



**Jasmine Project
Community Action Network (CAN)
Jasmine Project CAN Meeting Minutes
[April 08, 2025]
[10:00 AM]**

Organizational Staff Members & Guests present:

Esther McCant (Jasmine Project, Metro Mommy Agency) Metromommyagency@gmail.com
Dr. Connie Morrow Bonilla, Jasmine Project, UM cmorrow@med.miami.edu
Dr. Cheryl Holder, Professor Medical Education, Internist, cheryl.lorie@flhealth.gov
Jamile Adams, Jasmine Project Participant, jamilaadams47@gmail.com
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Ana Maria Rodriguez Chief Program Officer, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami Dade, AMRodriguez@hscmd.org
Manuela Thomas Sr. Program Coordinator, FIU Black Mothers Care Plan, manuelathomas.mph@gmail.com
Tiquana Williams, Care Coordinator, Jasmine Project, txa166@med.miami.edu
Shantai Young, Clinical Program Manager, Jasmine Project, sly18@miami.edu



Order of Business

Introductions and Motivations

Overview of Agenda:

- Introductions.
- Announcements.
- Black History Month.
- DEI Policy Impacts as Partners.
- Action Plan Priority Survey Results.
- Decide on performance measures for Priority Areas (Poll).
- Partner Updates.

Meeting Recap & Objectives:

- The Working Group Meeting last month addressed. Jasmine Project update sign-up form on Facebook. Now include all the target zip codes. If hosting any events, please reach out to share with the community. Support is welcome for educational support group opportunities.
- Review of Meeting Minutes- Approved by Shantai Y. and Sophia L.
- Black Maternal Health Week- A New guide has been created, and Esther goes through various events taking place and local people who are highlighted.

Dr. Cheryl Holder Presents: Climate Health Outreach Team (C-HOT)

- How It Started:
Ms. Anna Mae, a previous patient with lots of medical problems, couldn't afford her light bill in 2016. This inspired Dr. Holder to learn more about climate change, where she found the first study in 1850 was conducted by a woman, exemplifying changes in the atmosphere in connection with heat. It showed greenhouse gases travelling into the atmosphere. As carbon dioxide increased, as did other things, sun rays didn't go back out like they should, getting blocked by the gases. This inevitably warms the planet. She understood that water absorbed the heat, and this caused sea levels to rise and atmospheric changes. She came to the conclusion that long-term changes in weather were a consequence of global warming.
- Global warming changes the climate, climate changes weather patterns.
- Climate impacts health in a few categories: Direct Impact, Disease Expansion, Disruption of Food Supply, and Emotional Unhealth.
- How It's Going:
In 2018, Dr. Holder started FCCA to respond to the question: "What can we do?"
They focus on engaging the community, educating the masses, and advocating for solutions that help people using an equitable approach, like emergency medicine. They bring care to communities that suffer the most because 'Climate action is for everyone.



The Miami-Dade Heat Taskforce is charged with informing, preparing, and protecting residents from heat illness. Six areas with the largest amount of heat have more concrete, lots of flooding, and low tree canopies. Places like Homestead, Florida City, Hialeah, Miami, Opa-Locka, and Miami Gardens were used as target interventions. C-HOT aims to create teams of educators and train volunteers to teach about climate change, heat, and outreach clinicians through webinars and provide resources. Climate change will kill millions in the next ten years.

- The Call:

They are actively recruiting those 16 years and older to help them in their efforts. Any organization, especially those health-oriented, is welcome to collaborate. They host virtual sessions that are both self-directed or guided. Lots of research projects across the nation and in Florida. Black Maternal Mortality overlaps with the same areas and at-risk population. They've created a webinar series for doulas to teach the communities they serve, so presenters reflect the communities they serve and that are impacted. Ultimately, the goal is to improve health outcomes for everyone, including those who are typically left outside to fend for themselves. They fundraise to offset the cost of volunteer hours of those who complete the training programs.

- Lenise Asked, "Did you find that lack of funding for low-income in terms of funding for heat and air conditioning contributed to the disparities? What's being done to create funding for the existing ones? Dr. Holder (paraphrasing) answered, Yes, due to poor housing quality, cool air slips through poor insulation and cracks. LIHEAP is the only program used to aid in this regard, and the funding is being discontinued soon. Most of the money gets used up by northern states during winter. There are no separate funds for cooling during the summer because this is a new problem due to climate change. The Infrastructure Reduction Act allowed a little funding, but that's been depleted. Dade County has no more funding. FPL has a little funding, but that's used up as well. This year will be particularly bad because of the lack of LIHEAP funding and there isn't much funding available. The plan will be cooling centers, urging people to take fluids and other practical measures. Citizens need to understand what clothing they need, how to stay as cool as possible, and when to get out. Pregnant people have additional concerns, and that's a big part of why they're urging everyone to get involved early. Esther adds that there needs to be an assessment of extreme flooding, heat, and overall disaster preparedness. Pregnant people aren't excluded from experiencing that. Some people don't know they're in a flood zone. We need to ask, how does that limit their access to care? Their plan for hurricane season? To take a walk? To get to a library? Can you evacuate?

Next steps: Working Group postponed

- CAN Meeting commences on the second Tuesday of every other month. For the next call, the group will try to get more dads on the call as Father's Day and Men's Health Month are upcoming.
- Bonilla update with SDOH plan. HRSA will provide new guidance regarding resubmittal of the SDOH plan. It was focused on equity and inclusion, but with the crackdowns on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the group will wait to see how that is addressed. Women's Alliance for Infant and Maternal Health of Miami-Dade just started their meetings in January. Wishing the best for that group and the CAN Group is anticipated that they will be working with AIM. Redoing the Jasmine Project health education classes as well.



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- Ceaver is completing a research project and is interested in recruiting African-American pregnant people at 26 weeks of gestation or less. Focused on fetal education in pregnancy and stillbirth prevention, and enhancing the understanding that pregnant people have. She would like to offer paid participation to anyone willing. She will provide a flyer to share with Dr. Bonilla and Chantel.
- Various programs and events are shared for this upcoming weekend in the name of Black Maternal Health Week.

Action Items:

- *Complete the priority area survey by CAN members.*

Next Steps:

- *Next Working Group meeting: July 10, 2025 - [REGISTER HERE](#)*
- *Next CAN Meeting: August 12, 2025 10:00 AM - [REGISTER HERE](#)*

Important Links & References:

- *June 10, 2025 [Zoom Recording Link](#)*
- *Jasmine Project CAN Priority Area Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/metromommyagency/jasmine-project-partner-collaborati>*
- *Catherine Toms, Green Cars for Kids: ctoms@greencars4kids.org. <https://greencars4kids.org>*
- *Sen. Lori Berman is sponsoring a paid parental leave bill (SB 76: <https://form.jotform.com/242143137634451>
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/76>*
- *Florida specific data: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/womens-health/pregnancy/breastfeeding-initiation-and-duration-florida-2015-2020.pdf>*
- *Have you connected with the MOD to collaborate on their low-dose aspirin program: <https://form.jotform.com/232534936727161>*
- *Ms. Tracy Early Head Start (786-385-5974) Link to Application: <https://hscmd.org/team-dad/>*
- *2025 Jasmine Project CAN Meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/livehealthymg/videos/our-village/2594573984052194/>*