



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Human Services Department
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
David R. Scrase, M.D., Cabinet Secretary
Angela Medrano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 15, 2020

New Mexico Human Services Department announces the promotion of Kari Armijo as a new Deputy Cabinet Secretary

SANTA FE – New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) Cabinet Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D. announces the promotion of Kari Armijo as a new Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the department. Armijo replaces Russell Toal who left the department to become the New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance.

“We are pleased to welcome Kari into the deputy cabinet secretary role. In her 19 ½ years with HSD she has made innumerable contributions to our Medicaid program and to the people of New Mexico,” said Cabinet Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D. “In the past 12 months she successfully served as acting director of our \$6 billion Medicaid program and also led the implementation of over \$400 million in provider rate increases, which we expect to substantially improve access to health care in our state.”



Kari Armijo is a long-term HSD employee who began her career with department as an executive assistant to the cabinet secretary in June of 2000. Since then, she’s had multiple roles in the Medical Assistance Division including: project manager, school health office director, special projects director, Affordable Care Act implementation director, deputy director, and acting Medicaid director. She brings to this position vast knowledge and a proven leadership record. Armijo has a BA from Loyola University and lives in Santa Fe with her husband, James and their children.

“Kari will be a strong addition to the HSD team,” said Angela Medrano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary. “She brings nearly 20 years of experience in program management and policy development. I am glad she is part of our team.”

“I am deeply honored to serve,” said Kari Armijo. “I have spent my entire career with the Human Services Department and the Medical Assistance Division working to provide health benefits to help improve the lives of people we assist. I’m excited about this opportunity to be part of a leadership team that is actively working every day to improve outcomes and deliver results to the people of New Mexico.”

The Human Services Department provides services and benefits to more than 1 million New Mexicans through several programs including: the Medicaid Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Support Program, and several Behavioral Health Services.

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