



# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. HSMP Evaluation Survey
3. Walkable Neighborhoods
4. Transportation
5. Food Security
6. Earth Day Celebration
7. Partner Updates

# Introductions

- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Michelle Turkaly - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Brenda Wolcott - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management
- Ali Wohlgemuth - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Courtney Jenkins - Land Use & Growth Management
- Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Jacqueline Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Barbara Sharp - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Christina Bishop - St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks

# HSMP Evaluation Survey

- Ali developed a survey for HSMP's evaluation plan
  - Please take a moment to complete - it takes 5 minutes or less!
- Once we have the results in, Ali will be reaching out to some of the EHAT members for interview.

# Walkable Neighborhoods

- **Action item:** Review and add resources to our draft [HSMP Comprehensive Walking Page](#) to collect information for walking page on HSMP website.
- Walking-Themed Events
  - National Walking Day is April 5, 2023
    - If your organization is interested in hosting a walk, [let HSMP know](#) and we will share with our partners!
  - The SMCHD Wellness Team regularly holds Wellness Walks at the Health Dept.
  - Maryland's Department of Planning celebrates Walktober, Walk Maryland Day (Oct 4) and Walk to School Day
  - May is National Walking Month
  - The team discussed hosting a "Walk with a Doc" event
    - Potentially hosting at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, or using the local parks
    - Coordinating in late summer or early fall; September 2023
      - Tying in behavioral health
    - Providers?
      - Temeria Wilcox at [NP Family Practice](#)
      - Christine will check with Aetna Better Health of Maryland's providers to see if there is interest
      - **Action Item:** Check with providers to see if there is an interest

# Transportation

- Bike Share
  - Updates
  - Will continue to seek funding to support project
- There is a development of a bike share/bike repair site at “The Trailhead Property” at Hollywood to connect Three Notch Trail

# Food Security

- The team continued discussions on the following topics:
  - Starting a food waste program
    - “Ugly Produce Rescue” - reaching out to local farms for unwanted produce
  - Assist in Farmers Feeding St. Mary’s Program this summer
    - **Action item:** Reaching out to farmers who participated in Farmers Feeding St. Mary’s to see if they are interested in regular produce donation
  - Host healthy food drives throughout the year
    - Healthy Food Drive Toolkit resource is available on HSMP’s webpage
    - HSMP is hosting a Healthy Food Drive at the Easter Egg Festival on April 1
    - **Action item:** Identifying other upcoming events where we can host a Healthy Food Drive
    - Look into working in partnership with Health Connections at MSMH and St. Mary’s County Health Hub to have a small food pantry on site and identifying community members who are food insecure to distribute the food to and tracking measurable health outcomes
    - Brenda discussed MSMH currently launching a small food pantry at Health Connections and how we can use that as a pilot to identify best practices for working with individuals with food security and tracking health outcomes.
- We will continue to discuss the above at April’s meeting and solidify topic(s).

# Earth Day Celebration

- Commission on the Environment is holding an Earth Day Celebration and is looking for vendors. It is on April 22, 2023 from 11 am - 4 pm at Summerseat Farm (26655 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville, 20659).
- Courtney volunteered to attend
  - Solidifying plan
    - Reaching out to CoE event organizer about hosting a food drive
  - Types of information to bring
    - Walk SMC booklets
    - Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden information
    - Food security flyer
    - For kids - coloring pages (MyPlate)

## Partner Updates

- St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks is hosting the Cherry Blossom Festival this Saturday from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Lexington Manor Passive Park.
- St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks has shared its Lexington Manor Passive Park 5K Course Maps. Click [here](#) to view them.
- St. Mary's County Health Hub is expanding - there are new [services](#) available! They are planning to hold an Open House sometime this June - more information to come.
- St. Mary's County Health Department's Go Purple Program is hosting a talk on March 29 from 7-9pm at St. Mary's College of Maryland, featuring celebrity guest speaker Brandon Novak. Brandon Novak's "Recovery is Possible" talk addresses substance use disorder and the stigma that often follows those suffering from this illness. Register for the free event [here](#).
- HSMP is hosting a [Healthy Food Drive at the Easter Egg Festival](#) on April 1st at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Food and monetary donations will be accepted!

# 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, April 19, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)