



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 7, 2020

**Contact:** Greta Johnson  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Office of Executive Shapiro  
[gjohnson@summitoh.net](mailto:gjohnson@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2656

Shannon Houser  
Public Relations Strategist  
Summa Health  
[housers@summahealth.org](mailto:housers@summahealth.org)  
234-312-5432

Marlene Martin  
Administrative Coordinator/PIO  
Summit County Public Health  
[mmartin@schd.org](mailto:mmartin@schd.org)  
330-812-3700

Joe Milicia  
Director, Public Relations & Communications  
Cleveland Clinic Akron General  
[MiliciJ@ccf.org](mailto:MiliciJ@ccf.org)  
330-344-6083

### **OAAC Stakeholders Award CenteringPregnancy Grants to Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—The Summit County Opioid Abatement Advisory Council (OAAC) Stakeholders recently awarded grants to Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health to expand each organization's CenteringPregnancy programs. The grants are supported with a donation from Johnson & Johnson and other funds Summit County received from opioid litigation settlements. The OAAC's support of CenteringPregnancy is part of a strategic approach to abating the County's opioid epidemic and the expanded programming will target pregnant women impacted by substance use disorders.

"Since receiving financial settlements from the drug manufacturers and distributors, we have worked with our community partners to formulate a framework that will allow us to deploy current and future settlement dollars in a responsible and effective way," said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. "Expanded CenteringPregnancy programming in our two major health care systems will help pregnant women living with substance use disorders chart a course towards recovery and better health outcomes for mother and child."

CenteringPregnancy is a multi-faceted model of group prenatal patient-centered care for expectant mothers. In Centering, after an individual's first pregnancy risk assessment visit, a group of 8-12 women at similar gestational ages attend group sessions together, providing an opportunity for expectant mothers to share their experiences and learn together in preparation for labor, delivery and parenting.

"Summit County has seen great success with the Centering Program model. This funding will be extremely helpful to ensure that more pregnant women have access to this great program. This will ultimately improve the lives of moms and babies throughout the county." said Donna Skoda, Health Commissioner Summit County Public Health.

Cleveland Clinic Akron General received \$1 million to stand up its CenteringPregnancy in partnership with

AxessPointe, a Federally Qualified Health Center, at its Broadway Women's Health Clinic. The grant funds will be used to provide standard Centering programming to pregnant women impacted by substance use disorders as well as Medication-Assisted Treatment, counseling and therapy, clinical case management and community health workers. Cleveland Clinic Akron General will offer this as "opt-out" programming to pregnant women.

"We are grateful to be able to offer CenteringPregnancy to our community and especially to those women impacted by substance abuse. Locally and nationally, CenteringPregnancy has improve outcomes for mothers and babies," said Jennifer Savitski, MD, chair of OB/GYN at Akron General. "We are pleased to receive this award and would like to thank the OAAC for supporting this important initiative."

Summa Health has offered CenteringPregnancy in Summit County since 2010 and the program has served approximately 1,000 women. It currently offers CenteringPregnancy at the Center for Health Equity, Women's Health Center and the Barberton Campus, and serves as a national model. Summa Health received \$1.5 million to expand and enhance programming at its existing locations, and to begin offering programming to pregnant women in the Summit County Jail.

"Each year, Summa Health's CenteringPregnancy Program helps better the lives of women through empowering open dialogue with healthcare providers and other pregnant women. We are humbled at the success these women achieve during and upon completing these programs at the Center for Health Equity, Women's Health Center and the Barberton Campus. This donation will help us continue to provide wrap-around services for our entire community, including to pregnant women who are incarcerated," said Edward M. Ferris MD FACOG Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Director, Women's Health Institute.

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