



OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

2016 SEP 30 PM 1:08

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

SEP 30 2016

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01 (2014 suppl.)), and with section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003, D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Official Code § 16-1053, I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Ms. Shakeita Boyd  
1200 Delaware Avenue, SW #310  
Washington, D.C. 20024  
(Ward 6)

for appointment as a member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board ("Board") to serve as a representative from a domestic violence shelter, filling a vacant seat, for a term to end July 20, 2018;

Ms. Laila Leigh  
1954 Columbia Road, NW Apt. 201  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

for appointment as a member of the Board to serve as a community representative, filling a vacant seat, and to serve for a term to end July 20, 2018;

Ms. Amy Myers  
1751 Park Road, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20010

for appointment as a member of the Board to serve as a community representative, replacing Jonathan O'Reilly, and to serve for a term to end July 20, 2018;

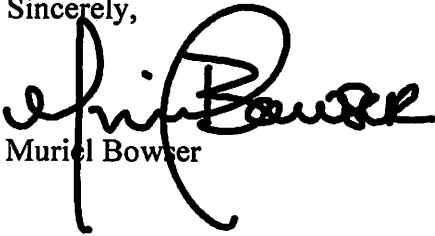
Ms. Heather Powers  
704 Auburn Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD

for appointment as a member of the Board, to serve as a community representative, filling a vacant seat, and to serve for a term to end July 20, 2018.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominees, together with proposed resolutions to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,  
which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

To confirm the appointment of Heather Powers to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Domestic Violence Fatality Review Heather Powers Confirmation Resolution of 2016".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Ms. Heather Powers  
704 Auburn Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

as a community representative, of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, in accordance with section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement Of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003. D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Official Code § 16-1052, and section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979, D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01, filling a vacant seat, for a term to end July 20, 2018.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

## Heather Powers, LICSW, SEP

### LICENSING & CERTIFICATIONS

**Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker**

*Washington, DC*

Accepted by DC Superior Court Judge as an Expert Witness on Domestic Violence 2012

Certified Somatic Experiencing Practitioner

Certified Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

### EXPERIENCE

**Wendt Center for Loss & Healing**

*Washington, DC 2013-present*

**Adult & Child Therapist**

- Conduct Psychosocial assessments on client seeking therapy for grief and/or trauma issues
- Provide individual therapy for clients with grief and trauma issues
- Provide group therapy for survivors of intimate partner violence
- Provide crisis intervention for individuals seeking services at D.C. Superior Court's Domestic Violence Intake Center
- Provide consultation to SAFE advocates providing crisis case management to survivors of intimate partner violence at the Domestic Violence Intake Center
- Provide consultation regarding traumatized individuals to organizations at the Domestic Violence Intake Center
- Train social service workers on providing trauma informed services to trauma survivors
- Train social service workers and volunteers regarding the intersection of intimate partner violence and trauma
- Train therapists on providing clinical services to survivors of intimate partner violence
- Present regarding issues connected to intimate partner violence with the media
- Use Theraplay techniques to work with clients with attachment issues

**Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System (The V. A.)**

*Biloxi, MS August 2012-2013*

**Social Worker/ Discharge Planner Inpatient Psychiatry-**

- Conducted biopsychosocial assessments on new admissions to the acute care inpatient psychiatry crisis stabilization unit with veterans from various socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic, educational, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other diversified backgrounds including female veterans living with military-trauma related mental health symptoms and/or substance abuse
- Created suicide safety plans with veterans
- Developed treatment plans in conjunction with veterans & multidisciplinary teams
- Participated in interdisciplinary treatment teams
- Arranged appropriate discharge plans for veterans that meet their individual bio-psycho-social needs including homelessness, lack of income, dementia, legal and other complicated issues
- Provided clinical case management for veterans on the unit
- Provided referral services that assist clients in meeting psychosocial needs
- Worked with veterans' families regarding veteran treatment and discharge planning
- Participated in committee to transform the unit to a culture of recovery

- Performed administrative duties as required by the Social Work Service

**Heather Powers, LICSW**

*Washington, DC 2012*

***Private Practice Therapist***

- Conducted psychosocial assessments
- Developed treatment plans in conjunction with clients to address emotional issues and trauma symptoms
- Provided individual and group therapy to those struggling with issues in their lives (focus on survivors of domestic violence, many dealing with sexual assault histories)
- Provided referral services that assist clients in meeting psychosocial needs

**The Women's Center**

*Washington, DC June- August 2012*

***Contracted Therapist***

- Planned, advertised, and co-facilitated group therapy with adult female survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Conducted psycho-social assessments on potential group members
- Maintained client files

**District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)**

*Washington, DC Feb. 2012-April 2012*

***Contracted Therapist***

- Facilitated support group for survivors of domestic violence- continuation of work at WEAVE after WEAVE closed its doors to ensure commitment to clients and ethical terminations
- Conducted individual therapy for survivors of domestic violence- continuation of work at WEAVE after WEAVE closed its doors to ensure commitment to clients and ethical terminations
- Maintained client files

**WEAVE**

*Washington, DC Aug.2004- Feb. 2012*

***Sr. Therapist (promoted several times within the organization)***

- Conducted individual and group therapy with adult and teen survivors of domestic violence
- Assessed clients and developed treatment plans addressing trauma and IPV
- Created, established and facilitated girls' school based teen dating violence prevention/support group
- Supervised and trained Master's in Social Work students
- Managed Teen Dating Violence program
- Supervised masters' level interns, case managers, outreach and education coordinators
- Wrote and co-managed federal government grants for the agency
- Collaborated on proposals for the expansion of the teen program
- Provided education and training on IPV, IPV and teens, IPV and trauma to new agency employees, fellow social workers, attorneys, community direct service providers, and community members
- Represented the agency at adult and teen intimate partner violence conferences & panels
- Designed and facilitated trauma training for community direct service providers
- Represented agency in community collaborative committees and community fairs

**FAIR Girls (formerly FAIR Fund)**

***Clinical Consultant-***

*Washington, DC  
2010- 2011*

- Provided clinical consultation to FAIR Fund's clinical social worker working with survivors of and those at risk of sex trafficking

**Men Can Stop Rape** *Washington, DC*  
**Consultant** 2010- 2011

- Planned and facilitated WISE (Women Inspiring Strength & Empowerment) Club for high school young women related to reducing gender based violence and rape culture

**Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project** *Washington, DC*  
**Clinical Consultant** 2006-2008

- Facilitated staff support group to reduce the occurrence of secondary trauma
- Counseled client advocate individually to reduce the occurrence of secondary trauma

**Mandel Legal Aid** *Chicago, IL*  
**Social Work Intern** 2003-2004

- Assessed clients in the Mental Health and the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Projects
- Clarified client responses to legal environment & legal processes to clinic legal staff
- Linked clients to appropriate community services
- Participated in group writing section for the ABA's domestic violence manual
- Participated in Chicago area meetings regarding housing and mental health policies
- Participated in planning of pilot project addressing housing for persons with mental illness being developed by the Housing Initiative

**School of Social Service Administration (University of Chicago)** *Chicago, IL*  
**Research Assistant** 2002-2004

- Interviewed subjects with serious mental illness for quantitative study regarding their experiences of pressure in receiving community treatment
- Gathered, recorded, and organized data
- Transcribed interviews with case managers on Assertive Community Treatment Teams

**Jewish Children's Bureau** *Chicago, IL*  
**Social Work Intern** 2002-2003

- Provided play therapy for child with Asperger's syndrome
- Co-facilitated social skills group for pre-schoolers with autism
- Co-facilitated social skills group for 6-9 year olds (most with cognitive disabilities)
- Counseled & case managed parent with developmental disabilities
- Facilitated play group for children of parents with developmental disabilities

**Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. (SBY)** *Washington, DC* 1995-2002  
**Senior Case Manager (promoted from Case Manager) SAFAH Program** 1999-2002

- Evaluated applicants and selected program participants
- Assessed clients' psycho-social strengths and needs
- Managed a caseload of 25 families moving from shelters into permanent residences
- Assisted families in setting and achieving case plan goals using strength-based counseling
- Organized and facilitated support group meetings and activities
- Referred clients to community resources

- Coordinated program that assisted 50 homeless families transitioning into permanent residences
- Trained and directed case manager
- Made program policy decisions and edited all quarterly reports
- Served as SBY's legislative liaison to the Consortium for Child Welfare
- Trained the agency volunteer coordinator
- Collaborated with government & community agencies on behalf of SBY- including Deputy Mayor's Homelessness Continuum of Care Planning Committee
- *Earned agency-wide Outstanding Employee Award*
- Chairperson** *Educational Network Committee* 1997-2002
  - Supervised nine staff in planning and implementing SBY's educational activities
  - Doubled College Tour capacity, allowing 22 students to visit colleges from Atlanta to New York
  - Designed preparation process for College Tour participants
  - Organized SBY's College/Career Fair for over 50 youth
  - *Recognized for designing and supervising SBY's most successful College Tour*
- Senior Counselor** *Imani House* 1998-1999
  - Supervised four full-time counselors and part-time counselors in short-term group home for abused and neglected adolescent girls in the foster care system
  - Oversaw the execution of the program policies
  - Maintained program records and set staff schedule
  - Developed program activities and policies
  - Counseled and case managed clients
- Primary/Educational Counselor** *Transitional Living Program* 1996-1998
  - Counseled and case managed homeless 18-21 year olds in residential facility
  - Advocated for clients in educational programs
  - Assessed clients' educational goals and assisted in their achievement
  - Developed self-awareness program to address individual learning styles
  - Facilitated groups and organized program activities

**Battered Women's Program** Baton Rouge, LA 1995

***Child Advocate full time***

- Counseled, supervised, planned events and cared for children in the crisis shelter
- Conducted group sessions for children in residence
- Wrote articles for the program newsletter
- Provided crisis counseling to hotline callers

**Peace Corps** Czarnkow, Poland 1992-1993

***English as a Foreign Language Teacher full time***

- Designed materials for and taught conversational English to Polish high school students
- Organized and raised funds for the English Club
- Created English section in local newspaper

**EDUCATION**

- Master's in Social Work** *University of Chicago* 2004  
**BA (English) *magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*** *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge* 1991

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS**

The Impact of Domestic Violence DC SAFE	2014- present
Lawyers working with IPV Survivors American University Washington College of Law	2009-2015
WEAVE pro bono lawyer trainings Catholic University Law School	2007-2010 2009
Trauma and Intimate Partner Abuse 3 hr. training for the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence DV advocate certification	2009- 2012
Advanced training for NARAL hotline workers	2011
"Through a Survivor's Eyes" workshop Men Can Stop Rape's National Conference "Men and Women As Allies"	April 2009
DC Rape Crisis Center & WEAVE's regional conference "Love Me As I Am"	May 2009
"Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth Annual Conference "Weaving a Network of Support" poster exemplifying benefits of multidisciplinary services	October 2008

## **SKILLS & ACTIVITIES**

Co-Chair of the St. Mark's Dance Board of Directors 2009-2013; Co-Director of Christian Education at St. Mark's Capitol Hill 2008-2010; served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the non-profit ACT 2001; Organizing committee for the Coalition Against Police Brutality at the U of Chicago 2003-2004; Co-leader for adult and youth service trips to Honduras; Alumna of the National Cathedral Volunteer Service Community 1995-1997





Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

## Heather Powers



Ms. Heather Powers is an Adult and Child Therapist, LICSW, at the Wendt Center.

Ms. Powers began her work in the field of community service in 1995 when she began working at the Battered Women's Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a child advocate in their emergency shelter. She came to Washington, D.C. and started working as a counselor with at risk youth at Sasha Bruce Youthwork, counseling 18-21 year olds in transitional housing; many of whom experienced abusive relationships. During her seven year tenure at Sasha Bruce, Ms. Powers also worked as a case manager with families moving from homelessness into permanent housing. In

2004 she began working at Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) providing therapy to domestic violence survivors. She continues her work with domestic violence survivors, where she provides therapeutic crisis intervention and ongoing therapy, as survivors of trauma move on their journey from striving to thriving.

Ms. Powers obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Louisiana State University and her Master's from the University of Chicago.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Lolita Alston  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** May 11, 2016  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of resolutions nominating members to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

---

**This is to Certify that** this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Rob Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

---

Elizabeth Cavendish