Your Role as a Partnership Mentor

Community Coalition Roundtable, October 26, 2026

Presentation created by Behavioral Science Research Corp.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

MIAMI-DADE HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP

The Importance of Mentorship

- Partnership and Committee work is full of acronyms, terminology, data, and processes which may not be familiar to everyone.
- It is easy to become discouraged and confused without having a trusted guide.
- **Members** have the expertise to help incoming members start their Partnership journey with confidence!

“A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.”
~ Oprah Winfrey

Mentoring Before Membership

- Partnership members are subject to the Florida Government in the Sunshine Law.
- This means no two members can meet outside a publicly noticed meeting to discuss any business that might come before the Partnership.
- By mentoring an applicant *prior to their on-boarding*, you are not in violation of the Sunshine Law.
- Let's look at what you can expect to do as a mentor.

"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."

~ Steven Spielberg

Before Your Meeting

Check in with your Mentee in the week before the meeting.

- Set a time for a call.
- If you want to have a Teams meeting with your mentee, staff can set it up for you!

Ask your mentee:

- Do they have the meeting details (date, time, location)?
- Have they RSVP'd?
- Do they know where to find meeting documents?

Do they have any questions?

- Anything you're not sure of, please ask staff!

"To be prepared is half the victory"
~ Miguel de Cervantes

During Your Meeting

- Invite your mentee to sit with you.
- Encourage your Mentee to ask questions. There will likely be terminology or processes unfamiliar to them.
- **STOP!** If you sense your mentee has a question, ask the Chair to take a pause so you can explain or offer guidance.
- Encourage your mentee to join discussions and participate in reading documents aloud during document review.
- During discussions, ask your mentee if they want to share insights or expertise.

"Every meeting is an opportunity for people to feel seen, heard, and respected."

~ Minette Norman

After Your Meeting

Check in with your mentee right after the meeting or set a time for a call.

- How are they feeling about joining the committee?
- Do they have questions that were unanswered?
- Do they want to explore another committee with a mentor?
- Do they want to continue being mentored?

Let staff know and feel free to provide feedback.

“No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care”
~ Theodore Roosevelt

After Membership Begins

- You can continue mentoring until your mentee is officially voted onto the Partnership or a committee.
- After your mentee joins, continue to sit together and offer guidance and encouragement during the meeting.
- Staff will take over the “Before Your Meeting” activities.

“The Partnership is a true live example of community empowerment and working to improve population health.”

~ Partnership Member, 2026

Ready to be a Mentor?

If you’re interested in being a mentor, let staff know.

You’ll be paired with an applicant who requests a mentor.

Ask Staff!

We're here to help!

Please ask us if your mentee has questions you can't answer and let us know how it's going!

- Marlen Meizoso, M.A., Project Manager/Research Associate
  - Care and Treatment Committee
  - Medical Care Subcommittee
  - Housing Committee
- Christina Bontempo, Project Manager/Community Liaison
  - The Partnership
  - Community Coalition Roundtable
  - Strategic Planning Committee
  - Prevention Committee

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