

# Letter from the Health Officer

Our Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report offers an overview of the Harford County Health Department's efforts to advance health and wellness. The report will provide insight into the successes achieved and diverse opportunities presented during the last year (July 2023 - June 2024). The Harford County Health Department is committed to making Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland.

The goal for FY 24 was to create more unique programs and focus on accommodating our diverse population of residents. Our Behavioral Health Bureau continued to thrive by successfully offering a comprehensive geriatric program, as well as a mental health support group for females aged 60+, in addition to the many services that were previously in place. Our Free to Be program, a community-based LGBTQ+ program that offers monthly get-togethers where teens (ages 12-17) can find support, guidance, and a sense of community, has increased their numbers significantly since they began. There are currently 22 members enrolled each month.

At the start of 2024, our Clinical Health Bureau began offering evening clinics to their Family Planning clients from 8:15am until 6:00pm for the first and third Wednesday of the month, as well as Immunization clinics from 3:00pm until 6:00pm on the same days. This accommodation has allowed 94 more clients to be seen at a time that works for them.

Our Minority Health program continues to exceed expectations with their annual I You We Matter Youth Symposiums for the young men and women of Harford County. In FY 24, they created and sustained a successful partnership with the Ward Y in Abingdon, which served as the venue for both events. They hosted 77 young ladies at the event in November 2023 and 25 young men in June 2024.

We have increased our clients seen in many of our programs. Additionally, we have increased the number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients seen and provided 5,288 translation or interpretation services. We anticipate these programs to continue to excel in FY 25.

Thank you for your part in advancing Harford County's public health. The Harford County Health Department looks forward to continuing our work and meeting challenges together in the Fiscal Year 2025.

## **MARCY AUSTIN**

Harford County Health Department  
Health Officer

