



# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DES Makes Moves to Build Stronger Leadership Team**

*Department to Optimize Leadership and Performance in New Year*

**PHOENIX** – Director Timothy Jeffries today announced leadership promotions in specific areas of the Department to continue transforming and optimizing **Our NEW DES**. Areas of change include the Office of Community Outreach, the Child Care Administration within the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Legislative Services.

Former State Senator Leah Landrum Taylor will now serve as Assistant Director of the DES Office of Community Outreach. Senator Landrum Taylor joined DES in October 2015 where she has served as Deputy Assistant Director of the Division of Child Support Services.

“Senator Landrum Taylor’s performance with our Division of Child Support Services has been exemplary,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “Her positive outlook, passion for serving the people of Arizona, and drive for excellence will continue our efforts to transform and optimize **Our NEW DES**.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with DES and look forward to this new and humbling opportunity,” said Leah Landrum Taylor. “I am a big believer in collaborating with our community partners to address the needs of our state and our communities. I’d like to thank Director Jeffries for offering me this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to continuing to serve the great people of Arizona.”

Ms. Karie Taylor, who currently serves as Executive Director of the DES Early Intervention Program, now oversees the Child Care Administration within the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services as well. Ms. Taylor has been with the Department for 12 years serving in various roles within the Arizona Early Intervention Program.

“Serving children and families is my passion,” said Ms. Taylor. “Merging the oversight of these two areas makes perfect sense. Delivering services to parents and children in need is extremely rewarding. I am blessed to do so on a daily basis and thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve the Department.”

Ms. Lydia Cruz will now serve as Acting Legislative Liaison within the DES Office of Legislative Services. Ms. Cruz previously served in the Office of Community Outreach as the Central Arizona Community Outreach Representative and Assistant Ombudsman.

“I am pleased to name Lydia Cruz as Acting Legislative Liaison,” said Director Jeffries. “Her experience in dealing with our clients to meet their needs will serve her well in this new role. Congratulations to Lydia as she embarks upon this new journey!”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve DES in this capacity,” said Ms. Cruz. “The area of Legislative Services has always been of interest to me. I look forward to learning more about the legislative process and will do all I can to assist the Department during the 2016 Legislative Session.”

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