

**Obesity Task Force Meeting**  
**Harford County Health Department – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**September 20, 2012 8:30 a.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Jesse Bane, Michael Elder, Dr. Rebecca Hartwig, Beth Hendrix, Susan Kelly, Janet Gleisner, Jayne Klein, Ginny Popiolek, Kathy Kraft, Arden McClune, Dr. Russell Moy, Laura McIntosh, Bari Klein, Mallory McCloskey, Julie Mackert

**Welcome**

- Opening and welcome by Susan Kelly. Attendees introduced themselves and provided their background information.
- Susan Kelly thanked everyone and all subcommittees for their work. A special thank you was given to Laura McIntosh for producing the draft final Obesity Task Force Report.

**Subcommittee Updates**

- Kathy Kraft was provided a Community Engagement subcommittee update. Addressed four key items identified by the subcommittee as steps in moving forward:
  - Marketing campaign to educate the community.
  - Healthy Harford designation for restaurants, schools, businesses, and childcare centers.
  - Physician provider education to raise awareness.
  - Sustainability of all the initiatives.
- Kathy Kraft and Beth Hendrix commented on combining the Community Engagement and Access to Healthy Foods subcommittees as many of their recommendations intersected.
- Beth Hendrix discussed the Community Café which brought together representatives from local food pantries, food banks, and soup kitchens to review the results of the access to healthy food research.
  - Consensus from the Café suggested that no additional locations of food pantries/food banks were needed but instead, better coordination of current locations was suggested including better transportation for the Northern end of the County.
- Arden McClune provided an update from the Built Environment Subcommittee. The subcommittee discovered many opportunities and issues within the built environment. The following were recommendations that were discussed:
  - Encourage activity in daily life and providing the ability to do so safely.
  - Encouragements of an alternative form of transportation as those who use public transportation are walking both before and after their trips.
  - Encourage improvements of access to transit stops.
  - Support the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan as well as the 2012 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- Ginny Popiolek provided an update on school wellness initiatives falling in line with both the Community Transformation Grant and the obesity issue.

- All schools created master plans and each school had to include a required wellness goal (i.e. cafeteria improvements, zumba for faculty)
- Creation of recess program that incorporates some form of physical movement.
- Promoting staff, student, and community awareness through faculty meetings, health-related evening activities for families, and utilizing public health students in creating public health messages.
- Provisions such as health screenings, purified water systems, and heart rate monitors have been purchased for the schools to foster an environment of healthy living.

### **Final Obesity Task Force Report**

- Laura McIntosh introduced and addressed the changes that were made to the draft final Obesity Task Force report. A hand-out was provided to all attendees detailing the changes within the report.

### **Discussion and Next Steps**

- Susan Kelly stated that the final Obesity Task Force report will be presented to County Council on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Susan stated that there will be a few more days left to provide additional comments. All comments should be submitted to Laura McIntosh by September 27<sup>th</sup>. Laura will email everyone the most updated version in Microsoft Word format so it can be easily edited.
- Susan Kelly stated that the formal Obesity Task Force has concluded but there is still work to be done. Susan indicated that we are still charged with the Local Health Improvement Process which is moving forward to at least 2014 so there is need to maintain these committees for future work. Susan opened the floor to the attendees for their thoughts.
- Discussion was had regarding the next steps for the formal Obesity Task Force as to whether there should be an advisory board, a commission, or a charter with clarification that a charter is open for public opinion.
- Conclusions of the discussion established that it should be recommended that the County Council establish a Harford County Wellness Commission that will sustain and advance the goals of the Obesity Task Force. This Commission should consist of former Obesity Task Force member organizations as well as Healthy Harford, and report annually to the Council. The Commission shall work with Healthy Harford to implement the policies and programs recommended in the Obesity Task Force Report.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Susan Kelly stated that the Obesity Task Force Final Report will be presented to County Council on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> tentatively at 6:00PM. She encouraged Obesity Task Force members to attend the meeting.
- Susan stated that the Local Health Improvement Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-2:00pm at Harford Community College.
- Susan stated that Healthy Harford Day will be Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-11:00am. Bari Klein provided more details about the event.