

Committee: **Middlesex-London Health Unit Board**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Morena Hernandez**

Occupation: **National Program Coordinator**

Work experience: **For the past 5 years as a National Program Coordinator with the Sunshine Foundation of Canada, working directly with children, families, stakeholders, my three main areas of responsibility have included: •Coordination and execution of Sunshine DreamLifts which transports a plane full of Sunshine dreamers and volunteers to a Disney theme park and back home in just one day. DreamLifts allow children to have a day where they can experience independence in a magical setting and make memories that will last a lifetime. •Coordination and execution of Individual Dreams which offer a child living with a severe physical disability of life-threatening illness the opportunity to experience a once in a life time dream of their choice. •Community Engagement and primary liaison between The Sunshine Foundation of Canada and health care professionals across Canada. I previously held the role of Medical Director for the San Juan Las Minas Health Unit in El Salvador. Some of my responsibilities included: • Managing a health unit in a remote rural area • Providing primary health care to patients in neighbouring communities • Counseling families with special needs children in remote locations • Collecting data from initiatives to assess efficacy and develop other targeted programs • Organizing, promoting and participating in various health promotion and disease prevention activities in rural and under-serviced areas • Empowering rural communities to implement sustainable waste management and water sanitation programs • Providing hygiene education to school children in remote rural communities • Participating in public health brigades in rural communities In the past I have also held the following roles in the finance industry: •Bilingual Insurance Advice Sales Specialist - TD Canada Trust • Bilingual Fraud Prevention Representative - Citibank Canada • Bilingual Credit Analyst & Bilingual Quality Assurance Advisor - Citigroup (The Associates/AVCO) • Bilingual Customer Assistance Representative - Oracle Service Networks Corporation**

Education: **•Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Universidad Evangelica de El Salvador, El Salvador, Central America •Bachelor of Health Sciences, Western University, London, Ontario**

Skills: **I bring a wide range of skills to the table from working in finance, health and the non-profit sector. My experience has equipped me with a variety of problem solving approaches. I've learned to make the most of the resources available and reach goals while balancing constraints and listening to the needs of different stakeholders.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London on the Middlesex-London Health Unit Board, because I want to make a difference in our community by collaborating with a board that strives to make London a safe and healthy community for everyone.**

Contributions: **I bring a wide breadth of experience from working in the finance, not-for profit and health-care fields. I also actively volunteer and support a number of causes important to our community. By being engaged with my community and hearing about the issues that matter most to the community, I believe I can help bring their voice and a different perspective to the table.**

Past contributions: **My past experience as a medical director allowed me to collaborate with people from all walks of life and to lead a variety of social and health initiatives to improve the quality of life of individuals with varying needs, in spite of limited resources.**

Interpersonal: **In my professional life and in my volunteers roles I work with colleagues who are experts in their respective fields. I value their input and know that in order for initiatives to be successful it is important to collaborate and build on the strengths we each bring to the table. I also ran for office in the past municipal election, and as a candidate, I had the privilege of working closely with a team of talented individuals who brought a number of different skills, abilities and knowledge to my campaign team. This experience is one in which I had the opportunity to exchange views with my team, members of the community and of various interest groups while respecting their views.**

Interview interest: **Yes**