

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting

Friday, July 17, 2026

12:30 pm- 1:30 p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (25)	1. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Chair) 2. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 3. Val Butler, AIM -The Women's Fund Miami-Dade 4. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 5. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 6. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami- Dade (HSCMD) 7. Maria Sol Acosta, Community Care Plan 8. Candace M Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 9. Lorie, Cheryl A, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County WIC 10. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 11. Josephine N Gilbert, Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Brenda Guerra, Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 13. Eliana Ramos, The Honeycomb House 14. Fiorella P Vega, Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 15. Dayamyra Perez Fernandez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 16. Celina Gonzalez, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 17. Queen Holden, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 18. Cindy Deroy, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 19. Dr. Victoria Orrego Dunleavy, University of Miami 20. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 21. Debra Dhaity, The Children's Movement Florida 22. Leonor Auson, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 23. Michelle Denise Berkovits, University of Miami 24. Joan X Pierre-Louis, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 25. Andrea Hickson, NICU Alumni	
Welcome and Introductions	The July 2026 monthly meeting of the Healthy Baby Taskforce was brought to order by Tenesha Avent at 12:32 p.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Healthy Baby Taskforce May 2026 meeting minutes by Queen Holden, and the motion was seconded by Debra Dhaity.	

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"The Honeycomb House" Presentation	A presentation on "The Honeycomb House" organization and highlights of their Maternal and Infant Health Fair held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, by Eliana Ramos. Following the presentation, there was a Q&A discussion on how committee members could support this program.	Share presentation slide deck with members
Previous Action Items	The Healthy Baby Taskforce met virtually through Microsoft Teams on Friday, July 17, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. During this meeting, taskforce partners were encouraged to sign up to lead monthly health observances for the remainder of the year 2026. During this meeting, members were engaged in a Menti- meter poll activity to select a social media hashtag for the Healthy Baby Taskforce. This is to be used to find and collaborate on partners' social media posts who lead monthly health observances.	Share Health observances document with members.
Community Concerns Conversation & Health Observance Updates	Health Observance Month Highlight August: National Breastfeeding Month – Esther Louis as lead September: NICU Awareness Month – Leah Jayanetti as lead October: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month ○ National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, ○ Health Literacy Month ○ World Mental Health Day – 10/10 November: Prematurity Awareness– Leah Jayanetti as lead	
FHB/Healthy Baby Taskforce FY 25-26 Work Plan.	Major update as Report 2 of the FHB/Healthy Baby Taskforce FY 25-26 Work Plan spanning from <i>January 1 to June 30, 2026, has been completed and was submitted to the State on Monday, July 13, 2026.</i>	
Next Steps	• Follow up on specific health observance work items sign up. • Taskforce final poll selection of their social media hashtag. • FY26-27 Work Plan development.	
New Business	Report 2 FHB/Healthy Baby Taskforce FY 25-26 highlight presentation.	
Partner Updates	The Honeycomb House: Eliana Ramos gave a presentation on the "Honeycomb House" organization and highlights of their Maternal and Infant Health Fair held on Saturday, May 30, 2026. Email Eliana at thehoneycombh@gmail.com to connect. March of Dimes: Their Mom and Baby Wellness event will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 10 am to 1:00 pm, at the Simply Healthcare storefront in Hialeah. Diapers and	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

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	healthy food will be distributed. Flyers are forthcoming. For more details email Tenesha Avent at TAvent@marchofdimes.org. Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Tobacco Prevention Program: Laurie Varona shared report updates on the Healthy Baby brochure initiative on tobacco prevention and cessation for FY25-26. A total of 1567 brochures were distributed to families in community events and health fairs throughout Miami-Dade County in all three languages English, Spanish and Creole. They also distributed 697 Embrace for Both rack cards available in English and Spanish. Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Perinatal HIV Prevention Program: Queen Holden shared Miami-Dade is moving forward with the breastfeeding component to support the shared decision for HIV-positive mothers who choose to breastfeed. They are also revising their referral process once moms get referred to them and ask the providers or infectious disease doctors to refer patients to the PRIM clinic for specialized care. After mothers deliver and begin breastfeeding, the community providers resume care, monitoring HIV viral loads and providing ongoing lactation support. Also, the Perinatal HIV Prevention Program is looking for a registered nurse who has a background in lactation. Please contact Queen for more details Queen.Holden@flhealth.gov. University of Miami (UM): Michelle Berkovits from the Early Steps Program shared in April 2026, they switched over to a new data system which entails individualized family support plans. Also, the University of Miami have positions for Child Development Specialists either bilingual Creole or Spanish and Service Coordinators Case manager. Contact Michelle for more details mberkovits@med.miami.edu. Dr. Dunleavy, Victoria Orrego, associate professor in the School of Communication shared they are in partnership with the Center for Haitian Studies and are currently culturally adapting and implementing two (2) modules of group prenatal care incorporating elements from the Haitian culture regarding spirituality, coping nutrition and baby care. The first module is going to be on labor, delivery coping, and navigating the healthcare system. The second module is going to be about nutrition and infant wellness. Please email Dr. Victoria Dunleavy at vorrego@miami.edu for more details.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m. The next meeting will be hosted In-person on Friday, August 21, 2026, at United Way Miami (Ryder Room) from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.