



**Prevention Committee Meeting
Miami-Dade County Main Library
101 West Flagler Street, Auditorium, Miami, FL 33130
June 29, 2023 Minutes**

Approved August 31, 2023

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Bahamón, Mónica	x		Jones, Kamelah	
2	Buch, Juan	x		Larios, Alejandro	
3	Darlington, Tajma	x		Ocon, Yahima	
4	Duberli, Francesco	x		Philippe, Paulette	
5	Fernandez, Chad	x		Sanchez, Kenia	
6	Forrest, David	x		Shapiro, Juliana	
7	Ichite, Amanda	x		Thomas, Andrew	
8	Johnston, Jeremy		x	Villamizar, Kira	
9	Ledain, Ron		x	Watts, Teresa	
10	Lee, Aquilla		x	Williams, Stephen	
11	Lopez, Crystal		x		
12	Marqués, Jamie	x			
13	Mooss, Angela	x			
14	Orozco, Eddie	x			
15	Richardson, Ashley		x		
16	Sarmiento, Abril	x			
17	Shmuels, Diego	x			
Quorum = 7				Staff	
				Bontempo, Christina	

All documents referenced in these minutes were accessible to members and the public prior to and during the meeting at www.aidsnet.org/meeting-documents.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair, Abril Sarmiento, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

II. Introductions

Members, guests, and staff introduced themselves.

III. Housekeeping

Ms. Sarmiento presented the Housekeeping PowerPoint which includes general reminders, code of conduct, people first language, and meeting participation best practices.

IV. Floor Open to the Public

Committee Vice Chair, Dr. Angela Mooss, opened the floor to the public with the following statement:

Pursuant to Florida Sunshine Law, I want to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any item on our agenda today. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, I invite you to speak now. Each person will be given three minutes to speak. Please begin by stating your name and address for the record before you talk about

your concerns. BSR has a dedicated telephone line as well as a general email address for statements to be read into the record. No statements were received via the telephone line or email.

There were no comments. Dr. Mooss closed the floor for public comment.

V. Review/Approve Agenda

Ms. Sarmiento asked members to review the agenda; there were no changes.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved: Dr. Diego Shmuels

Seconded: Eddie Orozco

Motion: Passed

Representatives of the Miami Collaborative MSM Workgroup were present, so Ms. Sarmiento requested an amendment to add their report to the agenda.

Motion to amend the agenda to include The Miami Collaborative MSM Workgroup report.

Moved: Dr. Diego Shmuels

Seconded: Eddie Orozco

Motion: Passed

VI. Review and Approve Minutes of May 25, 2023

Members reviewed the minutes of May 25, 2023. There were no changes.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 25, 2023 as presented.

Moved: Eddie Orozco

Seconded: Dr. Diego Shmuels

Motion: Passed

VII. Special Presentation

▪ HIV & Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

Kamelah Jones, MPH, STD Epidemiologist at the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), presented epidemiological data, an overview on trends in HIV and STDs, including infectious syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia; and the FDOH response and intervention protocols for HIV and infectious syphilis.

Members discussed the risks for women of child-bearing age and pregnant women who are not receiving prenatal care. Better outreach efforts are needed to ensure women understand the risks of infectious syphilis to themselves and their babies, where to get tested, and the importance of treatment. Infectious syphilis is curable but if left untreated can be fatal to a baby. Although there is a shortage of Bicillin, the medication used to treat syphilis in pregnant women, doctors should not stop screening for syphilis. Women who test positive for HIV as part of routine screening should also be receiving STD testing, education, and treatment, (as needed). A considerable percentage of women who tested positive for HIV had previously received a positive syphilis test; this represents a missed opportunity for HIV prevention.

HIV initiatives such as Ending the HIV Epidemic need to acknowledge the greater issues and complexities of syndemics (two or more epidemics) and social determinants of health (SDOH) in health care and preventative services since, “syndemic interactions with SDOH can worsen disease epidemics and further the presence of health disparity.”

Members agreed it would be helpful to have a presentation on family planning to explore opportunities for prevention and care outside of FDOH.

VIII. Reports

▪ Membership

Staff advised there are still significant vacancies on committees and the Partnership. There is now a QR code which opens a brief New Member Interest Survey to facilitate interest; everyone is encouraged to share the QR code widely. Staff will contact those who complete the survey with next steps.

Staff announced the passing of long time member Frederick Downs, Jr.

▪ Partnership Report to Committees

Ms. Sarmiento announced the report is posted online for reference. The Partnership did not meet in June; the next meeting is July 17, 2023.

IX. Standing Business

▪ Prevention Mobilization Workgroups

□ Hispanic Initiative (Iniciativa Hispana)

Juliana Shapiro reported on recent presentations and member activities, and asked Prevention Committee members how Hispanic Initiative could help support their work. She suggested collaborations around National Faith HIV and AIDS Awareness Day (NFHAAD), National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day, and World AIDS Day (WAD). There is a need to educate religious leaders and expand stakeholders within religious communities. Staff offered to provide contacts for NFHAAD planning from the 2022 Recover Restart Refreshed, Inc. health fairs which were held at various churches in the county.

□ The Miami Collaborative MSM Workgroup

Andrew Thomas gave an update on mobile HIV testing and the Rapid Access Wellness (RAW) clinic. The workgroup has new Co-Chairs, Alex Moro and Anthony Monsalve. Members will be at several Walgreen's clinics for National HIV Testing Day.

X. New Business

There was no New Business.

XI. Announcements and Open Discussion

Monica Bahamon announced that today was her last meeting as she will be returning to school full-time. Members thanked her for her service to the committee. There were no further discussion items.

XII. Next Meeting

Dr. Mooss announced the next meeting is Thursday, August 31, 2023 at the Miami-Dade County Main Library.

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Sarmiento thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.