

## SHAC April 26

**Committee Chair:** Scott Jackson

**Members Present:** Kathleen Flaherty, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Denis McCarthy, David Schonfeld, Chris Lyddy, Ezra Griffith, Wayne Sandford, Harold Schwartz, , Bernie Sullivan, Alice Forrester

**Members Absent:** Adrienne Bentman, Ron Chivinski, Robert Ducibella, Terry Edelstein, Barbara O'Connor

I. Call to Order at 9:46 am.

II. Committee members introduce themselves

III. Violence and Mental Health Issues

John Monahan, Ph.D.; Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law

Richard J. Bonnie, LLB; Director, Institute of Law – Psychiatry and Public Policy, University of Virginia

Key Takeaways: Mental illness plays a very small role in American violence. It modestly increases the risk of violence to others. However, the rate of violence committed by discharged patients is heavily influenced by substance abuse. Gun violence against strangers among those with mental illness is extremely uncommon.

III. Addressing Trauma:

Robert Pynoos, M.D. & M.P.H.; Co-Director, National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Key Takeaways: Teachers and school staff experience a deep injury to their professional identity when they feel that their “protective shield” has failed. In the aftermath of school violence, all involved live in a world of constant reminders of the trauma. Children often rely on adults to help them manage their lives after a traumatic experience.

Steve Marans, M.S.W. & Ph.D.; Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry/Professor of Psychiatry/Director, National Center for Child Exposed to Violence/Childhood Violent Trauma Center – Yale University

Key Takeaways: Develop relationships with shared frames of reference with communities prior to tragedies. Clinical care and stabilization must come before informed consent/research. Research can be seen as exploitive, but in many situations, individuals express a want for others to learn from their experiences.

Robert Franks, Ph.D.; Vice President/Director of Connecticut Center for Effective Practice, Child Health Development Institute

Key Takeaways: Trauma is a preventable public health issue. Connecticut has many resources and assets that have been in place for a long time. Children seeking help in our outpatient child guidance clinics have had on average 8 traumatic experiences. In the juvenile justice system about 80% report a history of trauma. Children who experience trauma have increased risk of incarceration and even mortality.

Julian Ford, Ph.D.; Professor of Psychiatry, University of Connecticut Health Center

Key Takeaways: Need to plan for proactive research before a crisis. There need to be collaborative relationships between researchers, communities, and service providers prior to an incident. Children experience many layers of violence with multiple forms of traumatic experiences.

#### V. Discussion

- a. Mayor Jackson presents a list of possible focus areas/priorities. These priorities will be discussed and determined in the future.
- b. Scheduled for full day meeting on May 3, 2013 and half day on May 10, 2013

#### VI. Adjournment