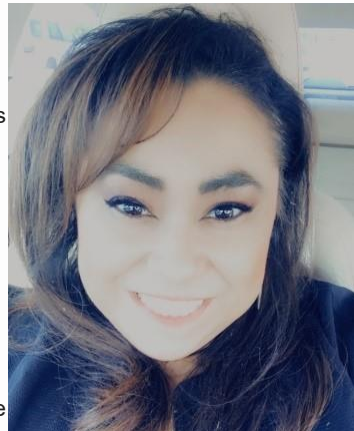




Veteran Head Start Administrator Joins ECECD as Director of Early Care, Education, and Nutrition Division

SANTA FE – Today, the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) announced that Sandy Trujillo-Medina has been appointed to serve as Director of the Early Care, Education, and Nutrition Division, the division responsible for many of the department’s core programs and services. As division director, Trujillo-Medina will oversee the Child Care Services Bureau, which provides oversight and regulation for child care centers and home-based care, as well as administering the child care assistance program; the PreK Bureau, which administers and monitors New Mexico PreK; and the Family Nutrition Bureau, which administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program, providing nutrition education and funding to participating programs.



“We are thrilled to have Sandy on team ECECD and the wealth of experience she brings from her decades of service working with our state’s most vulnerable children and families,” said ECECD Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky. “The hands-on experience she has at every level—from educator to program director—will be invaluable as we continue building a world-class prenatal to five childhood system here in New Mexico.”

Sandy Trujillo-Medina has an MBA and BS in Family Studies and nearly 30 years of experience working with children and families in various capacities, beginning with before and after school programming, summer recreation programming, and juvenile community corrections. She found her true niche when she began working for Head Start. Ms. Trujillo-Medina began her Head Start career as a Head Start Teacher and went on to the role of Center Director, followed by that of an Associate Director and Senior Associate Director for the Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) Head Start program based out of Albuquerque, New Mexico where she worked for 23 years.

During her long tenure in Head Start, she administered Head Start, Early Head Start, and New Mexico PreK programs, where she served a diverse population and helped children and families achieve growth and success. Mrs. Trujillo-Medina held the position of President of the New Mexico Head Start Association and helped to

coordinate the first ever Region VI Mega Conference. As the New Mexico Head Start Association President, she worked to increase membership, participation, and collaboration in efforts to ensure that Head Starts services and outcomes were recognized throughout the state.

“Sandy Medina Trujillo is a native New Mexican who understands the challenges families face in accessing and choosing quality education and care,” said Debra Baca, YDI Vice President of Early Childhood Education. “She is an exemplary leader who believes in collaboration, partnerships and building a shared vision and goals for the betterment of our families. I was privileged to work alongside Mrs. Trujillo for 20 years. She is an asset to the State of New Mexico.”

“I am excited to have the opportunity to work with Secretary Groginsky and the dynamic ECECD team,” said Mrs. Trujillo-Medina. “During the past year ECECD made tremendous strides in early childhood education and care and I am looking forward to learning and growing with ECECD to continue its mission.”

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The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) launched in 2020, one of only four cabinet level agencies nationwide that consolidated all early childhood agencies under one roof. ECECD's mission is to optimize the health, development, education, and well being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family-driven, equitable, community-based system of programs and services. Learn more about how ECECD supports children, families, and the early childhood professionals that serve our communities at nmececd.org. On Facebook and Twitter as [@NewMexicoECECD](https://twitter.com/NewMexicoECECD).