



# **Violence, Injury, & Trauma Action Team Meeting**

Thursday, February 22, 2024

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. New VIT Action Team Co-Chair
3. Partner Updates
4. Upcoming Events
5. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
6. 2024 Brainstorming

# Introductions

[Click here](#) to access the meeting attendee list.

# New VIT Action Team Co-Chair



## **Michelle Pottinger**

Michelle Pottinger is the Director of the Violence, Injury, and Trauma (VIT) unit for the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD). Starting at SMCHD in 2020 as a contact tracer, her passion and commitment for public health blossomed as she worked closely with the public, addressing the daily challenges faced in public health. She provides oversight to the VIT programs including the Mentoring Connections Program and the Group Violence Intervention Program. She has over 18 years of experience in healthcare, and is a NBCOT and Maryland Board Certified Occupational Therapist. Her expertise and diverse experiences have influenced her commitment to addressing the social determinants of health which impacts community well-being. Michelle resides in St. Mary's County with her husband and son, and enjoys reading and traveling.

# Partner Updates

- Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy is collaborating with Empowered Connections to launch a free, virtual support group for victims in March. It will run the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 6-7:30 PM.
- St. Mary's County Health Department was awarded funding to expand short-term behavioral health services at its school-based health centers.
- The Youth Mentoring Connection program is accepting referrals. They recently connected with Lexington Park Elementary School and sent out 15 referrals to families. For more information on mentoring programs, email Brianne Daly. For information on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), click here.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year, Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting Paws for Peace, an animal-friendly event on the first or second week of October. If you'd like to table, reach out to Emilie Thomas.
- St. Mary's County Homelessness Prevention Board is hosting its Community Resource Day on Friday, September 13 in Lexington Park, with a rain date of September 27. More info to come!

# Upcoming Events

- The next ACEs Discussion Panel will be on Wednesday, March 27 from 6-8:30 PM St. Mary's College of Maryland - Glendening Annex. If you're available to volunteer, please indicate on [this form](#).
- HSMP's Behavioral Health Action Team is coordinating a series of outreach and canvassing events this spring and summer.
  - Please review [this form](#) and complete it you're interested in volunteering. HSMP staff will follow up to coordinate with you.

# Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

## February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month!

- St. Mary's County Commissioners presented a Proclamation on February 6!
- Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy provided online resources for Teen Dating Violence to St. Mary's County Public Schools. Calvert County Public Schools in partnership with SMCFA/Taylor, is holding presentations on Teen Dating Violence Awareness on February 26!
- St. Mary's County Health Department shared its flyer on Teen Dating Violence Awareness.
- Partnership for a Safer Maryland is holding its webinar, "Data To Action: Violent Deaths - Understanding and Preventing Homicides and Suicides in Maryland Using a Public Health Approach" on February 29 from 10 AM - 12 PM.
- SMCFA is hosting an art contest on "What does love look like to you?" for teens (aged 13-21) in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's County. Entries will be accepted until March 8!

# 2024 Brainstorming

- In February, we identified **intimate partner violence** and **accidental injuries** as topics that action team members were passionate about.
- Team members were split into two breakout rooms and brainstormed further to come up with the following initiatives:
  - Intimate partner violence
    - Partnering with crisis or mobile response services, hosting a drive, assembling goody bags for victims of abuse
  - Accidental injuries
    - Focusing on education around driver safety (distracted /drunk driving, traffic accidents), fire safety (winter and summer), and water safety.
- We will continue to discuss these initiatives at March's meeting!



# Communications

**The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Newsletter** is distributed every two weeks and highlights information on the four health priority areas for St. Mary's County. Sign up or share information with our members!



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# Upcoming Meetings

- **Next meeting: Thursday, March 28, 2024, 1:00 - 2:00 PM.**
  - Next month, we discuss offering the option to hold quarterly action team meetings in the evening to include all community members.
- Interested in being the next Partner Spotlight? Sign up [here](#)!
  - March - Heidi Penix of Johns Hopkins University will present on Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO).