



Period Equity & Women's Health Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Period Supply Drive Recap
3. Discussion of Product Distribution
4. Distribution Sites
5. Mini Work Groups
6. Next Meeting

Introductions

- **Welcome!** View the [attendee list](#).

Period Supply Drive Recap

- Thank you to all of our dedicated partners who donated supplies and participated!
 - Aetna Better Health of Maryland
 - Blossoming Butterfly Warriors Inc.
 - Child Advocacy Center
 - Boeing
 - Fidelity Chapter #60, Order of Eastern Star
 - NP Family Practice
 - Stella's Girls Inc.
 - Girls Rising
 - St. Mary's County Health Department
 - St. Mary's County Minority Outreach Coalition (MOC)
 - St. Mary's County Public Library
- Need to coordinate pick-up of your organization's donations? We can help!
 - Email [Suha](#) or [Aniko](#) to schedule pick-up or drop-off with our outreach team.

Discussion of Product Distribution

- Beccy and Trish received the following feedback from local nurses in St. Mary's County:
 - Elementary school nurses need period packs with underwear (sizes 8-16) and different size pads for youth. The nurses have been funding products themselves. We could use HSMP funding to purchase regular underwear.
 - Coordinating with SMCPS as HSMP to provide info session with staff at open houses and Kelsey could assist with advocating as co-chair.
 - Distributing at the SBHC at SRMS and Margaret Brent - Amber/Lisa. Ashley can provide bags for supplies (HSMP/partner logos for bags-Amazon)
 - Period supplies are needed for back to school supplies, but there is some hesitation (compliance) by certain schools, but offered to partner with the free lunch program next summer to include product packs with lunches and other free services.
 - The team should split items individually to avoid waste and dividing by product type-then allowing students and community members to take both, if needed.
 - The group discussed possibly supplying enough products to last 1-3 months per person.
 - We will revisit quantity closer to back-to-school time.
- Organizing packing date(s):
 - School starts August 23, 2024 - would need to be done before back-to-school events hosted by the community. Including St. Mary's Caring and MOC back to school events.
 - 1-2 hr time frame on a weekday afternoon
 - **Action Item:** Google Form with Campaign name survey to come!

Distribution Sites

- The team suggested the following sites for menstruation products to be distributed:
 - St. Mary's County Schools
 - School-based health centers at Margaret Brent and Spring Ridge Middle Schools
 - St. Mary's County Library (Leonardtown, Lexington Park, Charlotte Hall)
 - Pantries at library locations; Mobile Library
 - SMCHD's Main Office - Lobby in Leonardtown for public access
 - Health Hub in Lexington Park
 - The Harm Reduction Program received a recent donation of period supplies and have been passing out free period packs!
 - The Mission, Lifestyles in Lexington Park, homeless shelters, food pantries
 - Church of the Ascension, St. Mary's Caring and other pantries
 - Reaching out to re-entry and recidivism programs
 - DSS (Lisa S.), Foster Care, Project Chesapeake, and Group Homes
 - Pathways Stronger Families Program (Greg) and VESTA
 - NAS PAX River - reach out to youth center, fleet and family services liaisons (Natalie & Dawn)
 - VFW Post for future drop-offs to incorporate veterans and community members.
 - Adolescent Clubhouse

Mini Work Groups

In order to maintain the sustainability of our initiative, we discussed the need to focusing on specific areas that address period poverty. The following members volunteered to participate in our mini work groups.

- Legislation and Advocacy
 - Kaprece James and Elizabeth Davis
 - The HSMP Steering Committee voted to include period equity in the advocacy agenda and to review upcoming legislation on period equity in order to provide letters of support on a case-by-case basis.
 - **Action Item:** Meeting with Kaprece & Liz about the legislative side.
- Sustained Funding/Grant Applications
 - Suha to look at funding/grant opportunities- HSMP applied for the Pads Across America Grant through Alliance of Period Products
 - Christine, Lisa Sheehan and Lisa Milburn will explore other managed care organizations (MCOs) to see what benefits are available to its enrollees.
 - **Action Item:** Meeting with Christine about the Sustained Grant from Aetna.
- Education & Outreach
 - Kaprece (through Stella's Girl's)
 - Beccy & Trish (community members/educators)

Next Meeting

- Our subcommittee will vote on our next meeting date, sometime in late July - early August. Submit your response on topics discussed using this Google Form, including:
 - Availability for volunteers to assist with packing period product distribution bags prior to back-to-school events
 - Motion to change the name/title for the equity initiative
 - Frequency to hold follow-up meetings for the subcommittee

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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