



First Steps Central MN Joint Powers Board Meeting Agenda

August 14, 2025 at 9-10am

Sherburne County Government Center, Birch Room *location change due to technology limitations in Oak Room

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

Meeting ID: 276 363 795 205 | Passcode: HJ365gy2



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

Additional Attendees: In-person: Nicole Ruhoff, Sarah Grosshuesch, Kelly Ball; Virtual: Courtney Ferreira, Lindsay Hackett

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES / MOTIONS
1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approval of Minutes (5-8-25 Meeting)b. Approval of Agenda	Meeting called to order at 9:05a by Commissioner Gray <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Benoit made a second motion. Motion approved by all members of the Board.b) No additions to meeting agenda. Commissioner Benoit made a motion to approved agenda. Commissioner Clark made a second motion. Motion approved by all members of the Board.
2. Action Items—Proposed 2026 meetings dates, times, locations Joint Powers Board Bylaws <i>SECTION 9. Meetings. Meetings will be scheduled at least two times per year. Meeting dates, times and sites will be posted publicly on the First Steps website one week prior to Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Open meeting laws will be followed.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Dates: February 12, May 14, August 13, November 12b. Times: 9:00am-10:00amc. Locations: Hybrid (Virtual via Teams & In-Person at Sherburne County Government Center)	Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve proposed 2026 dates. Commissioner Gray made a second motion. Motion approved by all members of the Board.
3. Family Home Visiting <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Regional Programming Updates (Kelly Ball)b. Budget Updates (Kelly Ball)	a) Currently serving over 340 families regionally <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Includes 12 cross-countyii. Meeting SF grant requirement at 86% of caseload capacity in Q2iii. 104 program completions YTD (average 100 per year)

<p>c. Individual County Updates (Directors)</p>	<p>Opportunities for partnership growth in our communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Family Resource Centers-driven by community needs and identified gaps. Public Health are partners but not the drivers of services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Benton: received board approval to put in a letter of intent for FRC at Salem location. b. Sherburne: weekly infant feeding support group located at Mainstreet FRC in Elk River. Mainstreet expanding to Big Lake next month. St Cloud 1010 location coordinator just hired, Sherburne WIC clinic held there every Wednesday, HHS Financial Services there a few days a week. c. Stearns: Two community schools located within the school district. Early stages of FRC work with great potential to partner on services in the future. d. Wright: FRC coordinator attends Buffalo Baby Café for resource connection & support. v. Healthcare Systems-use data to drive connections and collaboration, systems have competing demands and priorities, potential to embed in workflow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CentraCare Health System: 48% of First Steps births occur at CC facilities. 80% of CC births are from Benton & Sherburne families. SCH NICU: automatically refer families upon hospital discharge. Potential for growth for prenatal referrals; have seen increases with champion SW within CC OB & Women’s Health Clinic who started in early 2024.-saw a 373% increase from 2023 to 2024 prenatal referrals from their clinic. b. North Memorial Health-Maple Grove Hospital: 22% of First Steps region births occur at MGH. 31% of Sherburne & 38% of Wright births occur at MGH. Partner with Hennepin County on outreach strategies. Between our 5 counties, our residents make up 73% of MGH births yet receive low double digit referrals annually. Little to none from their OB feeder clinics. Have asked MDH to help partner. Have next meeting on Sept 10 with MGH leadership and Hennepin. <p>b) Budget update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. YTD expended 51% of the Strong Foundation grant budget ii. Billed over \$200,000 to 3rd party reimbursement for Strong Foundations visits, received \$111,000 reimbursement back thus far. <p>c) Individual County updates</p> <p><u>Benton</u>: New PHN started in May, hoping to build Fatherhood programming capacity, approved to pursue Nurturing Fathers & Circle of Security curriculums. Ongoing ebb and flow of referrals and caseloads with recent program graduations.</p>
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	<p><u>Stearns</u>: 2 PHNs recently resigned, 1 PHN will be on FMLA by end of month. Shifting of cases to cover during staffing gaps and training/model onboarding limitations. Two newest PHNs able to attend MECSH foundational training (Brooke in July, Katelyn in October).</p> <p><u>Wright</u>: 2 PHN Supervisors resigned, authorized to repost one at this time, anticipating being able to post second position as well. Sarah has opportunity to be closer to the FHV work as she is covering supervision gaps. Averaging 50 birth transcripts (new births to county residents) per week. 28% of Wright County's population are 18 years or younger. Looking to pursue ways to keep emergency preparedness efforts family-centered following recent preparedness conference and family reunification exercise.</p> <p><u>Sherburne</u>: Staffing stable. Kelly to become Train the Trainer for Mothers & Babies at the end of August, will train all First Steps staff in early November; MB is a supplemental curriculum focused on stress reduction and perinatal mental health supports. Promising Practices pilot grant continues to see growth and connections in the community; we were able to train CHW as Child Passenger Safety (Car Seat Technician), able to bring that knowledge to families and the community.</p>
<p>4. Adjourn</p> <p>a. Remaining 2025 Meeting Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, November 13, 9a-10a—join via Teams or Sherburne Co <u>Willow</u> Rm 	<p>Discussed November meeting date; Commissioner Holland noted she was unavailable and offered alternative dates. Alternative dates did not work for any of the other Commissioners. Meeting date was not changed.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Gray. Second by Commissioner Benoit.</p>