



## Morristown United for Healthy Living

October 23, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, St. Margaret's Church

### Agenda

#### Minutes in Blue

5:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

5:40 **Upcoming Events/Activities**

- **October 26, 5:00 – 7:30pm**; Morris Arts event at the Totems at Early St. Garden
- **December 21**; Winter Solstice event at the Early St. Garden (Grow It Green)
- **December 15**; Deadline for ACA health insurance enrollment. SPREAD THE WORD!

-Additional notes and resources:

- Ashley shared resources distributed at the Under One Roof conference and the NJ Citizen Action train the trainer event (distributed with this agenda)
- Carlos can help partner organizations distribute flyers/resources in the community. Contact [morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org](mailto:morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org) with any information you would like to distribute.
- Community concern: People living in homelessness or in other situations of hardship with health issues. What can we do when we see people in need?
  - Morristown Medical Center is forming an initiative with social workers to intervene in these situations and connect people to care. Sol will provide more information at the next meeting
  - People can go to Our Promise (51 Washington St.) to access support and resources
  - There is a difficulty finding immediate shelter; important for people to build relationships/connections to their community

5:50 **Joint Learning Opportunity**

- Data Update; Ashley Anglin, PhD, *Atlantic Center for Population Health Sciences*
  - [CLICK HERE](#) to see new data on the 435 from [www.njhealthmatters.org](http://www.njhealthmatters.org);  
contact [Ashley.anglin@atlanticealth.org](mailto:Ashley.anglin@atlanticealth.org) with any questions
- Continuum of Care Update; Dominique Tornabe, *Family Promise of Morris County*
  - Slides from this update distributed with these minutes; contact [d.tornabe@familypromisemorris.org](mailto:d.tornabe@familypromisemorris.org) with any questions

6:10 **Grant Applications and Current Funding Updates**

- New Jersey Healthy Communities Network
  - NJHCN grant application submitted by deadline; decisions will be announced mid-December. Primary partners on this grant include Grow It Green Morristown (creating a mobile market in the 435) and the Town of Morristown (park improvements at Pocahontas Park)



- MUHL Mini-Grant Updates

- No update from Townology, Inc.

-Family Promise of Morris County: Good Neighbor Workshop held on 10/19; 16 people attended and gave very positive feedback on the evaluation forms!

6:20 **Policy for Action Review**

- We reviewed our policy for how sub-groups and partner organizations can take action on behalf of Morristown United, including an event/activity form that can be submitted to the Steering Committee ([morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org](mailto:morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org)) for support and approval. This policy is available online [HERE \(www.njhealthmatters.org/tiles/morristownunited\)](http://www.njhealthmatters.org/tiles/morristownunited)

6:30 **Actions Taken Since Last Meeting (by sub-groups)**

6:40 **Break-Outs by Group**

7:20 **Report-Backs by Group**

- Training sub-group:

- The group discussed concerns/complaints that we have been receiving from community members and expressed a need to take action. They brainstormed next-steps and ideas including the need for resident advocates, engaging Town Council, meeting with other local leaders, keeping sense of community and not creating barriers, and learning more about the issues (potentially through surveying residents).

-Decision was made to learn more about the structure and functioning of the Morristown Housing Authority (reach out to an existing contact), meet again, and come up with a specific strategy for addressing these issues.

- Built Environment/Sense of Community sub-group

-The group made progress on our plan to create lending libraries in the neighborhood. They discussed potential placement of the libraries (e.g., public vs. private property; close to bus stops or parks, at a local business such as Verrilli's Bakery, on busy intersection such as Cutler and Speedwell). Ashley will follow up with Town contact. Carlos will reach out to local businesses and to the organizers from the Morristown Festival of Books. The decision was made to start with 2 libraries. Morris Habitat will provide designs/construction. Several groups volunteered to collect books for the libraries (we'll need a place to store extra books).

- The group also further discussed plans for a community event to be held during the holidays (current idea, between Thanksgiving and Christmas) to bring people together for fun and fellowship. Ideas include, having a meal together, inviting artists, holding a "battle of the bands" to engage local musicians (especially youth), and giving away prizes (ideally donated from local organizations/businesses).

- Concerns were raised about uncertainty for businesses on Speedwell given that there is no clear timeline for Phase 4 of the Speedwell Redevelopment plan. An original strategy for the group was to offer funding to businesses for façade improvements or changes to make healthy foods more accessible, but if business owners are waiting to see when the construction will take place (and not knowing if they will be able to afford new rents when redevelopment occurs),



many will not want to make any changes at this time. It's very stressful for business owners. The group would like to help advocate on behalf of the businesses (maybe add a line to our statement for Town Council meetings). Dominique is meeting with Historic Speedwell in early November and will invite members of the group to attend. Carlos will reach out to the Historic Preservation Society for support.

7:30 Close

Next meeting: **November 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30pm**

**Our Impact Statement:** We will improve the condition of existing homes, increase access to affordable housing stock (rented and owned), and improve the built environment/community infrastructure via resident education and outreach, policy change/advocacy, improvements to the physical environment, and oversight of existing protections for all people living in 435 with a particular focus on equity.

**Morristown United for Healthy Living: Impact Model**

