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Vision:

To make Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland.

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health, safety and environment of the residents of Harford County through community assessment, education, collaboration and assurance of services.

Harford County Local Health Improvement Process (LHIP) centers around three health priorities for local action. [Workgroups](#) and [Local Health Action Plans](#) have been established for each priority.

In order to improve the health of all Marylanders, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) launched the [State Health Improvement Process \(SHIP\)](#) to prioritize Maryland's health concerns. The goal of SHIP is to provide a framework for **accountability, local action, and public engagement** to create and measure progress in Maryland's health. Defined by 6 vision areas and 39 health objectives that represent what it means for Marylanders to be healthy, SHIP provides a baseline framework from which Maryland can move forward. The 6 vision areas are:

1. **Healthy Babies**
2. **Healthy Social Environments**
3. **Safe Physical Environments**
4. **Infectious Disease**
5. **Chronic Disease**
6. **Healthcare Access**

Of the objectives defined by SHIP, Harford County is comparable to or better than the State average in [28 of the 39 objectives](#). Harford County ranks *worse* than the State in the following 11 objectives:

- Objective 8 - Suicide rate
- Objective 19 - Air Quality Index exceeds 100
- Objective 24 - Adult seasonal influenza vaccine rate
- Objective 25 - Heart disease mortality
- Objective 26 - Cancer mortality
- Objective 29 - Drug-induced deaths
- Objective 32 - Adult tobacco use
- Objective 33 - Youth tobacco use
- Objective 34 - Behavioral admissions to the emergency room
- Objective 35 - Alzheimer's related admissions to the emergency room
- Objective 38 - Dental care for children and adolescents

Click [here](#) to view Harford County's State Health Improvement Process profile.

Since most public health progress happens locally where people live, work, learn, play, and access services, DHMH has asked each county (or regions for the smaller counties) to develop their own [Local Health Improvement Process \(LHIP\)](#) through the use of Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHIC) – (pronounced L-Hip or L-Hick respectively). The [Harford County Coalition Steering Committee](#) met on November 2, 2011, for a preliminary review. At that time it was determined that a broader community input was needed.

November 2nd Coalition Steering Committee Meeting

- [Agenda](#)
- [Materials Presented](#)
- [Minutes](#)
- [Steering Coalition Membership](#)

On December 8, 2011, the Harford County LHIC met at Harford Community College using the [World Café model](#) format to prioritize local health improvement objectives. This format actively engages groups as they move from table to table learning about different health issues, after which they communicate their feedback to the larger group as a whole. The meeting was sponsored by Harford County Health Department in partnership with Upper Chesapeake Health, and in cooperation with Healthy Harford, the Harford County healthy people initiative. The coalition included a mix of approximately 60 community members representing a broad array of individual and organizational interests.

Welcome and introductory remarks were made by Susan Kelly, Health Officer, Harford County Health Department. A [PowerPoint presentation was then delivered by Madeleine Shea, PhD, Director](#), Office of Population Health Improvement, DHMH, which outlined the Maryland SHIP process. This was followed by a second [PowerPoint, presented by Russell Moy, MD, MPH, Deputy Health Officer](#), Harford County Health Department, which explained the LHIP process and what it means to us on the local level, as well as specific information on Harford County health data and community health indicators.

December 8th LHIC Meeting

- [Agenda](#)
- [Summary Report](#)
- [SHIP PowerPoint](#)
- [LHIP PowerPoint](#)
- [Identified Top Priorities for Harford County](#)
- [Coalition Membership](#)

The purpose of this meeting was to develop Harford County health priorities.

The LHIP is not a stagnant plan and its progress will be evaluated continually with information feedback and updated reports issued to the Harford County community. Please revisit this site often to receive up-to-date information regarding this process.