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Washtenaw County Public Health Welcomes New Leadership *Experienced Staff Assume Key Roles*

YPSILANTI, Mich., May 14, 2014 – Washtenaw County Public Health is pleased to announce the Board of Commissioners has appointed Ellen Rabinowitz as Health Officer. Ms. Rabinowitz has served as Acting Health Officer since January. During this same time, Kristen Schweighofer accepted the role of Environmental Health Director. Both Rabinowitz and Schweighofer bring a wealth of experience and public health expertise to their new roles.

“Ellen is certainly the right person to head Washtenaw County Public Health and to continue leading the Washtenaw Health Plan. With Kristen leading our Environmental Health Division, the entire department is in excellent hands” says Verna J. McDaniel, County Administrator. “Both Ellen and Kristen can hit the ground running, and we are fortunate to have them,” she continued.

As the local Health Officer, Ms. Rabinowitz provides leadership to a variety of health and environmental health activities focused on preventing health problems before they occur. She will maintain her role as Director of the Washtenaw Health Plan, Washtenaw County’s indigent health care program that provides access to health care services for low-income, uninsured residents.

“I am thrilled to help shape local public health during such an exciting time,” says Ms. Rabinowitz. “The way we do our work is changing, as our health and health care environment changes. I look forward to being a part of this transition – and to continually improving and protecting the health of our entire community.”

Prior to leading the Washtenaw Health Plan, Ms. Rabinowitz managed Washtenaw County Public Health’s Health Improvement Plan, a communitywide health assessment program. She holds a Master of Urban Planning degree and has served as an advisor and board member to multiple community-based organizations throughout the area.

As the Environmental Health Director, Kristen Schweighoefer, MPH, RS, oversees the work of the Division to protect and improve the quality of the environment and the health of area residents and guests. Professional staff members inspect food establishments, public pools and beaches, campgrounds, well and septic systems and body art facilities. The Division also provides technical assistance on ground water contamination, mold, radon, pests and more.

Ms. Schweighoefer is a Registered Sanitarian and holds a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan. She has filled several roles within the Environmental Health Division since 2000, most recently supervising a team of professional staff inspecting and licensing over 1,000 restaurants and food establishments operating throughout the jurisdiction. She contributes to the work of multiple state and local committees and received the Michigan Environmental Health Association's Distinguished Member Service Award in 2010.

Washtenaw County Public Health promotes health and works to prevent disease and injury in our community. Visit us online at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.

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