

Biography:

Cheryl D. Wills, MD is a board certified general, child and adolescent and forensic psychiatrist and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University. She is Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief of Child Psychiatry at the MetroHealth System in Cleveland Ohio.

She earned a BA in biochemistry at Barnard College, Columbia University and an MD at State University of New York, Upstate Medical University in Syracuse before. She completed combined residency and fellowship training in general, child and adolescent psychiatry followed by a forensic psychiatry fellowship with a concentration in child forensic psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Wills is serving a second elected term on the APA Board as Trustee of Area 4, the Midwestern U.S. (2018-). She is known for her strategic approach to governance and her ability to forge consensus among disparate stakeholders. She was awarded APA Special Presidential Commendations in 2021 and 2023 for her exemplary service as a Board member. This is a rare achievement, even for APA Board members

In 2020-2021, Dr. Wills chaired the Presidential Task Force on Structural Racism, SRTF, which completed a data-driven systematic review of the APA's functioning and governance- including the status of best practices implementation in diversity, equity, inclusion and governance. This resulted in organization-wide reform and an historic 18 actions being approved by the Board. Although each presidential task force is given one year to complete the work, Dr. Wills' team fulfilled the charge in seven months, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Wills was the forensic advisor to two DSM-5 workgroups (2012-2013). She writes and lectures nationally and internationally about clinical, forensic and administrative mental health, risk management, the impact of equity, inclusion and diversity on workplace culture, professionalism and other topics. Her skillset makes her an effective advocate for psychiatrists, the profession of psychiatry, patients and the public.