



## **Kane County Democratic Women**

*P.O. Box 1193 St. Charles, IL 60174 kcdw@kcdwomen.com*

### **WHAT THE HEALTH FORUM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 MODERATOR/PANELISTS BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Moderator**

#### **Dr. Monica Maalouf, MD, Primary Care Internist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine**

Dr. Monica Maalouf, MD, is a primary care internist and Program Director of Internal Medicine who is affiliated with Loyola University Medical School. She completed her undergraduate training at the University of Chicago where she majored in biology and anthropology. Following her undergraduate work, she attended medical school at the University of Minnesota and completed her residency at New York University School of Medicine in New York City. Her medical interests include HIV care and women's health with a particular focus on marginalized communities. She is fluent in English and Spanish.

#### **Panelists**

#### **Carrie Jackson, MA, Public Health Professional, Community Organizer, & Advocate for Equity**

Carrie is a dedicated public health professional with extensive experience in disease-prevention education and community outreach focused on improving the health and quality of life for community members. During the COVID-19 epidemic, Carrie worked with some of the most vulnerable populations in Illinois, who were at the highest risk of poor health outcomes because of the lack of access to quality healthcare, affordable housing, and nutritious food. Carrie is an outspoken advocate for collaboration in a fair, equitable, and just manner to bring about change for the people who need it most.

**The mission of the Kane County Democratic Women of Illinois is to harness the power of women to create positive change.**



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### **Kate McCormack, LCSW, Program Manager, Children's Mental Health Initiatives and Project Director, Kane County System of Care, Kane County Health Department**

Kate McCormack is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She brings 15 years of experience, including working in the adult and juvenile justice systems and providing child and family therapy in community mental health programs. Kate has lived and worked in both Mexico and El Salvador in labor rights education. She has a special interest in trauma informed care, working with Spanish-speaking immigrant youth and families, improving language access and bilingual services, and empowering family and youth voices within institutions. Under Kate's leadership, the Kane County System of Care has been recognized by state leaders as an innovator in engaging Latinx families.

### **Edith Avila Olea, MPP, Policy Manager. Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)**

Edith Avila Olea is an advocate committed to social justice and equitable policy solutions. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from DePaul University. In 2020, Edith joined the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights as the Policy Manager. Working closely with ICIRR members and partner organizations, Edith focuses on policy research, state-level advocacy, education, and outreach around the issues of public charge, healthcare access, and social services. Edith has also served as the Justice and Peace Associate Director at the Catholic Diocese of Joliet and as the Parish Outreach Coordinator at Catholic Charities in Joliet. Edith is proud to be an immigrant originally from Guerrero, Mexico.

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### **Dr. Neil Bradford Perlman, MD, Medical Director & Co-Founder Colon Cancer Alliance for Research & Education for Lynch Syndrome (CCARE)**

Dr. Neil Perlman, MD, is a practicing physician who is board certified in internal medicine. Dr. Perlman has been a primary investigator in numerous industry and government-sponsored pharmaceutical research studies. He received his medical degree from the University of Illinois and completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Northwestern University. In his early career, Dr. Perlman was active in health promotion when he joined the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill as Assistant Professor of Medicine and was appointed Medical Director of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. As Co-Founder of CCARE, Dr. Perlman wishes to increase public awareness and research about Lynch Syndrome, which is a genetic disorder.

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