

Healthy St. Mary's Partnership
Tobacco Free Living Action Team
August 21, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Mary's County Health Department

Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Jenna Guzman - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD), Jenn Faulkner – Calvert County Health Department (CCHD), Jane Dodds – CCHD, Angela Cochran – SMCHD, Shannon Bingham – SMCHD, Caitlin Kirkpatrick – SMCHD, Dee Rathbone – Parents Affected by Addiction (PABA), Masada Johnson – Deep Launching, Jacquie Heaney – SMCHD

2. **Updates: Policy/Advocacy Initiatives**

- a. Goal: Increasing the number of tobacco free environments

- i. Smoke Free Holy Grounds

1. Angela and Jenna gave a brief summary of Smoke Free Holy Grounds and the outreach that we have done in the past (mailings & emails) and explained that we are now reaching out to faith-based organizations via phone call to set up in person meetings. We are also attempting to meet them where they are. There has been push back from some churches, especially those who host the WARM program or Celebrate Recovery meetings. Those churches are more willing to post flyers about smoking cessation classes than make their grounds completely smoke free. It was brought up that we may need to alter the phone script to ask “How can we help you?” or “What do you need?” The Smoke Free Holy Grounds [Covenant](#) also needs to be edited to reflect this tiered approach. It was proposed to change the ‘policy’ section of the covenant to a checklist where the church could choose what they are willing to incorporate at that time.
2. There was discussion about Calvert County's Church Wellness Program. Representatives from participating churches come together once a month for a meeting. The main focus is blood pressure screenings, but it is a resource that they use to disseminate information about other programs.
3. The state is requiring the Health Department to schedule a workshop with Bishop Lee about Smoke Free Holy Grounds for local faith-based organizations. Masada mentioned that the event should be something family-oriented where the workshop is only a part of the program to attract more faith leaders. The idea was brought up to incorporate the workshop into the Juneteenth Celebration in June 2019. Many churches already participate in this event and it is very well attended by community members. It was discussed that we would have a Smoke Free Holy Grounds table at the event that faith leaders could come to after the workshop to sign the covenant and take a sign/flyers for their church.

3. **Youth Recruitment, Engagement & Prevention**



- a. Angela, Caitlin, and Jacquie met with Dr. Heibel, the principal at Great Mills High School (GMHS), last week to discuss having part of our meetings at the school during 1-hour lunch once a month. He was very supportive of the idea and gave steps for moving forward. Angela reached out to 3 of the SMCHD summer interns who will be seniors at GMHS this year to see if one of them is willing to be our student liaison and 2 of them have already responded positively. Caitlin set up a meeting with Nicole Hickey, the school nurse, to discuss her being our faculty liaison. Moving forward we will be working with both the student liaison and Nicole to determine what day of the week and lunch block (12:05-12:35 or 12:35-1:05) will work better for the meetings. Caitlin is going to reach out to East Run for their meeting schedule in order to make sure that their meeting room is available on the same day as our meeting at GMHS for the portion of our meeting that is not pertinent to the students.

4. Tobacco 21

- a. The Steering Committee is working to establish a process for policy advocacy. Once this process has been established the team will need to present their policy item to the Steering Committee for approval. Angela suggested that the team could possibly support Tobacco 21 this legislative session. It was emphasized that non-governmental partners would have to take the lead on supporting legislation.
- b. The team discussed that we need to have topics to present to the students so they can choose what they would like their project to be. Advocating for Tobacco 21 during the Spring 2019 legislative session would be a great project to suggest to them.

5. 2018 HSMP Annual Meeting:

- a. Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 1:00 – 5:00 at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center
- b. Register now: <https://hsmpannual2018.eventbrite.com>
- c. Team Table
 - i. Angela will be at the table during Registration and breaks. There was discussion about what will be on the table. Some suggestions were including the poster from last year, the Smoke Free Holy Grounds sign, and information about smoking cessation classes/resources.

6. Partner Updates

- a. Dee shared a story about asbestos. He then suggested everyone look up the Maryland Group Against Smokers' Pollution (GASP) newsletter as they include cartoons that are very powerful.
- b. Masada has been awarded funding through the Health Department's RFP for Youth Education on the Health Risks of E-Cigarettes. She will be focusing her project on elementary and middle school aged children.
- c. The Health Department has several community presentations scheduled about the Harm Reduction Program. You can find information about the program and the schedule of presentations [here](#).
- d. The St. Mary's County [Fair](#) will be having Smoke & Vape Free Kids Day this year! The other days of the fair will have limited smoking areas. The fair board is looking to make the fair completely smoke & vape free in the coming years.



- e. Jenn and Jane talked about a project that they are working on in Calvert County. Currently the police officers are not handing out citations for underage smoking as they know that there aren't any repercussions. Their new program would provide the Health Department with the names of those who receive citations and through the Health Department they will be required to complete an educational training as well as community service.

7. 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 stmaryspartnerhip@gmail.com

8. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. All regularly scheduled September meetings are canceled. We encourage everyone to attend the 2018 HSMP Annual Meeting on **September 13**.
- b. **TFL Team:** October meeting is TBD based on GMHS & East Run availability

