

# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Partner Spotlight
3. Partner Updates
4. Walking Groups
5. Food Security
6. Community Clean Up


# Introductions

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

# Partner Spotlight

- Suha Ansari, Health Equity Coordinator, Division of Community Engagement and Policy, at the St. Mary's County Health Department, presented about addressing and creating sustainable solutions to period poverty.
  - The HSMP Period Poverty Drive is taking place during National Menstrual Health Awareness Month in May.
  - View our Period Poverty Supply Drive Toolkit or email Suha at [suha.ansari@maryland.gov](mailto:suha.ansari@maryland.gov) to volunteer to be a supply donation site or post flyers to spread awareness!

It's that time 

 Time to end  
period poverty.



# Partner Updates

- St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment will host their annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20, 11 AM - 4 PM, at Summerseat Farms Inc. in Mechanicsville.
- HSMP and St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) are hosting the "Surf the Mental Health & Wellness Wave" Resource and Education Fair on Saturday, May 18, from 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. at the James A. Forrest Career & Tech Center.
- In observance of National Minority Health Month in April, the St. Mary's County Minority Outreach Coalition (MOC) and SMCHD will be hosting their annual Community Conversation on April 25 from 6-7:30 PM. Register now!
- The Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden is open! The formal ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at the Cherry Blossom Festival on April 6 and was well received!
  - The shed for the garden will be in this month after the driveway is installed. Sign-up for the paid rental plot waitlist is still available. Volunteers are welcome to join communal gardening days on-site, Sundays (8am-11am) and Thursdays (3pm-6pm)!

# Walking Groups

HSMP Walking Group: Our FREE walking group is now meeting twice a month!

- Groups meet on the third Wednesday of the month at John G. Lancaster Park, from 6-7 PM. Meet us by the basketball courts!
  - The Facebook event page has been updated to reflect future walks, including the next, on May 15.
- Difficulty joining the group during the week? Join us on our monthly weekend walking group! The group will meet Saturday, May 18 at the Leonardtown Wharf Waterfront Park. Individuals, families, strollers, and leashed fur-babies are always welcome.
  - Please share the new flier with your network! RSVP on our new Facebook event page for Saturday Walks at the Wharf!

# Food Security

- At the last meeting, the team worked on a Jamboard and discussed initiatives to focus on reducing food waste and prompting composting.
  - HSMP will be partnering with St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation (CDC) to promote the LMPP Community Garden! Partners and community members are encouraged to assist the garden by:
    - Volunteering during communal work days, joining the LMPPGC Volunteer Group on Facebook, and donating to the LMPPCG Amazon Wishlist.
    - Advertising the community garden on County Times, The Enterprise, and The Baynet
    - Promoting the garden's educational classes/events
    - Storytime at the garden, intermediate planting, companion planting composting, beekeeping
    - For more info on the garden, email Carla Wilson.
  - Sue was able to get the article published for the next newsletter discussing composting and other food-waste solutions for businesses and outreach events in the county newsletter.

# Community Clean-Up

- Save the Date for St. Mary's CDC's Great Mills Road Community Clean Up event is on June 1, 2024.
  - The county is focused on private solutions for solid waste, which may not work for all community members.
    - EHAT can look at grant funding opportunities in the near future to support waste removal efforts in Lexington Park.
    - They are looking to create an environmental health hub to service residents that focuses on eco-friendly activities and solutions, safe disposal of hazardous materials, etc.
- HSMP may be able to partner with the CDC for an additional clean up event in the fall, but are currently at capacity for planning and coordination.
  - The group discussed community clean up initiatives in Lexington Park locations, such as Willows Rd, the community garden, and the library.



# 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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Get social with us! Share your favorite healthy recipes, fun ways to be physically active, tips for quitting smoking and more with HSMP!



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# Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
  - Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)
- **Save the Date! The HSMP Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the USM at Southern Maryland SMART Building - Grand Hall from 8:30AM-2PM! [Register](#) to vendor/table now!**

