



## Morristown United for Healthy Living

February 22, 2016, 5:30pm- 7:30pm

St. Margaret's Catholic Church

### Minutes

#### Agenda:

- 5:30 **Light Dinner & Networking**
- 5:50 **Welcome & introductions** (Linda Murphy, *Neighborhood House*)
- 6:00 **Overview of Morristown United for Healthy Living**
- **Who we are** (Michelle Roers, *United Way of Northern NJ*)
  - **Census tract 435** (Solangel Patarroyo, *Morristown Medical Center, Atlantic Health*)
  - **Membership and community engagement** (Lina Monsalve, *Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs*)
- 6:20 **Sharing Data**
- **North Jersey Health Collaborative Morris County data** (Ashley Anglin, *Atlantic Health System*)
  - **Neighborhood Survey** (Ashley Anglin)
- 6:45 **Sharing of community insights** (all; facilitated by Linda Murphy)
- What does this data mean to you? Does it reflect what we are seeing in the community?
  - What are we missing? (other health issues)
- 7:10 **Working together: Process & next steps** (Michelle Roers)
- 7:25 **Set next meeting**
- Sign up to join the Morristown United Coalition!
- 7:30 **Close**

#### Meeting Goals:

- ▶ Introduce the Morristown United Team
- ▶ Outline Coalition goals and process
- ▶ Recruit new members
- ▶ Share community data
- ▶ Get input on the top health needs of the community



## What Does a Healthy Community Mean to You?

- Lower rates of communicable diseases
- Teaching residents how to live a healthy lifestyle and how to spend money wisely
- Education to the community about healthy options
- Learning to get along with one another
- A happy community
- An educated community
- People with papers who know their rights, are safe, and have less fear
- Safe working conditions
- Youth involvement (especially related to youth violence)
- Communication/collaboration among organizations
- Long-term health care; not just thinking of health in the short-term
- People can receive services despite their ability to pay
- Projects where community members can work together and build a sense of community

## Barriers to Creating a Healthy Community

- The price of local restaurants
- Behavior change; “it’s harder to be healthy than it is to be unhealthy”
- Competition for resources among local non-profits
- Lack of resources
- Misconceptions about the immigrant community
- Access to existing resources
- Funding
- People being barred from service because they don’t meet certain criteria
- Access to affordable healthy food
- Kids not choosing healthy food options (even when they are provided to them)
- Awareness; “people don’t know what they don’t know”
- Understanding we are all *one* community
- Need for greater communication to community residents
- Need for greater communication among community organizations
- Language barriers
- Relationships
- Transportation



## Feedback on Data Presented to the Coalition

Confirming Evidence	Additional issues (what's missing?)	For Consideration/Potential Strategies
The data appears to represent local school needs/health issues	We need more K-12 student data; may be possible to get some mental health data from the schools	Clothes closet at Calvary Baptist was mentioned as a resource
Other agencies confirmed that they have difficulty when trying to access mental health services for their clients	Focus on the built environment; there was discussion around the striking difference in appearance between the green and this census tract	Surplus food available; work to better get food to those who need it/eliminate duplication in distribution
Housing was confirmed as an issue for the neighborhood	Middle-income may have particular difficulty in accessing resources	Clergy Council was mentioned as a potential partner
Income inequality was confirmed as an issue	Focus and data on the unique needs of the immigrant community	Cultural issues related to food access/the use of "free" services (i.e., may be a pride issue for Latino community)
Affordability of healthy food was confirmed as an issue (and driver for other issues)		We should include more partners in the schools in this initiative
		Bringing additional social workers in to serve the area was mentioned as an intervention to improve access to care/social services
		Need to bring resources to where people are
		Law enforcement mentioned as a needed partner
		The Human Relations Commission as a needed partner



## Key Themes of Discussion

- The need for coordination of resources, not necessarily the creation of new resources
- The need for greater communication and collaboration between community organizations serving this area; strategic plans for how to coordinate efforts
- The need to address issues of the built environment (safe routes to school; lighting; appearance compared to the Green)
- The need to address education and access related to the top health issues identified by the community

Next meeting: **Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm; location TBD**