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## **Sandra Maldonado to Join Child Care Aware® of America Board of Directors**

**ARLINGTON, VA, December 17, 2021** —Sandra Maldonado, M.Ed., Director of Early Learning for Child Care Aware of Washington, will join Child Care Aware® of America’s Board of Directors in January 2022.

Maldonado’s 23-year career in the field of early care and education includes many roles, beginning as a parent volunteer in a military child development center, caring for and teaching infants, preschool, school age children and providing coaching and consultation for Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). Leadership roles include Center Director, Early Head Start Director and her current position leading CCA of Washington’s QRIS TA/Coach and Professional Development system. Maldonado’s background and lived experience as a bilingual, bicultural woman of color nurtured her passion in developing relationships with diverse individuals and families to create collaborative and inclusive partnerships. She is dedicated to supporting children, families and the early learning workforce. Her drive is rooted in her passion to advance an anti-racist policy, practice and support for communities.

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) is a national membership organization that works with state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, including Child Care Aware of Washington, and other community partners to ensure that all families have access to quality, affordable child care. CCAoA leads innovative projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, and advance the early childhood education profession. CCAoA also conducts research and advocates for child care policies that foster equity and improve the lives of children and families.

“We’re honored to have Sandy join our Board,” said **Lynette M. Fraga, Ph.D.**, CEO of Child Care Aware® of America. “Along with our current Board members, she will guide our organization as we help create an equitable, transformed child care system in 2022 and beyond.”

“I am honored to join Child Care Aware of America’s Board of Directors and look forward to continuing and expanding the important work of ensuring quality early learning experiences across our nation for all children and particularly for children of color who, as we know, experience racism at the youngest ages,” said Sandra. “As importantly, I am dedicated to expanding policies and programs for child care providers, many whom are women of color, the small business owners in our communities that help drive our economy for working parents and employers.”