

November 29 11:00 AM

HSMP Health Equity & Period Poverty Work Group

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome/Attendance (see last page)
- Overview: St. Mary's County Health Department's Health Equity Team and Healthy St. Mary's Partnership are thinking of doing a one-time period product donation drive to launch our Period Poverty initiative in St. Mary's County. It will be a small drive to collect and distribute donations initially. Moving forward, we will then designate different locations each month (church, school, etc) for the products to be available to the public for pickup. Feedback will be collected from the organizations that assist in distributing the supplies. Example metrics would be the number of items (or period packs) distributed, how long it took to distribute them before replenishing, etc. This data will be used to illustrate the baseline of need and help guide our future planning and funding efforts.
- Individuals responded by speaking about their organization and what they're doing or planning to do to address period poverty.
 - The Library is seeking to have a dispenser for pads and tampons in their women's restroom. Elizabeth is looking at their options and feasibility and will present findings to their administration for approval.
 - Stella's Girls has been doing work to address period poverty for the last 12 years. Through grant funding focusing on the Social Determinants of Health, they can provide products in spaces such as the library. Kaprece offered to reach out to partners who provide their products to see if they can assist our initiative. Stella's Girls also regularly holds educational workshops with local health professionals who speak about women's health and period education.
 - Aetna Better Health of Maryland is an MCO (Managed Care Organization) that offers a free benefit for its enrolled members. Every three months, members can get pads/tampons shipped to their houses. Christine says she also has access to products that she may be able to donate.
 - NP Family Practice said they were more than willing to support. Temeria noted that she has a colleague who runs a nonprofit organization called [Her Padded Truth](#) in Hampton Roads, VA that supplies menstruation products to unhoused or impoverished women.
 - CTLDomGroup Inc. works with military veterans to support their health and well-being. Its CEO, Dr. Tiffany Daniel, says they offer counseling and education on forms of birth control to their clients.
- The Work Group discussed the planning of the Period Product Drive, designating organizations to be "Collection Sites," where donations could be dropped off, and "Distribution Sites," where products could be given away. Types of products being solicited were defined. The group tentatively agreed to hold the drive in May 2024, in observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28).
 - Sites of Collection (not finalized)
 - Health Department Locations (Main HD, Health Hub, SBHCs)

- CTLDomGroup Inc.
 - Leonardtown Library
 - NP Family Practice
 - St. Mary's College of Maryland
 - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
 - Sites of Distribution (not finalized)
 - JobSource clients
 - Colleges (SMCM, CSM)
 - Recreation and Parks (baskets in local parks, etc.)
 - Food Banks
 - Local Faith-Based Organizations (God's House of Refuge, Church of Ascension, Tell the Truth Ministries)
 - Department of Social Services
 - HRC
 - Products
 - Cups
 - Pads
 - Tampons
 - Period Panties
- After further discussion, the group determined that holding a “soft launch” first, within our respective agencies, would be beneficial in working out the kinks
- This Work Group will be divided into several smaller groups dedicated to working on the following items:
 - Legislation/Advocacy
 - We will be forming a small team to look into legislation surrounding period products, adding them to the HSMP Advocacy Agenda and providing letters of support. Will get these items prepared for the Steering Committee to vote on.
 - Sustained Funding/Grant Applications
 - Pads Across America
 - I Support The Girls provides products, including bras and panties
 - Reaching out to local businesses to support the purchase and distribution of products
 - Education
 - Developing or finding an existing curriculum/educational piece and identifying organizations that can provide education
 - Utilizing HSMP partners to get them trained up to talk about these things to lighten the load

- Needs assessment to get an idea of what the need for period products is in the community
- Action items:
 - Finalizing the sites of collection and distribution (Suha and Shan)
- The next workgroup meeting will be on January 30 11:00 AM

Meeting Attendance

1. Nat Scroggins - Minority Outreach Coalition
2. Aniko Renee - St. Mary's County Health Department
3. Ashley Milcetic - St. Mary's County Health Department
4. Christine Delise - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
5. Jacqueline Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department
6. Joana Naranjo - St. Mary's County Health Department
7. Kaprece James - Stella's Girls
8. Elizabeth Davis - St. Mary's County Library
9. Michelle Pottinger - St. Mary's County Health Department
10. Michelle Turkaly - St. Mary's County Health Department
11. Suha Ansari - St. Mary's County Health Department
12. Virginia Morris - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
13. Dr. Tiffany Daniel - CTLDomGroup
14. Derek Adams - St. Mary's County Health Department
15. Jerry, SMCM Student volunteer
16. Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
17. Temeria Wilcox - NP Family Practice
18. Angela Cochran - St. Mary's County Health Department
19. Kelsey Bush - St. Mary's College of Maryland