



Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Radon Project
3. Food Mapping Project
4. Future Action Team Planning
5. Partner Updates

Attendance

- Christina Bishop - Recreation and Parks
- Zemaria Frank - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Brenda Wolcott - Medstar St. Mary's Hospital (MSMH)
- Stephanie Freeman - SMCHD
- Ben Cohen - Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM)
- Courtney Jenkins - LUGM
- Patricia Wright - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Sue Veith - St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
- Heather Moritz - SMCHD
- Jacquie Wells - SMCHD

Radon

- **Discussion: What future action should we focus on Radon?**

- Local Resources for abatement

- **Action item:**

- Please take time over the next month to review and edit this resource list.

- The goal is for the list to be a shareable resource.

- Research by action team members showed limited/outdated incentives or grants that are related to abatement. Many were also limited to urban areas.

- Heather will ask Environmental Health Directors from other counties to see if they are focusing on radon and what their action has been.

- Radon Awareness Month - January

- Plan for a potential educational event and a social media campaign.

- **Action item:**

- Jacquie will reach out to Nicole at University of Maryland Extension about scheduling an event.

Food Mapping

- Review the updated [Google Map Project](#)
 - Any other resources missing?
 - **Discussion: Any other gaps we are seeing?**
 - The team discussed the STS routes. It was determined that while certain locations may not be a designated stop on the route you can get dropped off on the side of the road to access (e.g. Home Grown Farm Market). STS operates on a flag down system so you can get picked up almost anywhere along the route. The team discussed that the issue is that most of the routes are loops so you have to ride the entire loop to get where you need. There is a need for out and back routes.
 - **Action item:**
 - Jacquie will develop a landing page for the map on the HSMP website and add a Google Form for community members/ organizations to provide comments/suggestions.
 - Sue will add a blurb in the Economic Development Newsletter and send to her Johns Hopkins contact for his review..
- Food Insecurity Data Collection
 - Jacquie, Bill, and Suha met with SNAP & WIC to learn more about demographic information for areas in St. Mary's where SNAP & WIC is highly utilized.
 - **Action item:**
 - Jacquie will schedule a subcommittee meeting for early December.

Future Action Team Planning

- **Discussion: Strategies we'd like to focus on moving forward?**
 - Brief discussion last month identified water quality focus/education as a potential.
 - We would need to be real specific on focuses. Such as arsenic levels in drinking water (wells).
 - Surface water and home flooding could also be a focus for education/prevention efforts.
 - The team discussed a potential focus on transportation .
 - Advocate for additional transfer sites, Sunday route expansion and targeting education to those who frequent STS.
 - Encourage active transportation such as walking, biking, etc.
 - Consider a bike sharing program. Companies previously showed interest in partnering with the county.
 - A possible location for bike sharing program launch would be Three Notch Trail. Maintenance of the bikes is something to take into consideration when discussing.
 - Bike sharing programs could also include farmers markets, local colleges, etc.
 - **Action Item:**
 - Sue will find the information for the companies that previously showed interest and Jacquie will reach out to get basic information.

Future Action Team Planning (Continued)

- LUGM is analyzing their data from their most recent community surveys for their Comprehensive Plan. Committees will be developed out of identified priorities.
- Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden Project
 - In 2022, HSMP will add a Committee designated to the Community Garden Project.
 - SMCHD is still waiting to hear about a grant application that would fund a coordinator who would be dedicated to the Community Garden Project.
 - Next Community Garden meeting will be on December 3, 2021 at 9:30 am in the Interpretive Center at Lancaster Park.
 - The Advisory Committee is currently working on the initial planning, design, and budgeting of the community garden project. They are currently working to identify an agency or nonprofit to take the lead on garden upkeep, registration, funds, etc.

Partner Updates

- HSMP is gearing up to start gathering updates to the Healthy St. Mary's 2026 plan. To collect organization updates, HSMP is launching surveys focused on each of the health priority areas in Healthy St. Mary's 2026 plan. The surveys can be accessed below.
 - [Behavioral Health](#)
 - [Chronic Disease](#)
 - [Environmental Health](#)
 - [Violence, Injury, and Trauma](#)
- The HSMP Steering Committee has completed a review of the HSMP Bylaws this year. [Recommended updates](#) to the bylaws were proposed for HSMP members to review on October 21. We now ask that all registered HSMP members vote for or against the proposed revisions by completing [this electronic ballot](#). Voting will close at 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2021.
- Zemaria is stepping down from her position as HSMP Coordinator effective November 23, 2021. The open position will be posted via SMCHD soon. Please encourage anyone interested to apply.
- The SMCHD is hosting Vax Fests at Great Mills High School on November 21 and December 12. More information is available [here](#).

Partner Updates (Continued)

- Recreation and Parks held 4 stakeholder meetings and gathered over 800 responses to their survey as they work to update their 5 year Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan.
- SMCHD Environmental Health is launching Food Safety classes virtually! You can find more information about upcoming classes and register [here](#). The first class is set to be held in December and there will be quarterly trainings in 2022.
- Septic system records are currently being added to the County GIS map [here](#). There are currently about 4,000 records available and more are being added. This will hopefully reduce the need for community members needing to put in a request for their septic records..
- The St. Mary's County Commissioners approved funding for the kitchen equipment, Three Notch Trail Connection trail, and BAT system at the new North County Farm Market. The farmers market will hopefully open in early 2022. If you are interested in a tour of the new market reach out to Sue. The Commissioners also approved funding to move forward with the regional ag center.

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, December 15, 2021 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.