



Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Radon Project
3. Food Mapping Project
4. LUGM Comprehensive Plan Update Survey
5. Future Action Team Planning
6. Partner Updates

Attendance

- Heather Moritz - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Sue Veith - St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development (DED)
- Courtney Jenkins - St. Mary's County Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM)
- Brenda Wolcott - MedStar - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
- Nathaniel Scroggins - Minority Outreach Coalition
- Nicole Basenback - University of Maryland Extension
- Ben Cohen - LUGM
- Shannon Heaney - SMCHD
- Zemaria Frank - SMCHD
- Jacquie Wells - SMCHD
- Christie Taylor - Seedco

Radon

- University of Maryland Extension Radon Seminar update
 - Heather reached out to Nicole, who joined the meeting today, to see about potentially helping with our outreach efforts by offering a seminar. Heather shared the MDE flyer about Radon.
- The team reviewed the [Radon test kit data](#) and noted certain pockets of the county where the radon levels are higher.
- Funding sources for test kits?
 - Kits costs \$3.
 - The team discussed that the larger issue that radon abatement is expensive.
 - There was discussion around put together a resource guide of where people can go for assistance for abatement.
 - Does the building code have radon abatement requirements? If yes then we can encourage people to do testing prior to buying their home to build the abatement cost into the cost of the home.
 - We need to provide education on regular testing - just because your levels were low before does not mean that they will stay that way.
 - The team discussed potentially targeting specific neighborhoods (HOAs) - see if a company would offer a discount if multiple houses in a neighborhood need the abatement.
- **Action items:**
 - Promote testing
 - Develop resource list of local abatement companies
 - Gather list of potential grant funds for abatement
 - Heather will look into incentive program (reach out to Calvert County to see how they run their program)

Food Mapping

- The team reviewed the [Google Map Project](#)
 - Green - Food pantry
 - Blue - Buy Local, Farmer's Markets
 - Yellow - Gas stations/ Convenience stores
 - Purple - Large grocery store chains
 - Orange - Small, local grocery stores
- The team identified locations that need to be added:
 - Walmart, Target, Cooks, BJ's, Food pantries such as LP Library, Farm stands/markets (cross reference SMADC guide).
 - Include Meals on Wheels as a resource option.
 - Please let Jacquie and Zemaria know if there are other food resources that should be included on the map.
- It was discussed that we need to add the transportation routes to the map to really see the gaps.
- Update on local data collection around food insecurity
 - Bil is working with food pantries to gather data and establish standardized method for data collection.
 - Jacquie gathered input from local faith based leaders.
 - DSS will be providing local SNAP data to help us identify food insecurity.
 - Jacquie, Bill , and Suha have a meeting with the local WIC office to discuss data that they may be able to provide.
 - We have SMCPS data on free and reduced lunch program, but the team mentioned the importance of trying to get data from the COVID free lunch program.
 - Resource to look into: HeartFelt Southern Maryland's weekend backpack meals.

LUGM Comprehensive Plan Update Survey

- Review the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, the Lexington Park Development District Plan, and the Goals, Objectives, and Policies sections from the earlier comprehensive plans that are on the [Comprehensive Plan Update webpage](#).
 - Courtney mentioned the plan highlights how the county is developing and the survey will help as LUGM develops an update for local planning. Community input is vital!
 - Ben walked the team through the survey.
 - Survey Monkey will save your answers on your device so you can leave and come back to it..
 - There are 33 questions on the survey.
 - You can change answers and skip questions. The only question that is required is the zip code.
- **Action items:**
 - Please complete the [Survey](#) by the end of October
 - There will be focus groups in the upcoming months for elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Jacquie will keep the team updated on these focus groups for those who are interested in participating.

Future Action Team Planning

- Review Healthy St. Mary's 2026 EH Section
 - Strategies we'd like to focus on moving forward?
 - Do we want to expand on the topics and focuses?
 - We may consider a water quality focus.
 - Nicole mentioned that this is a focus of University of Maryland Extension as they aid the Department of Public Works & Transportation in completing their MS4 Permit by with public outreach, education, and projects in St. Mary's County. They are also supporting planning for the new Farmer's Market in Charlotte Hall.
 - Sue mentioned the Community Garden planning efforts as a potential focus.

Partner Updates

- HSMP is asking for members to complete the [feedback & evaluation form](#) for the 2021 HSMP Annual Meeting. Recordings from the Annual Meeting are available [here](#).
- The Safe Routes to School grant has ended. There were various communication campaign and educational efforts. If you are interested in the data from the walk audits please reach out to [Shannon Heaney](#).
- DPW is currently working on adding a crosswalk crossing 235 into Gate 2.
- MedStar St. Mary's Hospital is hosting a community flu shot clinic on Friday, October 22nd from 10 am - 1pm at East Run Medical Center across from Great Mills High School.
- Recreation & Parks is updating their Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. They are [hosting several focus groups, a public forum](#), and also have a online survey available [here](#).

Communications

- **Submit event and news updates/information at:**
<http://healthystmarys.com/newsletter/> or email
stmaryspartnership@gmail.com
- **Follow HSMP on Social Media**
 - Facebook: Healthy St. Mary's Partnership
 - Twitter: @HealthyStMarys

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, November 17, 2021 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- There will be future discussion about when will be the best time to have our December meeting.