



CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (43)	<p>Virtual Via the Microsoft Teams Platform</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Chair: Leyanee Perez, The American Healthy Weight Alliance2. Vice Chair: Robert Hill, American Heart Association3. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison)4. Mayra Garcia, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County5. Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic School of Medicine6. Simone Cheong, West Kendall Baptist Hospital7. Dawn Gardier, Florida International University8. Benjamin Eliansky, HCA Aventura Healthcare9. Susan Holtzman, NAMI Miami-Dade10. Melody Espinozacordova, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County11. Dr. Philene Toledo, Home Heart Florida12. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County13. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County14. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County15. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County16. Lilia Bandrich, United Healthcare17. Simisola Olowodola, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County18. Alejandra Fiano, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe19. Khamai Simpson, United Way Miami20. Tara Auclair, SSJ Health Foundation21. Cindy Perez, Florida International University22. Denise Pineda, The Advocate Program23. Evelyn Capdevila, Quality Physical Therapy24. Lina Menendez, Epilepsy Alliance Florida25. Nancy Bonise-Charlemond, Planned Parenthood South North East26. Luis Ferrer, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County27. Olatokunbo Osibogun, Florida International University28. Jennifer DeGruccio, Parkinson's Foundation29. Queen Holden, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County30. Monica Gonzalez, Art Foundation for People with Disabilities31. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County32. Manavii Kumar, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County33. Tiffany Albury, University of Miami	



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	<p>34. Aida Van Mossel, University of Miami SCCC 35. Jair Espinoza, City of Miami 36. Stacey Silver, Mom's Meals 37. Cortes Maria Lewis James, CMLEnterprises, LLC Advocacy Consultants 38. Michael Mut, Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Management Mosquito Control Division 39. Michelle Fundora, Health Choice Network 40. Nattaliah Earle, Urban Health Partnerships 41. Alvaro Mejia-Echeverry, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 42. Shannon Charles, Epilepsy Alliance Florida 43. Elidreanna Williams, The Center for Family and Child Enrichment</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade meeting was brought to order at 2:01 p.m. by Vicki Zou.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the August 2025 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention meeting minutes by Simone Cheong and the motion was seconded by Dr. Natalie Gray.	
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board Updates were provided by Leyanee Perez and Robert Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive Board met virtually on Monday, October 6, 2025.• The Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative recently hosted the Beyond the Table: Experience–Data–Policy–Action meeting on Friday, October 3, 2025. The collaborative has received funding through a Quest grant. The Board members who were present shared their experience and discussed the importance of continuing to address food security while looking at past and existing policies to have intentional efforts to make sustainable change.• Updates were shared on the ALICE Report and United Way Miami's 5-year investment cycle.• The 22nd Annual Consortium Event & Worksite Wellness Awards was successfully hosted on Friday, September 19th, 2025, at the Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment. There was a total of 93 attendees. The Executive Board discussed the event and conducted a SWOT Activity.• 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.	
Member Spotlight Presentation	This month's member spotlight was for Jennifer DeGruccio who presented on Parkinson's Foundation, which seeks to help those with Parkinson's, their care partners and loved ones, and their healthcare professionals by providing education and resources for management to healthcare professionals and the community. To learn more, please reach out to Jennifer DeGruccio at jdegruccio@parkinson.org or visit the website at https://www.parkinson.org .	



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Recognition of Improved Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leyanee Perez shared about this year's 22nd Annual Consortium Event, combined with the Florida Worksite Wellness Awards, that was held on Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment in Hialeah, FL. The event had a great turnout with 93 attendees. Simone Cheong was also recognized as the outstanding committee member for HPDP.HPDP Committee continues to be one of the committees with the highest number of members in attendance and plenty of engagement during the Partner Updates portion of the meetings. Last meeting, we had 43 members in attendance. We also have all member spotlights booked for the rest of the year.	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leyanee Perez shared updates about the USDA's recent and upcoming changes for Florida in 2026 related to the SNAP program, such as no longer covering for certain unhealthy food items. Other upcoming changes are that food banks and food pantries will be impacted by the lapse in funding for SNAP; the National Organic Program, Pesticide Data Program, and National Bioengineered Food Disclosure will no longer be inspected; all activity in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will cease, so we will now be responsible for gathering information and data on household food security. Additionally, we will be working on nutrition education projects, which include implementing a tracking system for food pantries that will keep track of the type of food being donated and will serve as an education system for individuals.Robert shared updates about The Food and Nutrition For All Initiative. Through support through the mayor's office, we have been collaborating with project managers who are helping with business analytics and data management, and this phase of the project is wrapping up soon. We will be speaking with two more organizations that focus on nutrition education and feedback on data management from farmers. Funded initiatives will be starting in January and will be funded through the Quest Foundation.The committee started on the HPDP 2025-2030 Work Plan Development, which was facilitated by Candice Schottenloher and OCHP team members. Simisola Olowodola shared with the committee a data presentation on indicators that are relevant to the new CHIP priority areas to help committee members brainstorm new committee activity ideas for the 2025-2030 Committee work plan, which the committee will be discussing during the next committee meeting.	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jennifer DeGruccio shared that Parkinson's Foundation will be hosting their annual fundraising event Moving Day, A Walk for Parkinson's on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Tropical Park Stadium. Registration can be found through the website online. For more information, please reach out to Jennifer DeGruccio at jdegruccio@parkinson.org.Dr. Philene Toledo shared that Home Heart Florida helps families caring for medically fragile children get Medicaid compensation and skilled nursing support. To learn more, please reach out to Dr. Philene Toledo at philene@homeheartfl.com or visit https://www.homeheartfl.com/.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Holtzman shared that NAMI Miami-Dade County is hosting their 6th annual Reel Minds Mental Health Film Festival this coming weekend. On Friday, October 24, 2025, they will be screening a full-length documentary, followed by a panel discussion at Sunset Place in South Miami from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. On Saturday, October 25, 2025, they will be showcasing 9 short films that focus on different mental health perspectives at the Little Haiti Cultural Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets can be found on the website. If anyone is interested in learning more or partnering/sponsoring, please reach out to Susan Holtzman at susan.holtzman@namimiami.org or visit https://namimiami.org/2025-films/. Simone Cheong shared that the Healthy Hub at West Kendall Baptist Hospital is due to present in December on a research study's data results on the West Kendall community's visits to the Healthy Hub. For more information, please reach out to Simone Cheong at simonech@baptisthealth.net. Monica Gonzalez shared that Art Foundation for People with Disabilities, Inc. will now be offering Neuro-Inclusive Arts Programs in Kendall starting November 1st at the Miami Vineyard Community Church Youth Center. For more information, please contact info@artfoundation-x-pwd.com or visit https://artfoundation-x-pwd.com/. Jair Espinoza shared that City of Miami is hosting their Breast Cancer Awareness Health Fair on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 444 SW 2nd Avenue, Main Lobby, Miami, FL 33130. For more information, please contact Jair Espinoza at jairespinoza@miamigov.com. Luis Ferrer shared that the Florida Department of Health STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program and Ryan White Program are hosting a series of Speed Networking events for Case Managers, HIV Test Counselor, and Outreach Workers in Miami-Dade on Monday, November 10, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Health District Center, Conference Room 401B. Please fill out the application for a chance to be selected to attend the event. You will be notified if you are selected to attend on Monday, November 3, 2025. Referral Development Speed Networking Event 5.0 application: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3SNVGLN. Candice Schottenloher shared that starting October 1st, throughout the entire country, a new food package is being developed and launched out through the Florida Department of Health's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Specifically in Florida, there have been specific changes that allow families healthier food options and more variety in options for a more balanced diet. For more details, please visit https://miamidade.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wic/wic-foods.html. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez shared about the <i>Journey to Wellness Rx</i> prescription, a non-pharmaceutical prescription that encourages physical activity and healthy living to help with weight and chronic disease management. For more information or to request the <i>Journey to</i> 		
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	Wellness Rx prescription pads, visit the website at https://www.healthymiamidade.org/journey-to-wellness-rx or contact Dayamyra Perez Fernandez at Dayamyra.Perezfernandez@fhealth.gov .	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next Health Promotion and Disease Prevention committee meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	