

Healthy St. Mary's Partnership
Tobacco Free Living Action Team
November 21, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Mary's County Health Department

Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Rebecca Jackson – St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD), Jenna Guzman – SMCHD, Caitlin Kirkpatrick – SMCHD, Angela Cochran – SMCHD, Tammy Loewe – SMCHD, Lauren Abell – MedStar St. Mary's Hospital (MSMH), Wanda Hardesty – Tri-County Youth Services Bureau (TCYSB), Nat Scroggins – Minority Outreach Coalition (MOC), Mike Brown – Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC).
2. **HSMP Co-Chair Election:** The committee voted to approve the two individuals that were nominated to serve as co-chairs (Rebecca and Mike).
3. **Policy/Advocacy Initiatives** (Goal: Increasing the number of tobacco free environments):
 - a. **St. Mary's County Government Grounds:** This initiative is still pending approval by the Commissioners. Jenna will follow-up with Dr. Brewster about the next Board of Health meeting date. Rebecca and Jenna will work on a first draft of a follow-up letter to the commissioners from the TFL team. The letter will be reviewed by the TFL team and HSMP Steering Committee prior to being sent.
 - b. **Smoke Free Holy Grounds (SFHG):** Only two churches (Leonardtwn Church of the Nazarene and Living Word Community Church) responded to the letter/email/survey that was sent out to the 87 faith-based organizations in St. Mary's. Jenna will send the information from these churches to Caitlin so that she can follow-up with resources & technical assistance for implementation. The team discussed better ways of reaching out to faith partners and decided that face-to-face follow-up would be the best route to try and engage them in the Smoke Free Holy Grounds Initiative. **Next meeting:** Create outreach signup sheet and bring materials to assemble more SFHG packets – members can take these packets out into the community and use them when they try to recruit faith based partners. A concern was voiced that many of the churches participating in the WARM program may not be willing to go “smoke free” because it could discourage homeless smokers from participating and put them at risk. This lead to group discussion about SFHG being more adaptable to the needs of individual churches – maybe rather than implementing a smoke free policy straight away, we engage WARM partners by offering information on how to quit for their participants. Tammy will bring the contact information for the WARM coordinator to the next meeting. Three Oaks Center was also mentioned as a potential site for outreach.



- c. **Recruitment:** The team discussed a need for more diversity on the committee. The team will consider changing future meeting times/locations to improve participation. The team brainstormed potential partners that were missing from the table (addiction anonymous groups, CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program, Department of Social Services (DSS), Walden Behavioral Health, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS), Pathways, St. Mary's County Libraries, Carenet Pregnancy, tobacco retailers, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)). Some of these partners have attended meetings in the past. Group members were encouraged to follow-up with contacts that they have at these partners and to encourage future involvement. The team also discussed collaboration with other teams, specifically the Behavioral Health Action Team (BHAT) – Tammy will present this idea to the BHAT and the TFL team can be added to the January agenda to present possible initiatives if interested.
4. **VapeAware Campaign Update:** Angela and Caitlin presented four new draft posters for the VapeAware Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness around the issue of vaping. The drafts presented were targeting youth specifically. The team provided feedback on the drafts and it was collected to inform further development. It was suggested that these posters be “focus grouped” with high school students during the 1-hour lunch period at SMCPS.
5. **Communications**
 - a. Share events and news with HSMP partners through the HSMP Newsletter, calendar & social media outlets! Submit information at:
<http://healthystmarys.com/newsletter/> or email stmaryspartnership@gmail.com
6. **Partner Updates:** SMCHD distributed appointee exemption forms for the team members to review/sign as a requirement for their tobacco grants.
7. **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - a. TFL Team: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the St. Mary's County Health Department.

