



Office of Minority Health

Newsletter - October 2019

Welcome Aixa Bakuhn

SUMMIT COUNTY LOCAL OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH DIRECTOR



Summit County Public Health is pleased to announce that Aixa Bakuhn has transitioned into the role of Director for Summit County's Local Office of Minority Health. With this transition, Summit County's Local Office of Minority Health will be joining SCPH's leadership team.

Aixa has 31 years of public health experience in Summit County. She started working for the Akron Health Department in May of 1988 in the Environmental Health Division. She worked in code enforcement in the areas of nuisance complaints, housing, recreation programs, right to know, mosquito control, animal bites/rabies control, and HUD lead grant manager. She has served in management for over 16 years. She has been an active member of the Summit County Office of Minority Health since 2011.

[Summit County Local Office Webpage](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting

November 18, 2019 11:00 AM

Summit County Public Health - Auditorium
1867 W Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44313

* Feel free to share this invitation



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us for the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) year-end meeting on **Tuesday, November 19th** from **9:30-10:30am**. The meeting will be held at **Summit County Public Health** in the boardroom.

The CHC program is committed to preventing and reducing chronic disease in Summit County through cross-sector collaborations aimed at improving access to and affordability of healthy food and increasing opportunities for physical activity in priority communities.

Please feel free to share this invite with any colleagues or community partners that you think would support making the healthy choice, the easy choice for Summit County residents.

For more information about the CHC program, email Heidi Dressler at hdressler@schd.org or call 330-926-5658.



LEAD

Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in the blood can result in poor development, including poor cognitive and behavioral outcomes that can lead to reduced academic success and lower lifetime income. The effects of lead exposure cannot be corrected.

Lead Poisoning

Lead is a toxic metal that may be dangerous especially for children who are under the age of six. In homes built before 1978, common areas to find lead based paint are windows and sills, doors and door frames, stairs, railings, banisters, porches and fences. Symptoms of lead poisoning include nervous system and kidney damage, speech, language and behavior problems. Additional symptoms are poor muscle coordination, decreased muscle and bone growth, and hearing damage.

Environmental Justice

While the amount of lead in the environment has significantly decreased, lead exposure is not equal for all children. Low-income and minority children continue to bear a disproportionate burden of exposure primarily through contact with deteriorating lead-based paint in older homes. These conditions depict a modern day environmental justice issue likely facing similar communities and households struggling with compounded challenges of inadequate housing, unemployment, lack of access to health care, improper nutrition, and many other quality-of-life issues that pose as risk factors for lead poisoning.

Healthy Homes Response

Summit County Public Health was awarded a \$5.6 million Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes grant to protect children from lead and other home health hazards. Summit County will use the funds to address lead in 225 housing units providing safer homes for low and very low-income

PRESENTED TO YOU BY:
FULL TERM FIRST BIRTHDAY

LET'S TALK ABOUT INFANT MORTALITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Refreshments will be provided

November 6, 2019 | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
The Zalika Gathering Home
211 S. Frank Blvd. 44313



The event is free and open to the public.
Pre-registration is NOT required.

families with children. The County will also perform healthy homes assessments in 200 units and work with other medical and social service providers.

In addition, Summit County Public Health will utilize the funds to develop and implement a county-wide media campaign to promote lead education, promote the grant program, and to recruit lead contractors and workers in the minority communities.

[For More Information](#)



Summit County Local Office of Minority Health

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