

# Community Engagement Subcommittee Minutes –

**August 30, 2012**

Attendees: Kathy Kraft, Kathy Burley, Carole Boniface, Gail Sauer, Bari Klein, Laura McIntosh, Russ Moy, Whitney Lang, Rob Bailey, Ginny Popiolek, Lindy Ford, Julie Mackert, Mary Nasuta, Susan Kelly, Heidi Brady, Bruce Clark, , Kelly Lepley, Martha Valentine, Robin Stokes-Smith, Jayne Klein, Mary Hastler, Donarae Mousdale, Linda Ames.

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On behalf of the Community Engagement Committee, Chairwoman Kathy Kraft welcomed the new attendees that joined the group from the Access to Healthy Foods workgroup. In the spring it was determined that the two groups were heading down similar paths, and that it was a logical transformation for them to merge and combine their efforts.

Laura McIntosh provided an update on the draft of the Obesity Task Force report to County Council which is due on October 2, 2012. Feedback was requested from committee members for inclusion in the final report.

Bari Klein provided an update on the Community Campaign that will help brand the Healthy Harford and establish it as a key source of information, advocacy, and leadership in the community for healthy lifestyles and community wellness. Members were encouraged to be part of the selection search committee for a marketing firm, and Donarae Mousdale agreed to serve on that committee.

Dr. Russell Moy presented a Powerpoint on the status of the Healthy Restaurant program. Bruce Clark from Laurrapin Grill gave insight into the process from a restaurant owner’s perspective. Susan Kelly, Health Officer spoke about the Restaurant Certification program that will be subsidized as part of the incentive for participating in the Healthy Restaurant program.

Dr. Moy presented a second Powerpoint, this time on the Community Transformation Grant School Wellness Initiative. This presentation was given earlier in the month to teachers and staff as a means to help educators understand why this initiative is necessary, how it fits into overall community health initiatives (Local Health Improvement Process – LHIP), what exactly it entails, and how it is funded. Ginny Popiolek from the Harford County Public Schools gave an insider’s view on the positive perception the program is receiving from school staff, and examples of how this initiatives is being linked with on-going individual school wellness endeavors, i.e. staff exercise classes, walking groups, healthy snack days, etc.

Bari Klein provided a brief overview of plans underway for Healthy Harford Day scheduled to take place on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The event is in partnership with the Bel Air Farmer's Market and is designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity. Members were asked for input regarding the event, and for their help in making the day a success. Rob Bailey and Kathy Burley volunteered to join the planning group.

Chairwoman Kathy Kraft concluded the meeting by talking about the sustainability of the community engagement group once the Obesity Task Force final report was issued. The final report is intended to be an outline of intent. The real work of implementation will then need to begin shortly thereafter.