



Morristown United for Healthy Living

June 26, 5:30pm- 7:30pm, St. Margaret's Church

Agenda

Minutes in blue

5:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

5:40 **Actions Taken Since Last Meeting**

- Update from Carlos:
 - i. Working on Request for Funding
 - ii. Brian will talk about immigration and how it ties with this project
 - 1. Many of the people that come to the office (Wind of the Spirit) tend to be people from Track 435
 - 2. We are trying to put together a strategy to fight negative rhetoric going on in the community
- Working on a Morristown United brochure via Catch a Fire (free service from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation via our grant)
- Training group has been working to recruit community members to engage in focus groups; gift cards have been purchased for compensation

5:50 **Upcoming Events/Activities**

- Solangel: If anyone wants to announce an event during the meeting, we have this space for you to be able to do so. You can also bring flyers to the meeting as well
- Carlos: Part of the job of Community Organizer is to spread the word about events to the community. Feel free to send information/flyers/materials to Carlos at morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org
- Diana: Municipal ID will pass tomorrow (June 27, 2017) at 7:00 PM
 - Wind of the Spirit has been working on it for 2 years
 - These will help many people
 - Wind of the spirit conducted an Immigration Survey – they will release the report in July, which will help determine the work of the organization over the next year
 - Questions from the group re: Municipal ID
 - Is the sheriff department also starting to print IDs?
 - Brian: Undocumented people will be excluded from the sheriff's ID
 - It would only be from 18 - 54 while Municipal ID Starts at 14
 - People without proper documentation such as proof of address cannot get the sheriff's ID either (homeless will be affected)



- Senior citizens will be excluded as well since many times they do not meet the requirements
- Catherine Connelly: The North Jersey Health Collaborative has a web calendar. If anyone wants to add events to this calendar, contact morristownunited@njhealthmatters.org
 - Our website is www.NJhealthmatters.org

6:00 **Joint Learning Opportunity**

- Immigration and Housing

Brian Lozano, *Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center*

- WotS advocates for Immigrant Rights
- We mobilize and educate the immigrant community and help them realize their power socially and politically; We also do OSHA training, and legal advocacy
- This year we are focusing on capacity learning and needs assessment within the immigrant community; through the past month we have been conducting surveys in the Morristown area
 - So far we have learned that many people who lived here before have moved to Dover; the people who are left lives under the constant fear that soon they will have to move as well due to lack of affordable housing and other pressures
 - Today with the new Presidential Administration, people are living under fear themselves and their children and parents. They are living under constant stress and fear without knowing what will happen to them
 - The results from the survey will be shared at a public event to be held at Wind of the Spirit in July
 - If anyone from Morristown United is interested in coming to the event and providing information about your organization, you are welcome to come –
 - Email windofthespirit1@aol.com for more information
- Our immigrant community is facing many issues related due to housing:
 - Rent is too expensive; they do not earn enough
 - They either pay rent or pay for health insurance – cannot do both
 - Many times, because of the rent they cannot even afford a doctor
 - They are worried they would have to leave someday because of rent
- Municipal ID might be part of Vital Statistics (where Angela works- she was present at the meeting)
 - Our community many times do not have proper identification; sometimes they only have foreign identification
 - Many times this can also make acquiring housing more difficult
 - By having this ID, they can finally interact with different departments within the municipality and the police department as well
- Questions:



- Solangel: Many people without a legal status buy houses. In the first step they are approved and may be on a waitlist for one or two years, and then after that they are told that they are not allowed to get the house because they are undocumented. Because of this they lose their home. How does wind of the spirit help with this?
 - Diana: In the past people could buy homes with their tax ID number, but under the Obama Administration things changed. People cannot buy homes with their tax ID anymore. Undocumented immigrants can buy homes but only if you pay cash (fully). Today, banks won't lend money to them.
- Brian: Morristown has a large Central American Community
 - Many of these people have Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS is given to people who are unable to go back safely to their country due to ongoing war or violence, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances (e.g., El Salvador suffered from a civil war and two earthquakes)
 - Brian was in Washington DC in a conference and doing legislator visits this weekend. Many of the people from Morristown that came with him were TPS recipients; most of them are house owners.
 - If their TPS is taken away (since It is given every 18 months), they could lose their homes – What could happen to the economy? They won't be able to pay the property mortgages nor the taxes
- Terry: What is the Biggest issue/problem – Immigration status affecting housing?
 - With housing, right now the biggest issues are keeping TPS since there are so many property owners that could lose their homes and affect the economy
 - Rents too expensive
 - Landlords taking advantage of undocumented tenants
 - We advise that this coalition provide training around housing rights – it could prevent many issues we are seeing at the moment

6:15 Funding Request Review

- Technology: Steve & Nate
 - Working on Morristown Mobile App
 - Town planning
 - Mobile technology
 - Connection to services and events
 - Parklets:
 - Provide Free Wi-Fi
 - Parklets in Track 345 & around town
 - Great for health services
 - People could do health screenings there



- They can provide information to people about all the services that are offered in town
- Can bring people together
- Can take over some parking spots since people are more important than the parking meter
- Want to help integrate the Morristown Community via these two parks in different areas of town
- Question: There is a group called Connect to Walk that is working to map walking areas and connections to parks in Morris County (starting in Morristown). They mapped out 3 walking routes - could we work with them and have them map out the walking distances to these parklets?
 - Response: Yes; it also maps where the low income people are located so there could be more walking opportunities in these areas

6:25 Town Hall Organizing Strategy

- Sign-up to attend a Morristown Town Council meeting on behalf of Morristown United. A sign-up sheet and wording to use at the meeting can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v8xN9c9DtR-TRIVt-3nivHC1dOzX1m4fPHRIKPVm99s/edit?usp=sharing>
- Diana: It is important for us to be more active
 - We do not need to speak all the time during the Town Council meeting, but we do need to go and find out if something about housing was said, and if so, we need to bring this information to the Morristown United membership
 - We need to help monitor what is happening around town in relation to our collective work

6:35 Break-Outs by Groups

- Those interested in working on “trainings” will meet together
- Built Environment/Sense of Community group will meet together
- Focus on action steps for selected strategies

7:10 Report-Backs by Group

- Group 1: Community Infrastructure and Sense of Community
 - We are applying for an AARP grant (via Morris Habitat) to do neighborhood revitalization: building a new park and funding home repairs for seniors. If we get the grant, we will need help identifying community members who need home repairs. Grant is due July 15th
 - Morris Arts in Morristown:
 - Wants to create events by the Community Garden
 - We are looking for artists/musicians, broadly defined
 - First event was held of June 27th
 - Planning to have a banner, brochure or a button to identify who we are and what we do at these events



- Also spoke about AVP (alternative to violence program) – we could promote it as well for census tract 435
 - Purpose is to teach the youth about leadership and alternative to violence
- Group 2: Training to increase access to affordable housing and improve housing conditions
 - Trying to find the specific training needs of community members via focus groups
 - Next steps include finding people and places with whom and where the focus group should be conducted (beginning in mid-July)
 - We will need help from key people:
 - Pastor Sidney
 - Dominic
 - Maria Eugenia
 - Emily
 - Linda
 - Some of us will be moderators
 - Will provide \$10 gift-cards for Shop Rite and CVS
 - Plan to hold the focus groups at the following times:
 - Saturday Morning
 - Sunday Afternoon
 - Monday Evening
 - Family Promise wants focus groups results by the end of August to help inform Morristown United-funded Good Neighbor Training

7:30 Close

Next meeting July 24th, 5:30-7:30pm

Meeting Goals:

- Catch up on the ongoing activities of the coalition
- Learn more about the issue of immigration as it relates to housing
- Join in on our Town Hall Organizing strategy
- Make progress on group action plans



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

