



# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Radon Project
3. Food Mapping Project
4. 2022 Action Team Planning
5. Stakeholder Recruitment
6. Partner Updates

# Introductions

- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM)
- Sue Veith - Department of Economic Development
- Jacquie Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Christina Bishop - Recreation & Parks
- Nat Scroggins - Minority Outreach Coalition
- Courtney Jenkins - LUGM
- Stephanie Freeman - SMCHD

# Radon

- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is onboard to provide a local event.
  - The team discussed the following details MDE needs:
    - Date options: Week of April 22 for Earth Day
    - Target Audience: The team discussed seeing if MDE is able to host two separate events - an evening event targeted at community members/homeowners and a daytime event targeted at realtors/home inspectors
    - Focus: General Homeowner - what is radon (start with the basics); realtor/inspection - how to educate those you work with
- It was suggested to promote the events and radon information/the test kit program at the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Easter Egg Festival. The team also discussed reaching out to the Commission on the Environment so that their members can promote and attend.
- Jacquie will connect with MDE to solidify details.

# Food Mapping

- The map webpage is available at:  
<https://healthystmarys.com/food-connection-map/>
  - Jacquie sent out a notice via email to identified partners from last month & included in HSMP newsletter.
  - The webpage has been shared on the HSMP social media accounts.
  - Please continue to share this resources with other partners and community members!
- The Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, January 27 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss next steps for food insecurity data collection.
- Jacquie shared information on HB179 from the 2022 Maryland Legislative Session. This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in conjunction with several other state departments, to produce a report for each county and state legislative district on the food environments there, including metrics that determine food insecurity zones, metrics that identify the Health Food Availability Indexes, number of SNAP and WIC recipients, etc.; these reports would be produced every other year and submitted to the General Assembly.

# 2022 Action Team Planning

- The team continued discussion around a potential transportation focus in 2022.
  - Sue and Jacquie will attend the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on January 20th to connect with them on suggestions that the team has. This includes advocating for additional transfer sites, Sunday route expansion, routes to county farmers markets, and targeting education to those who frequent STS.
  - The team discussed moving forward with looking into a bike share program. The Navy has shown interest in this project in the past so it would be good to pull them in. Jacquie will look into a potential presentation to get us more information on what this project would entail.
    - Resources that Jacquie found:
      - <https://betterbikeshare.org/2019/11/13/a-look-into-bike-share-in-rural-communities/>
      - <https://www.myacpl.org/bikes/>
      - <https://betterbikeshare.org/>

# Stakeholder Recruitment

## Who's missing from the action team?

- Sabrina with NAS Pax River (Courtney will reach out)
- Housing
- Biking Groups to bring in for that project
  - Frank Allen
  - Pax Vello
- Library

# Partner Updates

- The Cherry Blossom Festival will take place on March 26 from 12-4 at Lexington Manor Passive Park. They are working to solidify vendors, food trucks, and demonstrations. Anyone interested in being a vendor should reach out to Christi.
- The Lexington Manor Passive Park and Lancaster Park connector pathways have been repaved.
- The new HSMP Coordinator, Shan Chen, started this morning!
- HSMP is 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

# Partner Updates

- We will be launching a new feature on the HSMP website soon. Jacquie will provide a walk-through when it is live!
- The Community Garden Advisory Committee is still looking for an organization to take this project on as the lead host organization. If you're interested in joining the planning team reach out to [Christi](#). The advisory committee meets on the 1st Friday of the month at 9:30. SMCHD received some grant funding for HSMP to support this project!
- LUGM has extended the survey deadline for the Comprehensive Plan element groups to the end of the month. They are working with their communications team to put together a short update video for community members.

# Communications

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

## Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, February 16, 2022 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.