



CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Children Issues/Oral Health Committee
& Healthy Baby Taskforce Merged Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2025
10am-12:00 p.m. EST



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (28)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami (Committee Chair)2. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Vice Chair and Taskforce Co-Chair)3. Esther Louis, Metro Mommy Agency (Taskforce Co-Chair)4. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County5. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison)6. Dr. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer University of Miami7. Jeffrey Hurst, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)8. Neseyah McFarlane, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami- Dade (HSCMD)9. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County10. Dana Klein, Gheorg11. Debra Dhaity, Children's Movement Florida12. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan13. Debi La Belle, The Education Fund14. Dr. Philene Toledo, Home Heart Florida15. Hayly Ojeda, Hope for Miami16. Leah Jayanetti, ICU baby17. Andrea Hickson, NICU Alumni18. Val Butler, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade19. Elizabeth Campos, UM20. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County21. Angela Blizzard, Community member22. Rocio Velazquez, The Children's Movement of Florida23. Sofia Mino, Kristi House24. Julie Katz, Nicklaus Children's Hospital25. Danielle Leys, Parent to Parent Miami26. Kristin Wallin, Kido Kinetics27. Isabel Afanador, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe28. Destiny Witherspoon, Abby Care	



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Welcome and Introductions	<p>The November 2025 monthly merged meeting of the Children Issues Oral Health Committee and Healthy Baby Taskforce, was brought to order by Dr. Cristina Brito at 10:16 a.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.</p>	
Approval of Minutes	<p>There was a motion to approve the Children Issues Committee October 2025 meeting minutes by Isabel Afanador, and the motion was seconded by Jeffrey Hurst.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the Healthy Baby Taskforce October 2025 meeting minutes by Zadymon Moore with a recommended edit to correct Dr. Brito's name in Partner Updates, and the motion was seconded by Candice Schottenloher with the recommendation</p>	
Executive Board Update	<p>The Executive Board update was provided by Dr. Cristina Brito. Recently, the Board met on Monday, November 3, 2025. Dr. Brito shared the Food and Nutrition for All Collaborative (FNFA) recently hosted a press conference with a call to action related to food insecurity issues Miami-Dade County is facing and could be dealing with related to the federal government shutdown and the loss of SNAP benefits and sharing local resources that are available.</p> <p>Dr. Brito shared a calendar-based Food and Nutrition For All Community Food Finder resource for families to search available free food resources and distribution events near them. It was also shared the FNFA has launched a Community Food Resource Partner Impact Survey to understand what food partners may be in need since there has been federal cuts impacting some of major partners that provide food to our community. Two surveys (the Resources and Tech surveys) were done in this regard to really understand how they were being impacted by the government shutdown. Follow-up surveys were conducted as well, to get the specific means. Based off the survey responses received, they needed the following food items: shelf stable, produce, hygiene products, toiletries, and baby products.</p> <p>The FNFA hosted Beyond the Table: Experience-Data-Policy Action Meeting on Friday, October 3, 2025. It was a session that integrated the connection between lived experience, data, policy, and action, and how you can make for change. The Quest Foundation awarded the Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative to be one of their grantees. 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 grant is expected to begin in January 2026. More details will be shared with committee members. Ongoing currently, there is a letter writing campaign led by United Way Worldwide on The Emergency Food and Shelter Program, including updates on the frozen Fiscal Year 24 funding situation. As more details become available, updates will be</p>	Share via email the FNFA Community Food Finder resource.



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	<p>shared. Other updates including Dr. Brito shared the increasing number of measles outbreaks and cases in the US as of October 15, 2025. Additionally, the Board also finalized the 22nd Annual Consortium Event & Worksite Wellness Awards SWOT Activity and gathered feedback from the Event Planning Taskforce. This feedback will help us to better plan for the upcoming 2026 event.</p> <p>Lastly, 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.</p>	
Healthy Baby Taskforce Update	<p>The Healthy Baby Taskforce is a sub-committee of the Children Issues Committee. The Taskforce last met virtually on October 17, 2025, and Esther provided an update and led a conversation on the current funding landscape with the partners. Tenesha announced during this update collaboration was welcomed to any organizations with related initiatives to reach out to the Taskforce liaison to help support the work of their partners as well as plan for the 2026 year. A brief update was shared on the Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health (AIM) Initiative led by The Women's Fund Miami-Dade. During this update, a call to action was proposed by Rocio Velazquez on the importance of collaborative efforts from Chairs and Co-Chairs from the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH), Miami Chapter, Healthy Baby Taskforce, AIM, Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission, Breastfeed MIAMI, and the Children's Issues Committee to be part of a collaborative meeting to identify common ground for all of the different groups to plan strategically for the FY 25-26. It was recommended the Consortium welcomes a meeting as well as during the committee meetings to have representatives from the respective organizations and/or have a standing agenda item updated from a committee member who participates in these meetings.</p> <p>The Taskforce has also been reviewing 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.</p>	
Previous Action Items 2025-2030 Children Issues Work Plan Development	<p>A high-level recap of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority areas was shared with the Children Issues Committee and Healthy Baby Taskforce members. The 2025-2030 CHIP Priority Areas include Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Behavioral & Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. During this meeting, the Committee completed the Menti activity for the two remaining priority areas which included Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. The Committee Leadership, Liaison, and DOH-Miami-Dade Team</p>	



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	<p>facilitated this Menti activity. All comments were noted and will be included in our 2025-2030 work Plan.</p>	
New Business 2026 Meeting Schedule Review	<p>During this meeting, the members reviewed and approved of the 2026 Children Issues Committee and Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting schedule. As a reminder, the Committee and Taskforce will meet in-person once a quarter at United Way Miami. There will not be a virtual option available as we are encouraging members to attend in-person. The December 2026 meetings for both the Committee and Taskforce were voted to be cancelled. It was also shared there are two presentations that have been confirmed for the January 2026 virtual meeting for the Children's Issues Committee on Children's Medical Homes which will be presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital and on Early Education by Rocio Velazquez from The Children's Movement of Florida.</p>	Follow up presentation materials.
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Home Health Florida: Shared by Dr. Philene Toledo with the Paid Family Caregiver program www.homeheartfl.com. Home heart, Florida is collecting toys in conjunction with Jackson Hospital for their miracle vote parade. More details forthcoming.DOH-Miami-Dade Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: Candice Schottenloher shared the 12th Annual Homestead/ Florida City WIC Holiday Health & Resource Fair will be hosted on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at the Florida City Park - Loren Roberts. Flyers and event details were shared to the members.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative (FNFA): Please see FNFA resources: Membership form: Stay Updated - Food & Nutrition for All Collaborative (FNFA)Community Food Finder: Community Food Finder - Food & Nutrition for All Collaborative (FNFA)The Food and Nutrition for All Collaborative currently has open the Community Food Resource Partner Impact Survey.Metro Mommy Agency (MMA): Esther Louis shared; Metro Mommy Agency will start hosting their Breastfeeding Support Groups for moms Virtually on Thursdays for the remainder of the year. Virtual sessions will end by December 18, 2025, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Esther hosted office hours session for breastfeeding support for moms on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please email Esther Louis for more details at metromommyagency@gmail.com.Gheorg: Gheorg is conducting an ongoing program through their Mental health app. Reaching out to families to test out the app for FREE for 6 Months. Gheorg's goal is to empower children with skills to improve their mental health resilience, emotional	



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	<p>awareness, and social literacy skills. Gheorg The Friendly Robot Helping Children with Anxiety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United Way Miami: Dr. Cristina Brito shared their United Way Impact Partner Investment Cycle grantee application process has closed out. There are 78 applications in health and 169 applications across the board for all United Way impact partners, received for reviewing and scoring by their staff and volunteers to provide recommendations for grant funding starting July 1, 2026. Interested volunteer application reviewers should reach out to Dr. Cristina Brito at britoc@unitedwaymiami.org.• DOH-Miami-Dade Office of Community Health and Planning (OCHP) Program: The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County in partnership with the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade hosted the Farm Share Food Drive-Thru Distribution event on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at the Officer Ronnie E. Tookes West Perrine Health Center. At this event 500 families were served and over 4,358 pounds of food were given out.• The Education Fund: Debi LaBelle announced in the meeting and had provided recipe books in conjunction with FIU Institute of Environment International Center for Tropical Botany at The Kampong shared to committee members.• Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF): Jeff shared there have been a lot of changes to childcare which started in September 2025, which a lot of people were not aware of, and they will be having a community partner meeting in January 2026 which is free to attend and to get the information. They will partner with early education centers like the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) and other partners in this field. Families can visit their website for public search on childcare facilities and review inspection reports for the last three years: https://caressearch.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch.• Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade: Neseyah McFarlane shared they submitted their Fetal and Infant Mortality (FIMR) Community Action Group (CAG) Plan to the Florida Department of Health and will have an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Committee members are welcome to join. For more details, please email Neseyah at NMcFarlane@hscmd.org.	
Adjournment	<p>The meeting adjourned at Noon. The next meeting will be hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams on Friday, January 16, 2026, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for the Children Issues Committee and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for Healthy Baby Taskforce meeting.</p>	