



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

October 24, 2024

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), and pursuant to section 5043 of the Commission on Health Equity Amendment Act of 2016, effective October 8, 2016 (D.C. Law 21-160, D.C. Official Code § 7-756.01), I am pleased to nominate the following individual:

Dr. Suyanna Linhales Barker  
Taylor Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)

for reappointment as a voting member, with expertise in minority communities and population health outcomes and improvement, of the Commission on Health Equity, for a term to end February 1, 2028.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution 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 that reads "Muriel Bowser". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the reappointment of Dr. Suyanna Linhaes Barker to the Commission on Health Equity.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Commission on Health Equity Dr. Suyanna Linhaes Barker Confirmation Resolution of 2024".

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

Dr. Suyanna Linhaes Barker  
Taylor Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)

as a voting member, with expertise in minority communities and population health outcomes and improvement, of the Commission on Health Equity, established by section 5043 of the Commission on Health Equity Amendment Act of 2016, effective October 8, 2016 (D.C. Law 21-160, D.C. Official Code § 7-756.01), for a term to end February 1, 2028.

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.

## Suyanna Linhales Barker, Dr.PH



### Career Highlights

Dr. Suyanna Linhales Barker has over 30 years of professional experience, including applied equity-informed practice and implementation of community-level, public health interventions that address the needs of low-income, underserved Latin Americans. She joined the team at La Clinica del Pueblo, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Washington DC, in April 2010 as Senior Director of Health Equity and Community Action Department. Recognition of her unique contributions earned her the Distinguished Community Advocate Award from the District of Columbia Primary Care Association in October 2015. Starting from her initial role, she has led the infusion of an equity lens across the organization and operations, leading to her promotion to Interim Chief Program Officer (2018) immediately before her current position as Chief of Programs and Community Services, which she assumed in 2019. During her tenure at La Clinica, Dr. Linhales Barker has provided strategic direction, budget and personnel management, and evaluation for the community-facing programs. She has led the development of community-level strategies and intersectoral partnerships to address core social and structural determinants of health for La Clínica's clientele. She has extensive experience in proposal development and managing large CDC grants and foundation grants.

A native of Brazil, Dr. Barker has a Doctorate in Public Health from the National School of Public Health in Brazil, a Masters' degree in Social Psychology from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Dr. Linhales Barker's work experience includes 10 years conducting research for the Primary Health Care Program of the State University of Rio de Janeiro's Center for Adolescent Health Studies and 9 years consulting for various national and international organizations, including the Pan-American Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, and the Brazilian Ministry of Health.

### Areas of Expertise

- Applied Health Equity in Public Health & Health Care for Special Populations.
- Development and Management of Community-Facing Health Programs for Immigrants and Refugees.
- Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of Workforce Development for Primary Health Care Teams and Community Health Workers.
- Girl's, Adolescent, and Women's Health and Rights.
- LGBTQ Health and Rights.

### Education

**Doctor of Science in Public Health.** *National School of Public Health (ENSP – Fiocruz), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2005.* Dissertation: Child Labor and Adolescent Motherhood: Implications for Occupational Health and Life Trajectories of Young Women.

**Master's in Psychology and Socio-cultural Practices.** *State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Institute of Psychology. December 1994.* Thesis: Study on the Impact of Violence in Rio de Janeiro's Favelas in the Development of Survival Strategies by Youth

**Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.** *Federal University of Espírito Santos (UFES), Department of Psychology. Brazil, December 1989.*

## **Professional Experience**

**Chief of Programs and Community Services** – June 2019 to present.

- Provide direct oversight to La Clínica's community-facing programs, guiding the development of community-level strategies, models, programs, services, and intersectoral partnerships that address core social and structural determinants of health for La Clínica's clientele.
- Develop systems and infrastructure for program development and evaluation, including assessment of evolving community needs, integration of new knowledge and technical trends, evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of programs, and development of quality products to disseminate findings.
- Promote innovation and excellence in program design and delivery through incubation, pilot, demonstration projects, and integration of community-based participatory research and research partnerships to increase knowledge and theory about best practice models for La Clínica's community.
- Diffuse La Clínica's best practices through training, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives that support and extend La Clínica's mission with internal and external stakeholders.
- Work with senior leadership to develop sustainability strategies and business models for La Clínica's key programmatic lines of work.
- Co-lead the LCDP's public advocacy/public policy initiatives to include providing support to the executive director and representing LCDP in advocacy activities.
- Project Director: "Bridging the Gap: Reducing Disparities in Diabetes Care - Merck Foundation."

**Interim Chief Program Officer, La Clinica del Pueblo, Washington, DC** – December 2018 to June 2019

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for all direct services program areas; develop and maintain routine service planning processes.
- Ensure programmatic compliance meets or exceeds all regulatory, licensing requirements to include, FQHC, and other government agencies; manage effective reporting with external agencies.
- Oversee many complex projects and budgets, with multiple funding sources, and meet deliverables; monitor and ensure cost-effectiveness of services; works closely as required with the program staff and others.
- Integrate and coordinate work of the various departments/ divisions and make sure they are supporting one another; manage cross-cutting activities.
- Identify and nurture program development opportunities and identify service gaps; assist in designing effective and viable programs.
- Coordinate and assist department directors and managers in negotiating a myriad of critical external relationships.



- Manage day-to-day functioning of the organization's outreach and service delivery.
- Coordinate the development and stewardship of organization-wide policies and procedures.

**Senior Director, Health Equity and Community Action Department, La Clinica del Pueblo, Washington DC – April 2010 to November 2018**

- Develop and implement initiatives to reduce the incidence and prevalence of health risks affecting the local immigrant Latino community through culturally relevant interventions.
- Supervise department managers and health providers, ensuring high quality services that adhere to grant guidelines under local and federal contracts, including grants for HIV Prevention, chronic disease self-management, community health education and gender-affirmative health interventions.
- Administer department grants and contracts; monitor and report on program deliverables; manage timely expenditure of program budgets; interface with funders; and develop business model.
- Prepare annual budget for Department.
- Identify opportunities for program integration and efficient resource utilization within the Department.
- Maintain current knowledge of trends, directions, and best practices in the field, and integrate into department operations.
- Principal Investigator for CDC Grant PS15-1502 "Comprehensive High-Impact HIV Prevention Projects for Community-Based Organizations".
- Project Director for SAMSHA Grant SP 021172 "Capacity Building Initiative for Substance Abuse (SA) and HIV Prevention Services for At-Risk Racial/Ethnic Minority Youth and Young Adults".
- Project Director for SAMSHA Grant SP080235 "Enlace: HIV and Substance Misuse Navigator Program."

**Senior Consultant, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Washington- DC -June 2009 to March 2010**

- Developed Guidelines for Comprehensive Healthcare Programs for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Adolescents and Youth.
- Trained public health care providers in Sao Paulo, Brazil in the implementation of the Guidelines for Comprehensive Healthcare Programs for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Adolescents and Youth

**Director and Researcher, Primary Health Care Program, Center for Adolescent Health Studies, State University of Rio de Janeiro. January 1999 to January 2009**

- Coordinated interdisciplinary health team of 20 professionals at adolescent clinic at the state university teaching hospital.
- Coordinated research project in occupational health for working youth.
- Coordinated research project on adolescence and gender-based violence.
- Supervised health education programs for youth in outreach demonstration clinic in a low-income area in Rio de Janeiro.
- Developed distance learning educational materials for health providers.
- Developed and implemented nation-wide training for primary care providers on health care programs for adolescent.

**Consultant, International Labor Organization, Geneva (ILO).** August 2008 to October 2008.

- Developed a national overview and four case studies on workplace partnership for childcare solutions in Brazil.

**Consultant, Ministry of Health, Brazil.** March 2004 to June 2008.

- Served as Focal Point to develop a National Health Policy to Eradicate Child Labor.

**Consultant, International Labor Organization, Brazil (ILO).** May 2003 to September 2003.

- Planned and designed the Time-Bound Program to Eliminate Child Labor in Brazil (IPEC).

**Counselor, Erie Teen Health Center, Chicago, Illinois.** September 1997 to December 1998.

- Individual, couple and family counseling.
- Prevention Case Manager – Pregnancy Prevention Program.
- Crisis intervention with young women survivors of domestic violence.

**International Adolescent Health Specialist, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Chicago, Illinois.** February 1996 to August 1997.

- Developed follow-up activities in Chicago to the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Women.
- Designed training in human rights and advocacy for girls and young women.
- Gathered and exchanged information related to health programs for girls and young women between the U.S. And Latin America.

**Deputy Director and Psychologist, Primary Health Care Program, Center for Adolescent Health Studies, State University of Rio de Janeiro.** Vice Coordinator: June 1994 to August 1995. Psychologist: March 1990 to August 1995.

- Coordinated interdisciplinary health team of 15 professionals at adolescent clinic at the state university teaching hospital.
- Supervised health educational programs for youth in outreach clinic in low-income areas (favelas) in Rio de Janeiro.
- Trained youth-serving professionals and youth peer promoters in health education
- Coordinated special project in occupational health for working youth.

## **Awards**

October 2015 – **Distinguished Community Advocate Award** – District of Columbia Primary Care Association

## **Publications**

*"Implementing the Partnership Assessment Tool for Health to Assess and Strengthen Cross-sector Partnerships: Lessons from a Federally Qualified Health Center."* Co-author. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 33, no. 5, 2022 [doi:10.1353/hpu.2022.0171](https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2022.0171).

*"Mapping Barriers and Enablers of COVID Vaccine Uptake: The Role of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) can Play in Addressing Health Inequalities in the Latinx Community "* Co-author. White Paper Series– La Clinica del Pueblo, Washington-DC, USA, 2022. <https://www.lcdp.org/docs/LCDP-White-Paper-Vaccine-Barriers.pdf>

"Immigration legal services as a structural HIV intervention for Latinx sexual and gender minorities." Co-author. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, **2018**. PMID: 30465116. DOI:10.1007/s10903-018-0838-y

"Partnering for Health Equity: Strategies, Partnerships and Recommendations for Immigrants Health in Prince George's County" - Convening Report and Recommendations. Co-author. *La Clinica del Pueblo*, Washington-DC, USA, **2018**.

"Latinxs and HIV: Access and Beyond" Co-author. White Paper Series— *La Clinica del Pueblo*, Washington-DC, USA, **2016**.

"Documentation status as a contextual determinant of HIV risk among young transgender Latinas." Co-author. *LGBT Health*. December, **2015**, ahead of print. doi:10.1089/lgbt.2015.0133.

"La Clinica del Pueblo's Peer Health Promoter Model" Co-author. *Peer for Progress*, North CarolinaUSA, **2014**  
[http://peersforprogress.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/20140527\\_peer\\_health\\_promoter\\_quality\\_assurance\\_case\\_study.pdf](http://peersforprogress.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/20140527_peer_health_promoter_quality_assurance_case_study.pdf)

"One Collective, Two Reforms: Latino immigrant women survivors of gender-based violence facing health and immigration reforms" - Community Conference Report and Recommendations. Co-author. *La Clinica del Pueblo*, Washington-DC, USA, **2013**.

"Tu Salud en Tus Manos (Your Health in Your Hands) Community Conference Report and Recommendations. Co-author. *La Clinica del Pueblo*, Washington-DC, USA, **2012**.

"Adolescent and Young Women Survivors of Gender-based Violence. A self-learning module for teams of primary care providers". Co-author. *Ed-UERJ*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, **2012**.

"Workplace solutions for childcare." Co-author. *International Labour Organization*, Geneva, **2010**.

"Good Practices in the Health Sector for the Eradication of Child Labor." Organizer/editor. *International Labor Organization*. Brasilia., Brazil, **2009**.

"Family practice and child participation from the vision of children and adults: an exploratory study in Latin America and the Caribbean". Co-author. *Institute Promundo / Publisher 7letras*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, **2008**.

"Human Rights? What do we have to do with it?" Co-author. *Regional Council of Psychology*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, **2007**.

"Facilitator's Guide / Self-Learning Modules on Occupational Health and Safety for Children and Youth". Co-author. *International Labor Organization*, Brasilia, Brazil **2007**.

"Comprehensive Health Care Attention of Adolescent Workers: lessons learned". Co-author. *Science & Public Health/National School of Public Health*, Rio de Janeiro. **2005**.

"Child labor as domestic violence". Co-author. *Ministry of Health*, Brasilia, Brazil. **2004**.

*"Country Evaluation – Brazil: International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour – International Labour Organization"* Co-author, ILO, Brasília, Brazil, **2001**.

**Professional Affiliation:**

American Public Health Association

**Languages:**

Native language: Portuguese  
Fluent in English  
Fluent in Spanish





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

### Dr. Suyanna Linhales Barker



Dr. Suyanna Linhales Barker has over 30 years of experience researching and implementing community-level public health interventions that address the needs of low-income, underserved Latin Americans.

A native of Brazil, her work experience includes ten years conducting research for the State University of Rio de Janeiro’s Center for Adolescent Health Studies and nine years consulting for various national and international organizations, including the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Labor Organization. For the last thirteen years, Dr. Linhales Barker has provided strategic direction, budget and personnel management, and evaluation for the community-facing programs at La Clínica de Pueblo, a Community Health Center in Washington, DC. She has led the development of community-level strategies and intersectoral partnerships to address core social and structural determinants of health for La Clínica’s clientele.

A Ward 4 resident, Dr. Linhales Barker earned her Bachelor of Psychology at Federal University of Espírito Santos, her Master of Psychology and Socio-cultural Practices from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, and her Doctor of Science in Public Health from the National School of Public Health in Brazil.





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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Tomas Talamante, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** October 4, 2024  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Mighty Fine, Ana López Van Balen, and Dr. Suyana Linhares Barker as members of the Commission on Health Equity

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced resolutions and found them to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Erika Satterlee, 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'.

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Elizabeth A. (Betsy) Cavendish