

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

Organization/Sector represented: **Healthcare & Social Services**

Name: **Clara Madrenas**

Occupation: **Social Worker**

Work experience: **I currently work as a Patient Experience Specialist for the Children's Hospital. This systems-level change-making role focuses on patient engagement, patient and family centred care, peer support, and health equity for children, youth and their families. I currently support over 50 patient and family advisors for Children's Hospital and a Children's Health Foundation grant of over \$500,000. Other work and volunteer experience includes being a Board Member of Changing Ways, an MSW student with the Transcultural Mental Health Consultation Service at LHSC, and a youth and/or mental health worker with CMHA Middlesex, the London Community Chaplaincy, and the YMCA.**

Education: **I am an Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Registered Social Worker, with a Masters degree in Social Work. I also have a Masters of Arts in Media Studies, focused on newcomer and English as a Second Language education and media literacy.**

Skills: **As a Social Worker my interests in public health, preventative "upstream" healthcare, community engagement and development, and health equity will be an asset to the MLHU board. My experience at LHSC in the Children's Hospital making systems level change unique to children, youth and families will also be an asset. I also have financial management skills, experience writing briefing notes for governing bodies, advocacy skills and experience managing and facilitating group conversations and generative dialogue.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in supporting public health through participation on this board, particularly in a time of great need considering issues such as continually rising opioid use, financial and other inequities and oppressions, and the need for continuous and diverse community engagement related to our health and well-being.**

Contributions: **I believe I can support the mission of MLHU on this body through my skills, experiences and community connections. I am interested in actively participating as a board member and on subcommittees if applicable, and supporting a values-based and community-driven, responsive overall strategy for MLHU.**

Past contributions: **As a Changing Ways Board Member I support board recruitment and development, fundraising and public education in the violence against women sector. I also facilitate macro-level council and committee work including the Family Advisory Council and Child and Youth Advisory Council at Children's Hospital.**

Interpersonal: **I am extremely invested in listening and understanding diverse viewpoints and in generative dialogue, even when conflict may arise. As a social worker these types of dialogue drive my practice. I have a great deal of experience both in the classroom and the professional world on committees, councils and more where listening and engagement was critical while respecting differing viewpoints throughout.**

Interview interest: **Yes**