

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes Summary
Date: January 14, 2025

Attendees: Chair Helaine R. Hazlett, Thomas Massaro, MD., Tom McMahon, & Health Director Andrew Petty.

1. Call to Order

The chair began the meeting with a greeting and acknowledgment of continued support for the Counseling Center. Ruth Ferguson MCC President, and Teri McDonough, LSW (via ZOOM)

2. Counseling Center Updates

- The center continues to improve staffing, infrastructure, and community outreach.
- A significant bequest enabled landscaping and a memorial garden.
- Community Wellness Day was a success, featuring health booths, entertainment
- Rising mental health concerns, especially among youth and elderly populations, were noted.
- The center served 400 clients with 7,000 clinical hours in 2024.
- A waitlist of 235 individuals exists, with 43% from Marblehead.

Staffing and Operational Challenges

- The center currently has seven licensed clinicians and two working towards licensure.
- A new social worker, Katherine Percy, was hired to address social services needs.
- Efforts are ongoing to hire additional staff to meet increasing demand.

Facility Improvements

- Renovations on the first floor of the Hobbs building were completed.
- Additional work is needed on windows, a back porch, and kitchen renovations to be used for group therapy sessions.

3. Community Health Report – Thomas Massaro, M.D.

- The Mental Health Task Force continues to expand and collaborate with schools and community organizations.
- Fundraising efforts for a Community Health Assessment are underway.

4. Bills – Tom McMahon

5. Director's Report - Transfer Station Update

- Efforts to improve the compactor and site infrastructure are in progress.
- A phased approach is being considered due to budget constraints.
- A new sticker less permit system is being implemented for transfer station access.

MOTION: To approve article pages 3 + 4 as written and subject to geographical changes and changes at meeting 1/27/2025. Second. All in favor, approved. (STEEL)

6. Next Steps & Adjournment

- Action item includes finalizing the town meeting report.

7. Public Comment –

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Second. All in favor, passed.