

Harford County Local Health Improvement Process
Healthy Harford – Obesity Workgroup
May 12, 2016
Harford Community College – Darlington Hall

Attendees: Bari Klein (Chair); Kristie Willats (University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health – UMUCH); Robin Stokes (UMUCH); Russell Moy (Harford County Health Department – HCHD); Mary Beth Stapleton (Harford County Public Schools); Kim Theis (UMUCH); Angela Saccenti (Arena Club); Shane Grimm (Harford County Planning and Zoning); Kathy Burley (Harford Community College); Gale Sauer (Aberdeen Proving Ground ATECH); Jane Howe, MD (Coopertive Ext Master Gardeners); AnneMarie Battis (Essential Wellness)

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HarfordNEXT: Shane Grimm from the Harford County Planning and Zoning (PNZ) Department gave a brief update on the [HarfordNEXT land use planning document](#). The final draft of the document was submitted to County Council on May 3, 2016, and the public hearing will take place at the June 7, 2016 County Council meeting. Since the document has been submitted to Council, PNZ is no longer accepting comments. Residents can contact their council representative directly or attend the public hearing on June 7, 2016 if they want to comment. After the public hearing, the County Council may propose amendments to the plan. Look for final plan adoption in August. The purpose of HarfordNEXT is to function as a Master Plan guidance document for how the county envisions itself in the next 10 years.

Passport 2 Harford: The Harford County Community College Team led by Brad Fallon, Katie Soltysiak, and Megan Nelson tied for first place in the Maryland Sustainable Growth Challenge. Brad and Katie presented the Power Point on the program for our LHIC group. The crux of Passport 2 Harford is a proposed 75-mile bicycle and pedestrian network that connects Aberdeen, Bel air, Havre de Grace, Abingdon, and Edgewood, highlighting points of interests, trails, public parks, hotels, restaurants and more. The idea is to increase economic impact through tourism and local travel as well as improve the environment through decreased vehicular usage. The well thought out presentation compared the proposed project to the successful Allegany Passage project in western Maryland that has brought millions of tourism dollars to the towns surrounding the project, as well as improved quality of life for local residents. Healthy Harford/LHIC Obesity group members were enthusiastic about the presentation and would like to partner with the Passport 2 Harford team and support their work moving forward.

Updates:

Days of Taste: A slideshow was presented on the farm visit for the Deerfield Elementary students. Church Creek Elementary and Havre de Grace Elementary also participated in the program this spring.

HarfordNEXT: The Healthy Harford/LHIC Obesity workgroup submitted comments on the document regarding prioritizing healthy lifestyles to prevent chronic disease, access to healthy foods, and supporting active transportation, and the vast majority of those comments were rolled into the revised document. A huge thanks to our partners at Planning and Zoning for supporting our efforts.

Tedx: A grant was submitted to the Harford County Economic Development Office to support a community education TEDx talk. We will hear back by June 1, 2016.

Community Gardens: Jane Howe and Bari Klein will work on developing a flow chart to assist residents with starting community gardens.

Carfit Program: We were supposed to have a soft launch of the program this summer but the lead at the Fallston Senior Center has been experiencing some health issues. The first session instead will take place this fall after Healthy Harford Day.

Roundtable:

- Anne Marie Battis: Her business Essential Wellness has frequent free classes throughout the community. She will begin posting the schedule on the Healthy Harford website.
- Robin Stokes: HealthLink offers monthly car seat inspections. Sessions fill up fast and additional technicians are needed. Contact her if interested in being trained. rstokes-smith@uchs.org
- Kristie Willats: The anti-vaping program has been updated and is ready to be taken out to the community. Contact her at kwillats@uchs.org if interested in the presentation.
- Molly Mraz: Presented information on the upcoming Bike to Work Days
- Angela Saccenti: Talked about the Arena Club's upcoming Kids 4 Hope mud run in September and the much requested adult version which may be added.
- Gale Sauer: Said that ATEC just wrapped up another successful slim down challenge where 8 people lost 112 lbs. and 27 inches. Through their wellness group they are also offering tobacco cessation and participating in the Bike to Work Day event.