



First Steps Central MN Joint Powers Board Meeting Agenda

November 13, 2025 at 9-10am

Sherburne County Government Center, Willow Room

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

Meeting ID: 280 104 118 34 | Passcode: iq2qY2rn



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Joint Powers Board Attendees: In-person/Commissioners: Pam Benoit; Virtual/Commissioners: Gary Gray (Vice-Chair), Tarryl Clark, Raeanne Danielowski

Additional Attendees: In-person: Nicole Ruhoff, Sarah Grosshuesch, Kelly Ball, Leah Krotzer; Virtual: Courtney Ferreira, Janet Goligowski

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES / MOTIONS
1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approval of Minutes (8-14-25 Meeting) b. Approval of Agenda 	Meeting called to order at 9:06a by Commissioner Gray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commissioner Benoit made a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Clark made a second motion. Motion approved by all members b. No additional to meeting agenda. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve agenda. Commissioner Benoit made a second motion. Motion approved by all members
2. Action Items	n/a
3. Family Home Visiting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regional Programming Updates (Kelly Ball, Leah Krotzer) b. Program Highlight: Promoting First Relationships (Sherburne County PHN Laurie Johnson) c. Budget Updates (Leah Krotzer) d. Individual County Updates (Directors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regional Programming Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently serving 370 families regionally; serving 90% of caseload • 124 program completions YTD • Continuing to develop FHV graduation celebration ideas – presented card and brainstormed ideas around video congrats • December 11th FS CoP – invitation to send written or virtual message (or join in person!) to celebrate the Family Home Visiting team • FHV trainings this fall – more tools in the toolbox; Mothers & Babies Curriculum (mental health support) and Promoting First Relationships (MECSH curriculum components) b. Program Highlight by PHN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Visitor walk through of the curriculum tools used with families from the recent Promoting First Relationships training c. Budget Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expended 67% of the Strong Foundation grant. We are a little less than three-quarters expended due to some staffing changes (FMLA, turnover/hiring process). AND we have billed for over \$350,000 in 3rd party (or insurance) reimbursement for Strong Foundation families' visits (receiving \$223,000 thus far).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting that Strong Foundation grant funds around half of our caseload/programming with utilization of MCH, TANF, and other funding sources for the other half of our families/programming. <p>d. Individual County Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benton: New hire this past quarter has been participating in trainings to add tools to the toolbox (Circle of Security, Mothers & Babies), focused on bringing programming to FHV with a focus on male caregivers (Nurturing Fathers program), and strengthening WIC referrals; partnering with St Bens nurses to bring a lens of public health; plans to bring activities to Salem outpost location “Fun with FS” • Sherburne: Recent Medica revenue billing glitch (reimbursement delay due to error); Fun with First Steps launch at Family Resource Center offering activities with families supporting attachment/bonding activities alongside socializing & connection with other families – aligns with MECSH and CHIP goals; engaging in conversations and work partnership with CHOPPER-SCSU and ContraCare partnership focused on prenatal care and birth outcomes • Stearns: Strengthening workforce with 2 new hires of 4 openings, 4 student nurses in 2026 (building partnership of workforce development with universities); developing relationships with ContraCare for TB; Family Resource Center Co-design model working to develop interest and sustainability with the community for Family Resource Center development; developing co-programming incarcerated populations for attachment focused concepts with family & children’s division • Wright: FHV Fully staffed PHN Home Visitors & very full caseloads (staff have taken on extra hours) – down staff in other areas including FHV Supervisor (hoping to hire in the future); may need to fine tune population served during shortages
4. Adjourn	Motion to adjourn at 10:03a by Commissioner Benoit. Second motion by Commissioner Clark. Motion approved by all members
2026 Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 12 • May 14 • August 13 • November 12 	Chair & Vice-Chair (2025-2026 term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Commissioner Holland • Vice-Chair: Commissioner Gray