



First Steps Central MN Joint Powers Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes

February 12, 2026 at 9-10am

Sherburne County Government Center, Oak Room

Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 217 844 115 779 0 | Passcode: y4ER3PF6



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Joint Powers Board Attendees: Commissioners Gary Gray, Pam Benoit, Jeanne Holland, Raeanne Danielowski

Attendees: Nicole Ruhoff, Leah Krotzer, Kelly Ball, Courtney Ferreira, Sarah Grosshuesch, Lindsay Hackett, Janet Goligowski

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES / MOTIONS
1. Call to Order <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Approval of Minutes (11-13-25 Meeting)b. Approval of Agenda	Meeting called to order at 9:04a by Commissioner Holland <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Commissioner Benoit made a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Gray made a second motion. Motion approved by all membersb. No additional to meeting agenda. Commissioner Gray made a motion to approve agenda. Commissioner Benoit made a second motion. Motion approved by all members.
2. Action Items	None noted.

3. Family Home Visiting

- a. Regional Programming Updates (Kelly Ball, Leah Krotzer)
- b. Budget Updates (Leah Krotzer)
- c. Individual County Updates (Directors)

a. Regional programming updates:

- Reviewed the Family Home Visiting Family Feedback Survey report
 - 4th annual family survey, soliciting input from our current families
 - 91% highly likely to recommend the program to other families
 - 97% reported feeling confident that they can do a good job raising their child/children since participating in home visiting
 - 99% expressed improvement in their lives since beginning home visiting
 - In addition, gather suggested improvements and additional resources – all of which drives our continuous quality improvement of programming, useful in outreach development, and incredibly positive encouragement for our teams in their daily work
- Reviewed Cheers for Peers, which is our internal feedback – passing positive affirmations and accolades for accomplishments of each of our First Steps colleagues
- Reviewed 2025 Year-End Data
 - Overview:
Births: Over 5,500 births in our 4-county region
Referrals: 943 referrals from 75 community partners
Families: 688 families served in our family home visiting programming
Visits: 5,207 home visits to our family by our 26 Home Visitors
Completed: 148 Families completed home visiting programming this year
- Debut our new Promo Video: <https://firststepscentralmn.org/fhv-materials>

b. Budget Updates:

- End of year (2025) closed year 3 (of 5 year cycle) of Strong Foundations grant from MDH; 92% expenditure of budgets (expected fluctuations due to staffing)

- Billed \$470,000 in 3rd party reimbursement (insurance) for Strong Foundation family visits and received \$345,000 to-date
 - Noting that Strong Foundation grant funds around half of our caseload/program with utilization of MCH, TANF, and other funding sources for the other half of our families/programming.
- c. Individual County updates:
- Wright: Shared how Family Home Visiting is being affected with current conditions (similarities to COVID); offering flexibility in visits and resource referrals; expect long-term health impacts for families deferring prenatal and/or pediatric care
 - Benton: Odam Medical Clinic located in Foley, additional location in Metro, along with existing mobile services expanding mobile services to rural areas for prenatal care and wound care through 5-year research grant.
<https://odammedicalgroup.com/>
 - Stearns: Two new home visiting nurses hired, attending MECSH curriculum training this week. Home visiting nurses share FTE in WIC. Model Jail Grant that funded PIO programming ended December 2025; fortunate to continue PIO programming with alternative funding streams. Hispanic families make up about 1/3 of caseloads, have seen requests for virtual/phone visits, some families have declined continuing services. Working to meet families where they are at and meet resource needs. Supporting staff with Reflective Consultation with IMH Specialist and Supervisors, reviewing safety planning (staff and families), and professional boundaries.
 - Sherburne: Upcoming in late summer, long term FMLA for one home visiting nurse

4. Adjourn	Motion to adjourn at 10:08a by Commissioner Benoit. Second motion by Commissioner Gray. Motion approved by all members
2026 Meeting Dates: <ul data-bbox="147 332 378 462" style="list-style-type: none">• May 14• August 13• November 12	