

Healthy St. Mary's Partnership
Tobacco Free Living Action Team
May 15, 2018 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), Jacquie Heaney – SMCHD, Lauren Abell – MedStar St. Mary's Hospital (MSMH), Angela Cochran – SMCHD, Nat Scroggins – Minority Outreach Coalition (MOC), Jenna Guzman – SMCHD

- 2. Updates: Policy/Advocacy Initiatives**
 - a. Goal: Increasing the number of tobacco free environments
 - i. St. Mary's County Government Grounds: Amber Hebert is expecting to give her presentation to the County Commissioners on June 12. Once this is confirmed there will be an email reminder sent out with the confirmed date, time, and location of this presentation.
 - ii. Smoke Free Holy Grounds: Jenna gave a brief overview of the progress that has been made in this initiative so far. Church of Ascension is our only church that has committed, and they now officially have their signage thanks to Nat! In the past there have been mailings and emails sent out to the churches in the county and the response has been minimal. A new strategy is to set up in-person meetings with the churches. Angela drafted a script that can be used to make the initial call, gauge interest, and find out who the contact person would be to set up a meeting with. The scripts have an information section at the bottom that allows us to keep track of who has been contacted. Those in attendance at the meeting will each contact a church by the next meeting to pilot this strategy. Nat got an extra Smoke Free Holy Ground sign from Rebecca to use at Juneteenth to advertise to the churches setting up at the festival.
 - iii. Other Smoke Free Grounds in St. Mary's County: The conversation was brought up to reach out to other businesses to create policies to have smoke free grounds. Jenna is going to draft a generalized phone script for Nat to use when contacting the Elks Lodge. Jenna will also contact the Chamber of Commerce before the next meeting to find out what forms of outreach we can do to their members (e.g., email, newsletter, attending a business after hours meeting, etc.). Lauren is going to speak with Andrea about the outreach that they can do when businesses contact Health Connections.

- 3. Youth Recruitment, Engagement & Prevention**
 - a. Review and Discuss Youth Focus Group: There were only 3 youths in attendance at the Cove for last month's meeting. It was discussed that the number of adults



outnumbered the teens which was probably intimidating. Jenna expressed that the questions weren't specific enough; when the teens heard 'smoking' they automatically thought marijuana instead of tobacco products.

- i. We need to figure out a way to have consistent youth membership on the TFL team. This will not only give us insight, but will allow for a youth driven approach to preventing teens from smoking tobacco instead of being told by adults that it is bad for them. Strategies that were discussed included: having someone attend the NAACP Youth Members meeting, having an HSMP youth team in the future, using the SMCHD summer intern as a temporary youth member that can do research/surveys to come up with an action plan, and moving the meetings come September to be at a high school during one hour lunch which will allow us to provide incentives (e.g., pizza for lunch, community service hours, etc.). Angela will email her contact at Great Mills to set up a phone conference to discuss having the meetings there next school year. Lauren suggested East Run Medical Center to have part of the meeting so that we would only discuss youth topics when in the school.

4. Partner Updates

- a. The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions will be having their Juneteenth Festival on June 16 at John G. Lancaster Park in Lexington Park from 12-8 p.m.
- b. The Health Department is launching an Interfaith Health Alliance with the Interfaith Council. This alliance will promote youth mentoring programs in the churches to prevent future substance misuse.

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. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. **TFL Team:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the St. Mary's County Health Department.

