



Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Agenda

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

Introductions

- Sophie Brauns - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
- Michelle Turkaly - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Joanne Luke - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Ruby Abaka-Yankson - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management
- Aniko Renee - Seedco
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Christina Bishop - St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks
- Marybelle Edelen - Lifestyles of Maryland
- Sue Veith - St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
- Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Jacquie Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Michael Martines - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Walkable Neighborhoods

- The [HSMP Comprehensive Walking Page](#) is currently under construction
 - Shan and Sue are working on creating an interactive walking map
 - Once finished, this resource could be shared on visitstmarysmd.com
- Ashlyn is adding St. Mary's County Walking Trails to All Trails
- "Walk With A Doc" event this fall
 - Event dates (Built in rain date: October 28)
 - September 30 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital from 10am-11am
 - October 14 at Lexington Manor Passive Park from 10am-12pm
 - There is a \$50 application fee to reserve LMPP, with additional staffing costs (\$25 per staff member per hour).
 - Will reach out to the R&P director and consider alternative sponsorship options
 - There will also be a health fair following the walk with vendors such as Seedco, St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's Community Development Corporation (Community Garden)
 - Providers are being secured for MSMH (Stephenie Gutridge-Snode) and Aetna Better Health of Maryland (3 providers)
 - If your organization is able to sponsor, [contact Shan!](#)

Transportation

- The first SMC Bike Share Program Interest Meeting was held on June 9
- A thorough discussion was had regarding the purpose of a bike share program in SMC (recreation vs. transportation, or both) and its locations
 - Southern Maryland Heritage Area would benefit with bicycle traffic
 - Leonardtown is good for leisurely riding, however, bicycling outside of the city is unsafe, according to Christina Allen
 - No bicycles are allowed on St. Mary's City Trails
- Projects that are currently underway
 - Sue mentioned an RFP for bike tourism for St. Mary's/Charles/Calvert counties
 - Ben Cohen mentioned a feasibility study being done, with Leonardtown and St. Mary's City being under consideration
 - Also discussed areas in the county in need of infrastructure improvement
- Frank Allen suggested that we reach out to Nate Evans, the State Bicycle Coordinator and CC BIAC Tri-County Council and SMART Alliance in the discussion.
 - **Action item:** Email Nate Evans; invite to next subcommittee meeting to discuss bicycle plans in Southern Maryland and St. Mary's County; get input on what criteria would make a bike infrastructure project more likely to be funded.
- The MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program
 - The team will review St. Mary's County projects meeting the eligible projects guideline that will likely be funded and push them forward. This will be a long-term project for EHAT that will span several months.
- **Action item:** EHAT members will attend the next BIAC Meeting on September 14.

Food Security

- The team continued discussing ways to expand food pantry donations and storage
 - Updates on The Barns at New Market walk-in refrigerator and freezer
 - Additional coordination would be necessary to utilize the equipment due to shared use with local producers
 - A potential site for placement of a fridge/freezer could be the seasonal market building
 - Will check if an STS route is available
- Sophia Brauns (SMADC) shared information on the newly launched SoMD Fridges program in Charles County. The program is funded by a grant, but it will eventually be community-led. In addition to food donations, its food pantry is also stocked with toiletries!
 - The team discussed starting a SoMD Fridges program in St. Mary's County
 - Ideas for potential fridge sites: St. Mary's County Health Hub, The Barns at New Market
 - Will continue discussing funding sources for refrigerator
- 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:
 - SMC Museums' Summer events
 - View and contribute to the event list [here!](#)
- There will be a Food Security Subcommittee meeting on July 6 to work through the above items. [Email](#) Shan if you'd like to join!

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities

- St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is looking into applying for AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities. There is no needed support from HSMP at this time.
 - Additional information: Flyer

Partner Spotlight

- Joanne Luke, Research Analyst for St. Mary's County Health Department, did a presentation on [BreatheWell St. Mary's](#)
- Learn more about the program by visiting smchd.org/breathewell



Partner Updates

- St. Mary's Community Development Corporation and its partners attended the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration and promoted the upcoming Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden. They reported that there was good community representation and individuals who expressed interest in volunteering!
 - For more information, visit stmaryscdc.org/our-mission/community-garden
- Seedco is looking to work with farmers, farmers markets and nurseries, as well as additional partners! Reach out to [Aniko](#) if you're interested.
- SMCHD is hiring for HSMP's Local Health Improvement Coordinator position! We are anticipating to have this person on boarded by August.
- Recreation & Parks has openings for its summer camps and trips! Click [here](#) to browse through the available selection.

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