



# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Co-Chair Elections
3. Food Insecurity
4. Transportation - Bike Share Program
5. Partner Updates

# Attendance

- Sue Veith - Department of Economic Development
- Val Perez - Department of Natural Resources, Commission on the Environment
- Brenda Wolcott - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Michael Blackwell - St. Mary's County Library
- Nat Scroggins - Minority Outreach Coalition
- Jacquie Wells - SMCHD
- Shellnice Hudson - NAACP

## Co-Chair Elections

- Per the HSMP Bylaws, you must be present at the meeting to vote.
- Action Team Co-Chairs will be announced in early December.

# Food Insecurity

- St. Mary's County Food Security Report
  - The team reviewed the draft report
    - Goal is to release by the end of this month.
  - Discussion - Strategies to Address Food Security in St. Mary's County
    - Farmers Market Bonus Dollars (double your \$\$) - need more funding, and for funding to be distributed in a timely manor. Understanding reason for delays in funding distribution.
    - Continue/Expand Farmers Feeding St. Mary's Program. Advocate for funding (commissioners, local businesses/organizations)
    - Increase # of community gardens & learning/teaching about gardening (including home gardening)
    - Agroforestry - specifically at schools
    - Fundraising events to support food distributio
    - Include information about food security and programs that address at community events
    - Targeted outreach about federal nutrition assistance programs. Highlight benefits for undocumented community members
- The team review the Draft Advocacy Letter for zoning standards to increase healthy food access and limit the number of fast food options in an area.
  - We will finalize this letter, send to the Steering Committee for approval and then send to the county commissioners,planning commission, and Courtney Jenkins.
- Subcommittee Meeting in the coming weeks to do final review of report before publishing.
- **Action Item:**
  - Please review both the draft Food Security Report and the draft advocacy letter by next Wednesday, November 23 and provide any edits, additional data points, and additional strategy suggestions.

# Transportation - Bike Share Program

- Discuss next steps
  - No updates from neighboring counties
  - Kimberly Thorpe (Smart Wiley Wheels) stated they are willing to work on contracts to fund bikes.
  - We will continue this discussion in the new year.

# Partner Updates

- The Community Development Corporation did not get the grant funding they applied for to provide coordination staffing for the community garden. We now need a new funding source or organization to step up to be the lead.
  - Val has grant that may be available to cover this.
- The Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden Open Houses are taking place today today at 10 am (Garden site at Lexington Manor Passive Park) and 6 pm (Lexington Park Library).
- Regional Ag Center for meat processing has gone over budget estimate. Looking into how this will proceed moving forward. If they do not move forward with this project they are looking at spending the funding to create a building for California market.
- Val's position is now regional. She is helping parks services and underserved areas to plant trees and looking into buffer program. She is available to anyone/organizations that are interested in planting trees.

# 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, January 18, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
  - Have a wonderful holiday season!