



# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

# Agenda

1. Introductions
  2. Walkable Neighborhoods
  3. Transportation
  4. Food Security
  5. Rails-To-Trails Grant
  6. Partner Updates
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# Introductions

- Christina Bishop - St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks
- Michael Blackwell - St. Mary's County Library
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management
- Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- Michael Martines - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Aniko Renee - Seedco
- Jessica Richards - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Bill Roberts - St. Mary's College of Maryland / Feed St. Mary's
- Ashlyn Dishman - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Jacqueline Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Michelle Turkaly - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Sue Veith - St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
- George Clark - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

# Walkable Neighborhoods

- The [HSMP Comprehensive Walking Page](#) is currently under construction
  - Shan and Sue are continuing to work the interactive Google Map
- 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
      - SMCHD/HSMP is working on the park rental application now and Aetna Better Health of Maryland is coordinating payment with R&P
      - Vendors to invite to table at health fair following the walk?
        - Seedco, St. Mary's CDC, R&P (Jessica Hale), Lifestyles of MD, Tri-County Council (Jessica Richards)
    - Providers are being secured for MSMH (Stephenie Gutridge-Snode) and Aetna Better Health of Maryland (3 providers)
    - If your organization is able to help sponsor, [email Shan!](#)

# Transportation

- SMC Bike Share Program Interest Subcommittee Meeting follow up
  - **Action item:** Scheduling another subcommittee meeting, invite Emma Gillet and the owners of Patuxent Adventure Center
    - Who is interested in attending: George/Jessica, Ben Cohen, Michael Blackwell, Ashlyn, Shan
- **Action item:** Email Nate Evans the State Bicycle Coordinator; invite him to the 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.
  - CC BIAC Tri-County Council and SMART Alliance in the discussion
- The team will review St. Mary's County projects meeting the eligible projects guideline that will likely be funded and push them forward for next year. 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. There will be a hybrid meeting option.

# Food Security

- The team continued discussing ways to expand food pantry donations and storage
- Starting a SoMD Fridges program in St. Mary's County
  - Ideas for potential fridge sites: St. Mary's Caring, The Mission, The Church of The Ascension, The Barns at New Market
  - Funding sources for refrigerator
    - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offered to contribute 80% towards the cost of a new refrigerator, as long as another organization can fund 20%, and the receiving entity is a 501 (c)(3), such as a food pantry or soup kitchen
- Bag Hunger SoMD on September 23
  - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is looking for volunteers/food pantries to help pack/receive packaged meals. [Click here](#) for more details.
  - HSMP can do a call for volunteers as the event gets closer
- 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](#).
- The next Food Security Subcommittee meeting is August 3 from 2:30pm - 3:30pm. [Email](#) Shan if you'd like to join!
  - Will send an invite to a rep for Church of Ascension, Kristine Millen

# Rails-To-Trails Grant

- Bicycle infrastructure development is a topic of interest in St. Mary's County.
- Shan shared [this Rails-To-Trails grant](#), which provides funding up to \$25,000 towards bicycle infrastructure development projects.
- Unfortunately, this grant is not within the scope of HSMP.
- However, HSMP can advocate for funding to the St. Mary's County Commissioners by showing a need for bicycle infrastructure development in the community.
- Future considerations for the Environmental Health Action Team include launching a public opinion survey among county residents and sharing feedback.

# Partner Updates

- Jessica Richards is the new Regional Transit Coordinator for Tri-County Council. TCC is working on a pilot program with the ARC of SoMD in managing Wheels To Wellness. Contact [Mike Walbert](#) at ARC of SoMD with questions.
- HSMP is launching its [Annual Monitoring Survey](#) to better understand the work of action team members and partner organizations. Please complete this over the next couple of months.
- The Southern Maryland [Buy Local Challenge](#) Celebration is July 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Suttler Post Farm in Mechanicsville. For more information or to purchase tickets, click [here](#)!
- The 2nd Annual [Farmers Feeding St. Mary's](#) event is taking place August 17 at Bay District Volunteer Fire Department and September 16 at the Lexington Park UHaul parking lot.

# Communications

- Submit event and news updates/information at:  
[healthystmarys.com/newsletter](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, August 16, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)