Summit Lake Choice Neighborhoods
People Task Force Meeting – 5.19.2021
Notes

Attendees:
- Akron Children’s Hospital – Courtney, Shawn
- AMHA - Christina, Erin, Katie, Al, Debbie, Tina, Kellie, Myia
- Akron Summit Public Library – Pam
- Students With a Goal (SWAG) – Eric
- Summit Education Initiative (SEI) – Diana
- Goodwill – Nan
- YMCA – Helena, Tony
- South Street Ministries – Joe
- Summit Lake CDC + Summit Lake Residents – Grace, Sandy
- Stark State – Drew, Greg
- Open M – Christine, LaDonna
- Community Health Worker + Summit Lake Resident – Jamara
- ConexusNEO – Sue
- Summit County Public Health – Carla
- ADM Board – Holly
- Project Learn – Marquita
- Boys and Girls Club – Aretha
- City of Akron - Dylan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of Choice Activities to Date
- History of Summit Lake, changes over time and current conditions
  - Industry brought growth and pollution to SL and the lake itself
  - Was not safe to swim in
    - Now is safe
  - Highway construction, loss of industry, and urban renewal contributed to neighborhood’s decline
  - SL is isolated from rest of the city
  - It is a tight-knit community
  - Since 1940 SL has lost 70% of population (Akron 19% decrease)
  - 46% of land is vacant
    - 83 acres, 54 vacant buildings of which 44 are residential
  - Majority land uses is single family residential
  - Services are limited in the neighborhood
  - Just one supermarket but 5 corner stores
  - Houses are old and large
    - 26% good
    - 57% minor repairs
    - 16% major repairs
    - 1% unsafe
  - Most of neighborhood is disconnected from the lake
    - Only 4 access points to the lake
Most sidewalks are in need of repair
- A lot of people walk in streets due to poor sidewalk conditions
Positive developments are happening

Questions:
- Will you be extending the boundaries to the City’s boundaries for the Land Use Plan? – No. geographies between Choice and Land Use work are similar but not identical. Are coordinating with the City on data points
- Sidewalks – is the city planning on fixing them? – It may be the property owner’s responsibility
  - City receiving $153 million in American Rescue Act Funds and $40 million going to fix streets around Akron
  - On Princeton Street, Open M got letter asking if needed assistance to repair sidewalks, so mailings are going out to residents – however, not all residents have received such a letter
  - City to roll out plan in June/July
  - Follow up to understand what infrastructure dollars are coming to Summit Lake

- Summit Lake Resident Survey
  - HUD preference is 50% response rate
  - We are aiming for about 65% to get more information
  - 30 surveys completed thus far
  - To achieve response rate, will be circling back with partners to see if anyone can assist with direct outreach to residents
  - Questions
    - Any feedback on resident surveys from the residents thus far? – haven’t heard much of anything, did hear from resident that she has a technical degree but it isn’t an option

- Neighborhood Survey
  - To be deployed by May 27th
  - Mirror neighborhood questions in the resident survey

- Partner interviews
  - Policy decisions impacts resident lives
  - How to shift and better change the community
  - Open to doing something different

- Resident interviews
  - How can we better serve residents of the community?
  - Conducting interview with 15 Summit Lake Apartment residents through Friday
  - Attending other neighborhood meet and greets

- Next Steps
  - More interviews
  - Completing surveys
  - Analyzing additional community indicators/data
  - Community workshop during the summer (sometime July or August)