



Start Strong Agenda
October 19, 2026

Meeting Highlights and Action Plan

Topic/ Presenter	Key Points	Action Items <i>Including Responsible Party/Timeline if applicable</i>
Meeting Focus	Subcommittees	
Meeting start and stop time		
Mission and Vision and centering moment	3-3:05 AnnMarie Schmersal	
Introductions	3:05-3:15 Brief roundtable introductions, announcements and updates	
Breakout into subcommittees	<i>Subcommittee #1 Preterm Birth Prevention-</i> Priority- SDOH stabilization, early pregnancy identification and care, insurance enrollment and utilization of VABs (value added benefits)- CHWs to help fill this gap B2a. Social Determinants of Health Data • Ongoing data collection on SDOH. • New CHW-based supports launching in 2026 (Mercy, Rocking Horse, FYI, PRC, Help Me Grow, CCCHD/MCOs). B5. Increase Insurance Enrollment & Benefit Utilization • Raise awareness of Medicaid eligibility and MCO benefits. • Maintain outreach at early pregnancy access points (PRC, ER, health department, sexual health & wellness clinic). <i>Subcommittee #2 Breastfeeding and Safe Sleep</i> – BF support group, increased community lactation support capacity, next steps? CLC contact database? Breastfeeding issue referral algorithm?	

	<i>Subcommittee #3 Fatherhood and Health Equity</i> – Option to 1.) Divvy up and mix with other subcommittee to ensure this lens is being applied to strategies. Record how we are meeting this objective within each strategy. 2) Dad page on website- review, update, finalize? <i>Subcommittee #4: Community Engagement and Awareness-</i> Business sector engagement- Family Friendly Employer added to Best of Springfield- yay! Connecting with Think Tank / recruiting community champions with lived experience Produce Regular Social Media Content- We now have a Facebook page and are ready for content! • Develop a schedule for posts • Create reels and stories on maternal/infant health topics. • Highlight community partners and resources weekly. • Post culturally appropriate content (Haitian Creole, Spanish)	
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2026 Meeting Schedule, all meetings 3-4pm except NOV/ DEC combined meeting will be
2:30-4pm: 2026 Full Coalition Meeting topics

OCT 19 subcommittees working meeting
Nov/Dec: extended roundtable updates, subcommittee reports