

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Healthy Baby Taskforce Meeting

Friday, August 21, 2026

12:00 pm- 1:00 p.m. EST

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Membership Total (18)	1. Tenesha Avent, March of Dimes (Committee Chair) 2. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (Committee Liaison) 3. Praveena Saxena, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 4. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 5. Islamiyat N Adebisi, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 6. Alexandra Davis, Healthy Start Coalition Miami-Dade (HSCMD) 7. Candace M Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 8. Vicki Zou, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 9. Celina Gonzalez, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 10. Queen Holden, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 11. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Sandra Clesca, Jackson Health 13. Christelle Cesare, RHISE at Jackson's The Women's Hospital 14. Viviana Alvarado, The Women's Fund 15. Melody Espinoza, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 16. Juanita Granger, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 17. Dr. Cristina Brito, United Way Miami 18. Leah Jayanetti, ICU Baby	
Welcome and Introductions	The August 2026 monthly meeting of the Healthy Baby Taskforce was brought to order by Tenesha Avent at 12:15 p.m. All members were welcomed, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	There was a motion to approve the Healthy Baby Taskforce July 2026 meeting minutes by Zadymon Moore, and the motion was seconded by Candace Williams.	
Report 2 FHB/Healthy Baby FY 25-26 Highlight Presentation	Report 2 partner highlight contributions to the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY 25-26 Work Plan presentation by Eunice Mesumbe.	Share presentation slide deck with members
Previous Action Items	The Healthy Baby Taskforce convened in person on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at United Way Miami. During the meeting, partners were encouraged to sign up to lead the remaining monthly health observances for 2026. Members also participated in a Menti-	Share Health observances

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Community Concerns Conversation & Health Observance Updates	meter poll to select the final collaborative Healthy Baby Taskforce social media hashtag. The hashtag: #keepingmiamibabieshealthy will be used by partners overseeing each monthly observance. Additionally, Tenesha Avent was introduced as the new Chair of the Healthy Baby Taskforce, and nominations were opened for the Co-Chair position. Nominations for the Co-Chair position will close on September 14th, 2026, at 5 p.m. Tenesha also facilitated a brief discussion on recent legislative updates, related changes, and their potential implications.	document with members.
FHB FY 26-27 Work Plan Development.	Major updates as submission of the Florida Healthy Baby (FHB) FY 26-27 Work Plan report to the State is now required through their online dashboard system. The Taskforce bi-annual reporting dates for FY26-27 are as follows; - Report 1: July 1-December 31, 2026, due to the State by January 15, 2026. - Report 2: January 1-June 30, 2027, due to the State by July 16, 2027. As a reminder, the Florida Healthy Baby FY 26-27 priority areas will remain the same. These include: - Well Woman Care - Maternal Mortality and Morbidity - Infant Mortality - Dental or Oral Care - Children's Medical Homes The Taskforce will continue to focus on Infant Mortality and Children's Medical Homes for the FY 26-27.	Share Reporting tool with members.
Next Steps	Follow up on specific health observance work items sign up.	
New Business	National Breastfeeding Month Presentation by Esther Louis (<i>highlighting events hosted/supported honoring the health observance, pictures, success stories, how their audience was engaged, resources shared, number of individuals reached and any specific topics or themes that came up</i>).	Follow up on presentation materials.
Partner Updates	Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Tobacco Prevention Program: Laurie Varona shared materials on counts of kicks and Healthy Baby brochures on tobacco prevention and cessation in English, Spanish and Creole. To request these brochures, please email Laurie at Laurie.Varona@flhealth.gov .	Share Partner Updates email to Members following the meeting.

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	ICU Baby: On Sunday, November 8, 2026, they will have their Hope Parade in celebration of families who have babies in the NICU. On Wednesday, November 18, 2026, they will be partnering with the Healthy Start Coalition Miami-Dade (HSCMD) in preparation for the Prematurity Symposium. March of Dimes: Members interested in low-dose aspirin materials and information on its impact in preventing preeclampsia to please email Tenesha Avent at TAvent@marchofdimes.org. Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Perinatal HIV Prevention Program: Queen Holden shared that the Perinatal HIV Prevention Program is seeking to fill a registered nurse position, preferably with a background in lactation. Please contact Queen for more details Queen.Holden@flhealth.gov.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. The next meeting will be hosted <u>virtually</u> on Friday, September 18, 2026, through Microsoft Teams from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Create next meeting invite and send reminder.