

Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. New EHAT Co-Chair
3. 2023 Brainstorming
4. Partner Updates

Introductions

- Nat Scroggins - Minority Health Coalition
- Christina Bishop - St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks
- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Courtney Jenkins - Land Use & Growth Management
- Yolanda Hipski - Tri-County Council For Southern Maryland
- Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Jacqueline Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Brenda Wolcott - Medstar St. Mary's Hospital
- Michael Blackwell - St. Mary's County Library
- Ali Wohlgemuth - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management/Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Brian Abell - Southern Maryland Tennis Foundation
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department

New EHAT Co-Chair



Ashlyn Dishman

I grew up in St. Mary's, I have a BS in Biology and have started an MHS in environmental health through JHSPH, and I have been with SMCHD since September 2021 but have been with environmental health since May 2022 (first as an aide, but began my current position as an environmental health specialist trainee in August).

2023 Brainstorming

- What organizations are missing from the action team?
- What would make the EHAT meetings more beneficial for you?
- What specifically are you passionate about related to Environmental Health?
- Identify 2023 areas of interest
 - Areas of interest, strategies

What organizations are missing from the action team?

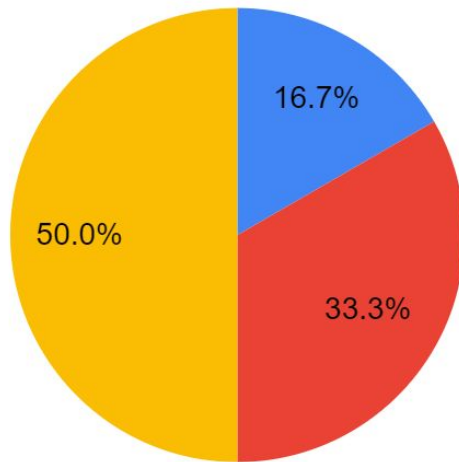
The team suggested the following organizations and possible points of contact:

- St. Mary's County Public Schools
- SMECO
- St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
- Business organizations
- St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
- St Mary's County Public Works
- Land Use & Growth Management
- MD Department of Natural Resources
- Watershed Associations, such as St. Mary's
- Sierra Club (Benjamin Hance)
- Master Gardeners (Mariah Rose Dean)
- MD Department of Planning and Environmental Quality (Sarah Diehl)
- County Administrator
- Commission on the Environment (Molly Boron)



Students, write your response!

What would make the EHAT meetings more beneficial for you?



● Other ● More interactive meetings ● Including presentations

Members that selected “Other” suggested the following:

- Including partner highlights so we are aware of what others are doing
 - If you are interested in presenting for our monthly Partner Spotlight, please fill out [this form!](#)
- Utilizing BJ Hall’s podcast to push out information
- Offering hybrid meetings
 - Community Garden (Spring)
 - Snow Hill Park



What specifically are you passionate about related to Environmental Health?

- Protecting our rural character and community
- The diminishing forestry of this beautiful county
- Food insecurity
- Appreciation of our natural resources for our population's health & well being
- Environmental protection
- Healthcare transportation
- A clean environment
- Built environment (walkability, green spaces)
- Land stewardship
- Oversaturation of vacant strip malls, 1/2 million dollar neighborhoods stripping the landscape
- Clean air/environment protection
- Transportation
- Land planning (built environment and preservation)



Students, write your response!

Identify 2023 Areas of Interest - CHIP Objectives

The team voted on their top 3 areas of interest from the Environmental Health Objectives in the Healthy St. Mary's 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan. The top 3 areas of interest are highlighted below.

Create neighborhoods and environments in St. Mary's County rural growth areas that promote walking.	Reduce blood lead levels in children.	(Developmental) Reduce the number of days people are exposed to unhealthy air.
Reduce the pollution of surface and groundwater.	(Developmental) Reduce exposure to Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Increase local transportation options and assistance to support healthcare and healthy food access.
Increase the proportion of homes that are connected to sewer.	Reduce the number of households considered to have severe housing problems.	Reduce household food insecurity and hunger.
(Developmental) Reduce exposure to radon.	Increase the proportion of adults with broadband access to the Internet.	



Identify 2023 Areas of Interest - CHIP Strategies

The team voted on their top 3 areas of interest from the Environmental Health Strategies in the Healthy St. Mary's 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan. The top 3 areas of interest are highlighted below.

Support education around lead exposure prevention.	Support education on improving indoor air quality.	Advocate for decreased restrictions on local medical appointment transportation programs.
Promote alternative transportation methods (public transportation, bicycling, walking, carpooling) and increase access to bike routes and off-road trails.	Conduct mapping project and gap analysis of transit network with healthy food options.	Promote and support housing renovation/building programs such as Christmas in July and Habitat for Humanity.
Conduct asset mapping and gap analysis for local food resources.	Establish a local surplus food donation program.	Promote radon testing of all homes.
Promote MDH radon test kit program.	Promote policies and standards for broadband affordability.	Promote and support community member advocacy efforts.



Students, drag the icons!



2023 Brainstorming (continued)

- **Action Item:**
 - Review the priority areas/strategies identified during today's meeting and research evidence-based practices and innovative ideas for trainings, events, and programs that can be implemented by the action team in 2023.

Partner Updates

- Medstar St. Mary's Hospital is working with patients with chronic conditions and are food insecure to provide them with a bag of shelf-stable food. They are also provided with education on food. There is a dietitian on site to educate patients on food stability and shelf life.
- Tri-County Council has just finished up 3 roundtable meetings held around the state. They gathered over 350 responses from their survey and the report will be made available this week.
- Jacquie Wells is the new interim director for Community Engagement and Policy. SMCHD has just released a new [Health Data Dashboard](#). SMCHD recently put out a public health advisory for everyone to be aware of rising rates of COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza and to take preventive measures to avoid contracting and spreading these illnesses. [Testing](#) and [vaccine appointments](#) are available at the SMCHD Behavioral Health Hub (BHH). BHH is now also offering crisis counseling, services with the detention center, expungement services, and primary health care services.
- HSMP published its [Food Security report](#) last November. HSMP has officially been recognized as a Healthy People 2030 Champion.
- The Cherry Blossom Festival will be on March 18 at Lexington Manor Passive Park. If you are interested in reserving a vendor booth or sponsorship, please contact [Christina Bishop](#). Three Notch Trail's Phase 7 (just over 3 miles, from Wildewood to Hollywood) is underway; we are anticipating for the design to be done by the end of the summer and put out a bid for construction at that time. Christi overseeing Snow Hill, Shannon Farms, and Elms Beach (all under design/getting ready for improvements).

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, February 15, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)