



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Minutes

7:30pm

August 9, 2023

Meeting Location – Municipal Courtroom

"It is the intention of the Board to conclude this meeting by 9:30pm. Any Agenda item not considered by 9:30pm will be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting"

- I. **OPENING STATEMENT** – Adequate notice of the meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meeting Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Township Clerk.

- II. **BOARD MEMBERS** – Dr. Grayson (A), Dr. McGeary (X), Dr. Faisal (A),
Dr. Sharma (X), Dr. Wolfson (X), Dr. Saraiya (X), Dr. Newman (X)

Alternate 1: Dr. O'Mara (X)

Alternate 2: Dr. Mohan (X)

HEALTH OFFICER – Devangi Patel - X

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Jennifer Foster – X

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIASON: — Neena Singh – X

ADVISOR – Dr. Mandelbaum - A

HEALTH DEPT. STAFF –

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

The Board of Health welcomes and encourages input from the public.

Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any new business to the Board for a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments or questions are to be directed to the board before you make your comment, please state your name, address and subject matter. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding department of health employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals.

While directing your comments or questions to the board, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the health officer

representing the department of health if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the department of health before coming to the board for a response.

Responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional information gathering before a response is provided.

We thank you for your understanding and respect the rules of order. We open the agenda to and welcome public comment at this time.

No Public Comment this meeting

III. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed hereunder are considered routine in nature and will be approved in one motion. Any member may request that an item(s) be removed for separate consideration:

A. MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Health Department Monthly Report – July 2023
2. Communicable Disease Report – July 2023
3. Animal Control Report – July 2023

B. MINUTES APPROVED: The minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Health held on **July 12, 2023**

Motion to Approve: Dr. Wolfson **Seconded:** Dr. Sharma

IV. Police Presentation – Officer Sean Devlin and Sargent Ryan Gray are here to speak on the types of calls they receive in our Police Department. As stated by Officer Devlin some of the calls they receive may work their way up to the Health department for follow-ups or additional resources. With the number of calls that have increased EMS and Police, do not always arrive at the same calls together.

“M” Codes – these consist of calls regarding Psychiatric, Family Crisis, Special Needs, Suicide or Attempted Suicide and Domestic Violence. These types of calls can be sent as a soft handoff to the Health Department for follow-up.

Psychiatric Calls - Though these may not be exact numbers in the last 10 years, Psychiatric calls from 2013-2017 ranged from 49-82 per year. In

2018-2023 between the 90s and low 100s. In 2023 alone at the 6-month point, they have reached to 63.

Family Crisis – not always a domestic crisis but, still a situation that needs assistance. There has been a ladder increase in the past 5 years.

Special Needs – Officer Devlin is going to look into for Health Officer Patel as to what requirements meets that code. He is unclear if this is a new code or if it is just not being utilized currently.

Suicides and Attempted Suicides – The worst year for Montgomery was in 2020. The positive side is the numbers have dropped since then which means PD is getting there in time or they are getting the help they need in advance to prevent the devastating outcome.

Domestic Violence – From 2013-2017 is upper 40s to low 50s. Numbers now hover into the 60s. To date there have been 30 at the end of June 2023.

The Police Department has been involved in training called "ICAT" Integrating Communications Assessments and Tactics. This training is to help deescalate a situation and get them help. Form there then what is the follow-up?

Service Calls have increased as well. More officers have gone out and have been working to connect with the public but, still need to work on a connection to get services that residents need. In an example of previous years when a resident had a dog, bite incident police would write a report that was forwarded up to the Health Officer for follow-up. Officer Devlin is looking into creating a new code for referrals. He will be working with Health Officer Patel and the Police Sargent's on ideas to move it forward.

The Health Department and Police Department do have current connections with Register Ready, Smart 9-1-1 and those with Special Needs that need services during an emergency.

Health Officer Patel stated it is a fragmented process this is why we were looking to have these presentations by EMS and the PD to see what they are seeing in the field as it is related to Social Services and the needs. We would like to streamline data collection and processes so we can get a better idea of what Social Services demands look like in Montgomery Township as we all recognize the numbers are going up but, the staffing and resources are not going up. The goal of having the first responders

coming out is to see what data they have and what trends they are seeing. We then can all work together to come up with a plan.

V. Public Health and Social Services –

Following the PD Presentation, the Health Department wants a better picture of Social Services in Montgomery. We need to plan for future Human Services needs as the Township grows. Dr. McGeary had suggested we work with the Planning and Zoning Department to figure out how housing projects and developments be designed to accommodate Social Service and Public Health needs. We need to advocate for community spaces that can serve as centers. This would be part of our Strategic Plan for Social Services.

Kiele Cruse our Local Public Health Outreach Coordinator will be working to do windshield and data assessments in the community. The Health Department will also be working with Somerset County to try to get additional resources as well. The Local Health Outreach Coordinator position is grant funded so should the grant stop we will ask that the township strongly consider making Social Services a permanent position, as it is needed in Montgomery.

VI. Health Officers Comments –

Staffing Updates – Our current Animal Control Officer will be leaving. Her last day will be August 17th. The position does need to be restructured. We have a full and part time position available. The part time position does not offer benefits.

Princeton will be helping us for calls once our ACO leaves as we have a shared service agreement with them.

Hillsborough uses Animal Control Solutions but there services they offer cannot compare to the current services we provide. Cost is extremely high as well.

VII. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SALARY AND WAGE PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY BOARD OF HEALTH, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION IN 2023.

Title: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SALARY AND WAGE PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY BOARD OF HEALTH, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION IN 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Board of Health that the foregoing ordinance be hereby passed on first reading and that the same be published in an official newspaper as required by law together with a Notice of Pending Ordinance fixing August 9th, 2023 at approximately 7:30pm as the date and time when said ordinance will be further considered for final adoption.

Motion: __Dr. Wolfson__ Seconded: __Dr. Sharma__

Roll Call: Dr. Saraiya (Y), Dr. Wolfson (Y), Dr. Grayson (A) ,Dr. McGearry (Y) , Dr.Faisal (A), Dr. Sharma (Y), Dr. Newman (Y)

Alternate 1: Dr. O'Mara (Y)

Alternate 2: Dr. Mohan (Y)

VIII. New Business – Dr. Wolfson asked if the School Board has talked more about oving school times. Ms. Patel says she has not heard anything new.

IX. Adjournment was at 8:31pm pm as a motion by Dr. Wolfson. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sharma and carried unanimously.

Date of Approval: _____
Devangi Patel, Health Officer