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**NEWS RELEASE**

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	<b>CONTACT:</b> Patricia Sweeney, JD, MPH, RN Health Commissioner (330) 270-2855 ext. 144
	<b>DATE:</b> January 23, 2014

**Mahoning County District Board of Health Announces New Mahoning County WIC Director**

The Mahoning County District Board of Health is pleased to announce Loretta Floyd-Pleas, MS, RD, LD, CLC as the new director of the Mahoning County Women, Infants, and Children’s (WIC) Program. Ms. Floyd-Pleas brings more than 20 years of experience with her from her positions as the WIC Nutrition Educator, Breastfeeding Coordinator and Assistant WIC Director.

“On behalf of the Mahoning County District Board of Health, we are delighted to welcome Ms. Floyd-Pleas as the new WIC Director,” says Patricia Sweeney, health commissioner of the Mahoning County District Board of Health. “Her wealth of experience and demonstrated leadership will assist the WIC program to move forward in its mission to safeguard the health of women, infants, and children.”

Ms. Floyd-Pleas will oversee the Mahoning County WIC program that provides nutritional and education support for over 6,000 pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children annually. Fawn Allison was the previous WIC Director and retired at the end of December after serving for over 24 years with the program.

“I am looking forward to the challenging but rewarding experience that the new role will bring,” says Ms. Floyd-Pleas. She plans to continue networking with other organizations to improve the quality of services provided to clients and to take the program in the next phase of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). Ohio plans to begin statewide rollout of the WIC program participation in EBT in May 2015 with full implementation by 2016.

Ms. Floyd-Pleas studied at Youngstown State University and Kent State University. She holds a Bachelors of Applied Science and a Master’s of Science in Community Health. She is a Registered Dietitian, an Ohio State Licensed Dietitian, and a Certified Lactation Counselor.

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