

Harford County Local Health Improvement Process- Obesity Task Force
Healthy Harford-Community Engagement Workgroup
Friday, July 11, 2014, 8:30am
Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room 207

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bari Klein- Upper Cheapeake Health (UCH), Harford County Health Department (HCHD); Mallory McCloskey – HCHD; Molly Mraz – HCHD; Russ Moy – HCHD; Laura McIntosh – HCHD; Robin Stokes-Smith- UCH; Susan Twigg- HCHD; Elizabeth Driskoll – Citizen; Shawn Duffy – The People’s Republic of Orange Awareness; Meg Deem – Harford County Gov’t Office of the County Executive; Janet Gleisner – Dept of Planning and Zoning; Rebecca Hartwig – Pediatrician, Pediatric Partners; Jane Howe – University of Maryland Master Gardeners; Kathy Burley – Harford Community College.

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Healthy Harford Day – September 27th 2014

The meeting opened with a discussion about Healthy Harford Day. Healthy Harford Day is our major community engagement special event of the year, and our committee has devoted significant resources to its success. An update on the 40 exhibitors, 3 performers, and 9 sponsors of the event was presented. Committee members were then asked to envision their version of a healthy community and suggest other vendors/exhibitors/programs they would like to see at the event. Suggestions included mental health, acupuncture, home safety, drug take back, CPR, garden boxes, and a strong focus on young families including toddler my plates, growing your own baby food, family swim lessons/aqua aerobics for pregnant moms, mom groups/social networks, and making your own baby food. Suggestions were noted and will be pursued.

Interdepartmental Bicycle and Pedestrian Team

Janet Gleisner, Chief of Transportation for the Department of Planning and Zoning gave an update on the work of the Interdepartmental Bicycle and Pedestrian Team. This team is comprised of multiple county government agencies as well as Healthy Harford and Harford County Public Schools. The goal of the team is to prioritize, implement, and find funding for built environment projects outlined in the Harford County Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Goals of this plan are to support complementary goals in the Obesity Task Force Final Report and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Janet discussed:

- The two Safe Routes to School grants that were submitted to improve walkability at target schools: sidewalk connectors and ADA ramps for Southampton Middle and a walkability study for Emmorton Elementary.
- Recreation Trail program to put a trail on Rt. 24 in Forest Hill to connect Forest Hill Elementary to Recreation Fields, and to connect the East Coast Greenway on Rt. 23 to services in Forest Hill.
- Joppa Farm Road walkability study and improvement in sidewalks and street crossing to improve walkability in that area.

- The new webpage that the Department of Planning and Zoning is launching as a resource for all walking and biking information in Harford County.
- East Coast Greenway signage that is being installed, the project to survey all transit stops to catalogue necessary improvements, and the focus, when prioritizing improvements, on access to transportation and food/services.

Harford County Health Department Accreditation

Dr. Russ Moy, Deputy Director, Harford County Health Department, gave a brief overview of the accreditation process the Health Department is presently engaged in. Only 44 of the 3,000 health departments nationwide have been accredited so far, none in Maryland. As Healthy Harford is the Community Engagement group of the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC), Dr. Moy wanted to make the group aware of the process and the fact that many of our members may be asked to participate in the accreditation sight visit which will take place this fall, probably around November.

Round Table

- HCHD Addiction is hosting a Recovery Run 5k September 6th. We will cross promote this with Healthy Harford Day.
- Office on Aging is looking for volunteers to help with delivers for their Produce Box program. They are also launching a *Got an Hour* volunteer program for those who would like to volunteer in the community, but only want to commit to short term projects.
- HCHD Cancer Program is launching a *Faith, Activity, and Nutrition* program to engage African American Churches to reduce the colorectal cancer in their communities.
- Master Gardeners gave an update on the County's first community garden in Darlington. All is going well, with only minimal damage incurred over the July 4th holiday. One family is even growing their own baby food. They have put in a capital request with the Department of Parks and Recreation for improved fencing and water pipes. Presently gardeners must haul in their own water. The development of this garden is being carefully documented to develop a template for other communities. Future plans include seed saving, seed swaps, and display gardens at area libraries.
- Harford Community College reported on new camps where kids design their own curriculum, some great healthy kids cooking classes, and *Dollar Days* on September 6th 11am to 1pm where community members can take advantage of a huge variety of classes for only \$1.
- The County Executive Office reminded all of us that the up-coming elections in November will change the landscape of elected officials in our community. It was suggested that we invite some of the candidates to experience some of our community programs first hand, and keep them update on public health issues.