Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Mayra.Garcia@FLHealth.gov.
- Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine, Ngray@WAUSM.education.
- Natalie Herradon, Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS), Nherradon@JCSFL.org, 786-505-3125; JCS provides services for seniors both in congregate and in-home settings, case management support, mental health counseling, and 211/988 Contact center.
- Ricardo Maldonado, Total Life; we support seniors' mental and emotional health through virtual therapy nationwide-to learn more visit www.totalife.com; ricardo@totalife.com; shared telehealth therapy available in English/Spanish, 7-days/week.
- Lina Menendez, Community Resource Specialist at Epilepsy Alliance Florida, LMenendez@eafla.org.
- Dennise Nicola, Director of Business Development, FL PACE Centers at Miami Jewish Health; DNicola@miamijewishhealth.org, 786-661-564.
- Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Health Services Representative, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County; shared information about the Journey to Wellness Rx prescription pads which can be requested for free online: <https://www.healthymiamidade.org/forms/journey-to-wellness-rx-green-prescription-request-form.html#gsc.tab=0>.
- Carmen Ramos-Watson, Founder/-CEO, B/Adaptable Labs, 202-413-8899, carmen@b-adaptable.com; shared that the garden in Wynwood is finished; located on NW 39 Street; she will share details of on-site garden events and social gatherings as they become available.
- Louisenie Remy, Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center, Louisenie.remy@jhsMiami.org; they have support groups and outreach

	<p>education on sexual assault prevention; call the Helpline for more information: 24/7 Helpline: 305-585-RAPE (7273).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Candice.Schottenloher@flhealth.gov. • Natalia Shtompel, PhD, LCSW, Associate Professor & Doctoral Program Director, Barry University School of Mental Health and Social Work, nshtompel@barry.edu. • Stacey Silver, RDN, Manager of Healthcare Partnerships with Mom's Meals; Stacey.Silver@momsmeals.com, 561-512-7761. • Griselle Solorzano, Social Services Manager, Brain Center; 305-856-8940 x105, email gsolorzano@braincenter.org. • Dianna "DI" Valenzuela, PPL-Public Partnerships, Community Liaison-State of Florida, Dvalenzuela@pplfirst.com, 786-697-1227; We support Medicaid long-term care participants who wish to self-direct their home care. • Laurie Varona, Senior Health Educator, Tobacco Prevention Program, Florida Department of Health Miami-Dade County, Laurie.Varona@flhealth.gov. • Marjorie York, Community Action Agency; shared info about upcoming Miami Beach events. 	
Adjournment	Chair, Dennise N. adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m..	
Next Meeting	The next Elder Issues Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00-3:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.	

Elder Issues Committee SWOT Analysis (2026-2030)
Conducted 1/27/2026

		Strengths	Weakness
Internal Origin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased attendance • Quarterly partner presentations • Networking; sharing resources & program info • Great representation of organizations for older adults • Ability to share resources & info with community • Well managed meeting • Positive energy for older adults • Support of DOH team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underrepresentation of senior community • Lack of participation by local community leaders • Lack of consistent funding • Underuse of social media & digital platforms
		Opportunities	Threats
External Origin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get more representation of senior community & their caregivers • Increase involvement of local decision makers • Involve faith-based organizations & faith leaders • Promote the online Consortium website resources (partner directory, past meeting minutes, updated brochure) • Leverage students & volunteers to teach digital literacy to older adults (e.g., smart phones, AI); CyberSeniors is a potential partner. • Intergenerational activities/events • Raise awareness about growing aging population • Leverage additional funding • Cross collaboration with other Consortium committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding sources & programming for older adults • Uncertain political climate • Growing workforce shortages even as population ages • Caregiver burnout • Lack of prioritization of older adult population • Housing, insurance & healthcare costs disproportionately affecting seniors on fixed income • Digital challenges for older adults • Climate change & risk (e.g., infrastructure, food & water)