



For immediate release
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Governor Bill Richardson Names Cindy Padilla as new Secretary of Aging

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Cindy Padilla as his Secretary of Aging and Long Term Services. Padilla, who has served as Deputy Secretary of the Environment Department, will replace Debbie Armstrong at the Aging Department.

“Cindy Padilla’s experience in state and local government will be an asset to this important department,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Cindy now becomes the state’s top advocate for aging and vulnerable New Mexicans who need access to quality, long-term services.”

Padilla has 20 years of experience in program management, public outreach, marketing and grants managements. She served as deputy secretary of the Environment Department for the past year. Before that she was the division director of the Water and Waste Management Division, and before that, the Solid Waste Division bureau chief. Before her work at the Environment Department, Padilla was the Field Support Bureau Chief for the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department.

Padilla is a graduate of St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe and received a social science degree from St. Mary’s College in Kansas. Ms. Padilla has also done graduate work through the University of New Mexico’s College of Public Administration.

Padilla replaces Debbie Armstrong, who will leave her position as Secretary of Aging and Long Term Services Department in late December to pursue other opportunities.

“Debbie has dedicated the past thirty years to helping the disabled and the elderly,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Her impact on New Mexico and her work with the elderly and disabled will be felt for years to come. I wish her the best of luck in whatever she chooses to pursue.”

Armstrong was appointed Secretary of ALTSD in August 2004 and has been with the department since 2001. As Secretary, Armstrong oversaw the successful transfer of home and community-based Medicaid programs from HSD and the Adult Protective Services Division from CYFD to ALTSD. She also developed and launched the Aging & Disability Resource Center in 2005. Under Armstrong’s lead, the Mi Via Self-directed Medicaid Waiver Program was implemented in November 2006, a joint effort of ALTSD, DOH and HSD, which puts control back in the hands of the individual receiving services..

New Mexico is a national leader in providing the elderly and persons with disabilities with home- and community-based long-term services. ALTSD ranks second in the nation in the percentage of available funds that go to home- and community-based services versus institutional care.

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