

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership invites the community to attend Annual Meeting

LEONARDTOWN, MD (October 25, 2016) - The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) is a coalition of community members and organizational partners working together to improve health in St. Mary's County. The coalition mobilizes its members through four action teams to address local priority health issues: Access to Care, Behavioral Health, Healthy Eating & Active Living, and Tobacco Free Living.

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) will host its 2nd Annual Meeting on **Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center in California, Maryland. This meeting will be an opportunity for participants to network, learn from public health experts and receive updates on coalition-wide business. Registration for the event is free and open to any community members that want to improve health in St. Mary's County.

HSMP is pleased to announce a lineup of distinguished speakers for this meeting, including:

- Shalewa Noel-Thomas, Ph.D., MPH, Director of Minority Health and Health Disparities at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- William Tilburg, JD, Deputy Director of the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law
- Debbie Rueber, B.S., CHES, Health Educator, Kenosha County Wisconsin Division of Health and Chair of Prevent Suicide Kenosha County Coalition
- Renee Kniseley, Director of the Area Agency on Aging at the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Inc. (HRDC)
- Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Walden Behavioral Health and HSMP Chair

These speakers will cover a range of topics related to local health improvement, including Building a Healthy St. Mary's, Suicide Means Restriction, Youth Tobacco Use and Vaping, Transportation and Access to Care, and Health Equity. For more information on the speakers and forum sessions or to register, visit: <http://healthystmarys.com/hsmp-annual-meeting-2016/>