



NEWS

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Montco Board of Health Approves Interim Leadership Team

Norristown, PA (August 14, 2015) – The Montgomery County Board of Health today put in place an interim leadership team in the county health department upon the retirement of Director of Health Dr. Joseph M. DiMino. County Commissioner Val Arkoosh was named interim Medical Director, and Denise Wallin was named interim Director of Health.

DiMino retired today after 13 years in the position.

“The county is conducting a thorough search for a permanent health administrator, but I am certain that this interim team, which includes my colleague, Commissioner Arkoosh, will do a wonderful job while that search continues,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the county commissioners. Shapiro said he was especially grateful to Arkoosh for offering to assume the position of interim medical director without compensation.

Arkoosh was appointed commissioner in January of 2015 to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Leslie Richards, who became Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation. She has been engaged in public health policy development across all levels of government during her career. She is a nationally-recognized public health policy expert. Until recently, she was Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

A graduate of the University Of Nebraska College Of Medicine, Arkoosh has a Master’s in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus on Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

After Shapiro and Richards were elected in 2011, Arkoosh headed a transition team sub-committee that reviewed the health department, and later served as chair of the board of health. She will perform her duties as interim medical director without additional compensation.

“We should all thank Joe DiMino for the 13 years he led this department, and for his dedication to keeping the residents of Montgomery County healthy and safe from disease,” Arkoosh said. “The entire Montgomery County family wishes him a long and prosperous retirement.”

Wallin has spent the last 14 years as deputy director of administration for the health department, and was the project lead for the 2014-15 strategic planning process that the health department recently completed. She joined the health department 23 years ago and proceeded to rise through a series of increasingly responsible positions.

Wallin graduated from Temple University in 1993 with a degree in business administration.