State: Florida
Community Name: West Kendall - Healthy West Kendall
Population Size: 356000
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 20
Community Structure: County
Other: unincorporated Miami-Dade
Community Type: Suburban (offices, apartments and shops)
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment Name: Joe A. Martinez
Title: Commissioner of District II
Office Mailing Address: 4081 SW 152 Avenue, Unit 21, Miami, Florida 33185
Community Contact Name: Michelle Mejia
Email: 
Position: Assistant Vice President
Telephone: 
Role: Michelle is the AVP of Health Promotion & Strategic Partnerships at West Kendall Baptist Hospital. She is the executive directing Healthy West Kendall (HWK) an initiative created in 2014 designed to encourage the community to embrace health and wellness. HWK’s vision is to create a vibrant and thriving community with a mission to educate, inspire and promote well-being; make healthy living easy and attainable. Part of her duties include overseeing the Healthy West Kendall Advisory Board which is composed of a diverse group of community leaders from agencies such as the United Way of Miami-Dade, Alliance for Aging, local government, local police, school board member and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, and others. Michelle will oversee the age-friendly work of HWK and ensure it aligns with the Malcolm Baldrige Excellence Framework.

Older Adult Involvement: We intend to add a community resident 60 and above to attend our Healthy West Kendall Advisory Board and provide the voice and perspective on all issues discussed. In addition to the Advisory Board we have a lens/focus on the following four drivers: education, economic vitality, safety and quality of life as well as four innovation drivers: Arts & Culture, Green and Sustainability, Health & Wellness and Technology. These important drivers help us organize our work, plan and implement changes and improvements and are important for every community to offer. We will create and
hardwire the lens through aging through all of these drivers. We plan on hosting focus groups to better understand what is important to this population and how we can best engage them to become active participants in the community. This information will guide us in choosing the domains for the Age Friendly action plan. We will enhance our volunteer program for older adults to provide a sense of purpose and companionship. We realize the benefits this can have on addressing loneliness. During the pandemic we created a Friendship Hotline so that older adults could have a friendly voice to call. This program was led by older adult volunteers and later recognized by the Florida Hospital Association. We will reactivate this initiative and expand on its reach. We will also add an older adult to partner with our Communication's Administrator, Katy Wilhelm, to ensure all communication is created and developed with older adults in mind. Healthy West Kendall has a weekly newsletter that includes information relevant to our entire community and highlighting services within it. Such information includes but is not limited to local food drives, volunteer opportunities, library services and job training. We plan to add an Older Adults' hub to compile important and interesting information for this population. Through our Faith-based working group we can engage older adults congregations members to take an active role in designing the community they wish to live in. Surveys will enable us to better understand how older adults wish to be involved in our age-friendly efforts.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

As previously mentioned, we currently partner with established agencies that address issues that affect older adults. However, our goals are not always aligned. We believe that it's important to begin collaboration (starting with reviewing strategic goals and plans) with these partner agencies to work towards common goals. These efforts will also help us identify other organizations with similar goals and objectives that we have yet to partner with and also show other agencies the importance of incorporating age-friendly policies, systems and environmental changes. We will collaborate closely with our Parks & Recreation department to promote the Active Older Adults program that provides and caters activities such as fitness, leisure and social activities for adults. The West Kendall area is unique in that has approximately 200 small adult living facilities. We will enhance our outreach programs to these facilities. We work closely with our Faith-based organizations and our local schools, we will plan activities and communications to bridge gaps and offer programming and services. We also need to collaborate with our FDIC’s to collaborate and work collaboratively on projects. We will work closely with the office of the Mayor and the Executive responsible for Elder Affairs to support the County's Age Friendly initiative. As well as assign a representative to represent Healthy West Kendall on the Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade Elder's Committee, which promotes and encourages healthy aging. We are fortunate to have the President of Miami-Dade College Kendall Campus on our Advisory Board. The MDC is rich in their offerings of Adult Education programs. This includes upskilling and job training. Our aspiration is to inspire people to become life long learners.
Healthy West Kendall was selected to participate in Communities of Excellence 2026 (COE). COE is a national collaborative that uses the Malcolm Baldrige Framework to elevate community work. The Malcolm Baldrige Framework is a quality improvement tool used in all industries except in a community setting. The national collaborative has set out to demonstrate that it can also work and improve local communities. During our journey, we have identified formal and informal leaders, created a shared vision for the community. We created and update a Community Profile on a yearly basis; this document has helped us understand who we serve, who are our customers and residents. We created a Community Metrics Dashboard that helps us benchmark, set targets for improvement and measure results. The governing body able to add 'communities' as a sector to receive the Malcolm Baldrige award is Congress. The hopes are that before the year 2026, this goal will have been realized. We are excited to use this proven Framework as we embark on our Age Friendly journey.

Optional Resolution: Error in form input for this field only.
Logo or Image: Error in form input for this field only.
Website: www.westkendallbaptisthospital.org
Twitter 2: 
Facebook 1: West Kendall Baptist Hospital
Facebook 2: 
Additional Social Media: Instagram - baptisthealthsf