



"To strengthen Montgomery County's commitment to our youth and families by reducing substance misuse, creating safe communities, and promoting health and wellness through collaborative community actions and education."

Meeting Minutes: January 20th

Attending

Julie Fox (Co-Chair & MCPS), Jon Dance (Co-Chair and VT), Kerry Redican (VT), Marti Graham (Community Volunteer), Dr Kerry Redican (Public Health at VT), Melanie Taylor (Carilion Community Public Health and Outreach), Ross Wilsie (NRVCS), Jon Dance (MCPP Co-Chair), Gary Cody (Legal Aid of SWVA) Dee Frith (NRVCS).

Welcome: Jon welcomed those in attendance

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Agenda was approved and minutes (from December and November meetings) were both approved.

Brief Introductions and Member Updates:

Marti- The Dolly Parton Imagination Library will join with Blacksburg Public Library for a fundraiser at the end of May, ensuring that books are given away and encouraging literacy. Three quarters of Montgomery County's children aged 0-8 will be receiving books monthly. Marti will share info with group.

Melanie- Several NRV Public Libraries host health related community health education workshops i.e. Hypertension 101, "the silent killer." Radford Libraries have blood pressure station, and two checkout kits monitor hypertension...reaching out to Montgomery County libraries would be helpful.

Julie- is now the only school social worker at MCPS. Julie is primarily working with McKenna Vento (homeless) students.

Gary Cody- SWVA Legal Aid is educating public on issues such as Elder Abuse and Freedom of Info Act and Substance Abuse Prevention.

Jon- Has started The Re-Center NRV and it is officially live. with connections and support as opposed to punishment, silence and shame. He is mentoring and consulting and reminds us all that recovery is not a character trait. www.therecenternrv.com.

Election of MCPP Officers:

Dr Kerry Redican accepted the nomination as Co-Chair. Julie has stepped down as she has a very time-consuming new position with MCPS. Jon will continue as Co-Chair. Ross was nominated as Treasurer and Dee will continue as Secretary. Jon will send out an email getting approval from members, as not enough members attended today's meeting.

Vaping Task Force Update: Marti explained the new vaping plan for MCPS. Two undergrad Public Health students will present their findings regarding the proximity of the tobacco retailers and public schools in Blacksburg and Christiansburg at the February MCPP meeting. Discussion around possibility of Public Health students doing TicTok videos with real health implications. Like the FDA is doing with a poster contest and Carilion's Tobacco Cessation program (like the Truth Initiative, not WhyTry as Dee was confusing it with). Students could do the research and make these videos.

Next Meeting: Will be held Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 (Virtual)