



Advocacy Agenda 2017

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP), in coordination with its members and organizational partners, works with key decision-makers to shape public policy to address the local health priorities of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Those include ensuring access to care, improving behavioral health outcomes, increasing healthy eating and active living among residents, and reducing tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke.

Advocacy is a powerful tool. The beauty of our democratic system is that all citizens have the right to advocate. As a constituent, you are an indispensable part of our system, and your advocacy is an important mechanism to influence policy-makers. Being an advocate can have far-reaching positive impacts on the health of our community by providing policymakers with the information they need to make decisions and, in turn, influencing legislation.

The following policy items have been selected by the action teams of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership and approved by its Steering Committee as focus areas for 2017. This Advocacy Agenda will be evaluated alongside the local health improvement plan, Healthy St. Mary's 2020 to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of the community and goals of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership.

Access to Care

Advocate for the establishment of a local or regional transportation hub or system that provides coordination across multiple transportation options.

Advocate for the expansion of public transportation options (e.g., extended, schedules, additional routes, increased frequency, connector options, etc.)

Healthy Eating & Active Living

Advocate for the establishment of Smart Growth and Complete Streets policies within local regulations and processes.

Behavioral Health

Advocate for financial incentives and regulatory changes to better recruit and maintain behavioral health providers.

Advocate for improved organizational policy in the local school system to expand access to behavioral health services for youth.

Tobacco Free Living

Advocate for the establishment of a local regulatory body for tobacco licensees.

Assist local businesses and organizations with drafting and implementing tobacco-free policies.