**HEAL Work Group Meeting**

**January 18, 2024**

| **Attendance**  Mizetta Wilson (co-chair), Partnership for Children, Youth and Families  Carol Cason, Anne Arundel County Public Libraries  Kea McKoy Farr, Anne Arundel County Food Bank  Joelle Ridgeway, Anne Arundel County Department of Aging  Mackensie Wheeler, UM, Baltimore Washington Medical Center  James Merritt, Merritt Health Clubs  Jodi Risse, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Leah  Karla Clara Vega, UM Horowitz Center for Health Literacy  Kia Holder, Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency  Debbie Wood, Chesapeake Children’s Museum  Healthy Anne Arundel staff and support from Department of Health:  Mindi Garrett, Donna Perkins |  |
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| **Building a Better Maryland Survey**  The survey, which is aimed at improving the health and well-being of all Maryland residents , is still open! The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean and is intended for any Maryland resident who is at least 18 years old.  \*Since the survey opened, the majority of the 4,800+ respondents have been female, white, and over 65 years old. The survey remains open in an effort to encourage responses from a broader demographic which better represents Maryland’s diverse population.  [Click here](https://forms.gle/HXtEJt2X3F5jdATr6) to take the survey, available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Creole. Please distribute the survey flier broadly to residents 18+.  If you have any questions about Building a Healthier Maryland or about the survey, please send an email to [MDH.BAHM@maryland.gov](mailto:MDH.BAHM@maryland.gov).  **Workplan Updates**  Goal 1: Sharing Resources and events   | **Status** | **Objective** | **Notes** | | --- | --- | --- | | Complete | Develop materials to promote the new HEAL resource platform | Rack card, social media post drafts created. | | In Progress | Healthy Anne Arundel Day | Planning committee formed  Schedule planning meeting in December | | Ongoing | Partner presentations | Bi-monthly meetings will be 75 minutes to accommodate one presenter |   **HEAL resource platform (FindHelp)**  The promotional rack card is available as a printable and in digital form.  Action Items   * Partners are asked to continue to submit programs and resources through the [google form](https://forms.gle/pTo56q1En4224mA76). * If your organization has more than 10 resources to submit, please contact Mindi at [hdgarr01@aacounty.org](mailto:hdgarr01@aacounty.org).   **Healthy Anne Arundel Day (April 7)**  There will be 4 hub events held in the 4 county quadrants:  North County: Y in Pasadena  West County: Merritt Health Club, Hanover  Annapolis: Chesapeake Children’s Museum  South County: not confirmed  Some location suggestions from the group included North County swim center, Chesapeake Arts, Pasadena Y for North County. The South County Senior Center, Lula Scott, Shady Side, or Early Head Start in Edgewater are potential locations for South County. (Y in Pasadena was confirmed as the North County location soon after the meeting.)    Entrance fees will be waived on April 7th for all regional parks! This includes Quiet Waters Park, Kinder Farm Park, Downs Park, Fort Smallwood Park, and Beverly Triton Nature Park.  Organizations are encouraged to participate by 1) joining one of the hub events, or 2) holding their own healthy activity. A flier will be circulated to invite organizations in the HEAL network to participate.  Action Items   * Email Mindi if you would like to join the Healthy Anne Arundel Day planning * Look for the Healthy Anne Arundel Day flier (coming soon) to share * Mindi to follow up with Kia Holder regarding Early Head Start location in Edgewater.   **Partner Showcase: Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities**  Joelle Ridgeway, Deputy Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities, provided a presentation of their many programs to the group. This presentation, along with future partner presentations, will be featured on the HEAL page of HealthyAnneArundel.org.  There is more to look forward to!  March 2024: Jodi Risse, Food and Nutrition Services, AAC  May 2024: Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning.  July 2024: This spot is available  September 2024: Leah Paley, Anne Arundel County Food Bank  Action Items   * Please contact Mindi at [hdgarr01@aacounty.org](mailto:hdgarr01@aacounty.org) if you would like to present your program at a future meeting!   Goal 2: Promoting policies that support healthy living   | **Status** | **Objective** | **Notes** | | --- | --- | --- | | Completed | Federal PHIT Act 1-pager | Approved, being distributed | | In Progress | Youth sports field/ facility use and rental 1-pager | Needs a catchy title | | In Progress | Disability Inclusion Project | meeting monthly, planning for grant release |   **Federal PHIT Act**  Personal Health Improvement Today. This federal bill would expand the use of Flexible Spending Accounts and Health Savings Accounts to include fitness-specific costs and activities. A HEAL subcommittee developed an informational flier to promote the bill.  Action Items   * Continue with distribution * Social media promotions through HAAC   + Follow <https://www.facebook.com/HealthyAAC>   + Like, share, and comment to expand the post reach   + Repost on your organization’s page   **Info sheet for facility/ field rental and use**  Information has been collected from both the county and Annapolis Rec & Parks on the processes and requirements to use fields and facilities for youth sports. The document is still being reviewed by Annapolis Rec and Parks.  The group brainstormed ideas for a title for the info sheet:  Go Out and Play!  Go Play Maryland  Go Play Anne Arundel  How to Find and Reserve Locations for Youth Sports  Sports Field and Facility Locator  Explore how your local Rec & Park can support your youth sports activities.  Looking for a space for Physical Activity? Find a location near you  An additional issue that has come up is the confusion as to which organization, the county or Annapolis, controls which locations. Discussion pointed toward using the back of the info sheet to have a map showing field locations with icons to indicate the type of facility and what the contact point is (county or city).  Action Items   * Mindi to follow up with both Rec and Parks on locations.   **Disability inclusion committee** The committee has been meeting regularly to prepare for grant release and now has an official title and mission statement. Name: Accessible and Healthy Anne Arundel (AHAA)  AHAA is a coalition of people with disabilities and public health professionals that aims to eliminate barriers and enhance access to community services, improving the health of all who live, work, and play in Anne Arundel County.  Disability-focused event promotion:  The Public Health Workforce at Maryland Centers for Independent Living is starting the I AM Series on January 29 from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Experts will share important tips for emergency preparedness, specifically for Maryland residents with disabilities.  [Registration link](https://buff.ly/47PEPHv?fbclid=IwAR3c8a9d6Jbx_zEvFGjc-dzdh5eN_bFXHxHkZHfJo1V18FzxGATw33VDH3E).  Action Items   * Contact Mindi if you would like to join the monthly group meetings. * Promote the I AM series to your networks   **Affordable Connectivity Program**  Federal funding is ending and the program is set to wind down as of April 2024.  This program provides $30 monthly credit for internet/ phone service for qualifying households. Funding is winding down, set to end in April 2024. Loss of affordable internet will impact many families who depend on it to access healthy food, activities, and programs. The following bills have been introduced to continue this funding:  <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3565>  <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6929>  **SNAP Program**  In Maryland General Assembly, there's a bill to increase SNAP benefits from $40 to $95: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0035>  **Next Meeting**  Thursday, March 21, 2024 12pm - 1:15pm  <https://aacounty.zoom.us/j/87812619432?pwd=RWNiR3E4c3hkdnhLUS9UNUh6cENtUT09>  Meeting ID: 878 1261 9432  Passcode: 9dq=&pG! |  |