Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Walkable Neighborhoods
3. Transportation
4. Food Security
5. AARP Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities
6. Partner Updates

Introductions

- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Michelle Turkaly - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Christina Bishop - St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks
- Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Caleb Minyard - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Tamani Kingsland - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- William Harrison - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Bill Roberts - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management
- Jacqueline Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Teresa Cox - St. Mary's County Public Schools
- Tiffany Daniel - CTLDomGroup
- Ali Wohlgemuth - St. Mary's County Health Department

Walkable Neighborhoods

- The team continued to make suggestions to the HSMP Comprehensive Walking Page draft
  - Sue will provide the ShapeFiles needed to create an interactive Google Map, featuring all of the walking maps, organized by region or neighborhood
  - Once finished, this resource could be shared on visitstmarysmd.com
- Ashlyn is continuing to look into adding St. Mary's County local trails and recreational maps to the All Trails webpage
- "Walk With A Doc" event this fall
  - Providers available?
    - Aetna Better Health of Maryland is working on solidifying three different providers (behavioral health, general family care, pediatrician) for its October 14 date
      - Suggested holding a community wellness fair in conjunction with event
      - Shan will contact Jessica Hale for R&P attendance and Kyle Kebaugh for park reservations. Christine will confirm provider attendance.
    - MSMH has solidified Stephanie Gutridge-Snode
  - Event dates
    - September 30 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital from 10am-11am
    - October 14 at Lexington Manor Passive Park from 10am-12pm
    - Built in rain date: October 28
  - Aetna Better Health of Maryland is able to provide water. SMCHD will look into providing reusable water bottles. If your organization is able to sponsor by providing snacks, contact Shan!

Transportation

- No new updates to the funding/development of a bike share program, however we can continue reaching out to local organizations to see if there is potential interest
  - Continue advocating for a bike share program with Tri-County Council.
  - Reach out to Leonardtown to see if they are interested in developing a bike share program and provide support that way.
  - Leonardtown Paddlesports and Rentals currently offers kayak rentals for <u>McIntosh Run & Leonardtown Wharf</u>. Ashlyn met with them to see if they had an interest in starting a bicycle program.
    - They currently have a fleet of 5 bikes at their location in Calvert County, but are interested in starting a bike share co-op in St. Mary's County and are interested in providing support.
    - **Action item:** Coordinate a meeting and form a subcommittee with Emma Gillet, Michael Blackwell of SMCPL, town of Leonardtown Transportation Advisory Committee and select EHAT members (EHAT Attendees: Ashlyn, Ben Cohen, Christi Bishop, Shan/Jacquie)
- LUGM provided an update: St. Mary's County has entered into an electric ferry foiling feasibility study featuring sites with locations that are walkable and bikeable. The two sites in consideration are Leonardtown (library to possibly house) and Historic St. Mary's City (for scenic riding & student use)

Food Security

- The team continued discussing ways to expand food pantry donations and storage
  - Update: Farmer's Feeding St. Mary's disposes of their own produce and to date would not be interested in a food donation program
  - The Barns at New Market has a walk-in refrigerator and freezer that could be used for the storage of donated foods. We could potentially promote this program?
    - Sue will reach out to Donna Sasscer for more information about using this.
  - The SoMD Fridges program kicked off April 2023 in Charles County
    - Invite SMADC to one of our meetings to learn more about this program, or to do a partner spotlight presentation (Shan to reach out to attend June/July)
    - The team talked about the feasibility of starting one in St. Mary's County, possibly at the Health Hub
- Promoting healthy food drives
  - We will continue reaching out to event organizers to encourage them to organize their own food drives using HSMP's Healthy Food Drive toolkit. Upcoming events to consider:
    - St. Mary's Crab Festival (June 10) organized by the Lion's Club - payneml@md.metrocast.net POC - Shan & Ashlyn
    - Juneteenth (June 17) - Nat Scroggins POC, Jacquie to reach out
  - View and contribute to the event list here!

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities

- Sue Veith proposed applying for AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities. View the flyer.
- The population of the United States is rapidly aging and the nation will undergo a demographic shift in the next several decades. This change presents an opportunity for communities to prepare for the demographic shift by designing livable spaces to be able to support people of all ages.
- Becoming a member of AARP's network will offer resources for assessing the needs of older adults related to housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities to participate in community activities.
  - Neighboring county, Calvert County joined the AARP Age-Friendly Network in 2022. Its lead agency is the Calvert County Aging Services Division.
- The application process includes submitting a membership application and a letter of commitment
- We will reach out to St. Mary's County Aging & Human Services
  - Jacquie to contact and invite to June meeting or receive feedback

Partner Updates

- Recreation & Parks shared that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have agreed to purchase Willows Recreation Center. It will primarily be used for the new St. Mary's County gymnastics center, with pickleball and other activities also available. The architecture and engineering team has begun its infrastructure design (parking lot, entrance) for Elms Beach. Summerstock Theater will be at Great Mills High School - contact Val Perez for more information.
- Bill Roberts (SMCM) has onboarded three new student community health outreach workers who will be working directly with organizations and doing local outreach.
- St. Mary's County Health Department is hosting a Community Baby Shower this Saturday, May 20 at Spring Ridge Middle School-Based Health Center. There will be giveaways, raffle prizes and community resources.
- St. Mary's County Health Hub is holding an Open House on Saturday, June 3 from 9:00am - 12:00pm.
- St. Mary's County Community Development Corp. is doing a Community Cleanup of Great Mills Rd on June 3rd. They are still looking for volunteers - sign up here! There is also a prayer walk being held on June 3rd.
- SMCHD's Environmental Health Division will conduct beach and pool monitoring this summer.

Communications

- Submit event and news updates/information at:
  healthystmarys.com/newsletter or email stmaryspartnership@gmail.com
- Follow HSMP on Social Media
  - Facebook: Healthy St. Mary's Partnership
  - Twitter: @HealthyStMarys

Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? Sign up here!