



**Sandy Hook Advisory Committee**

**February 22, 2013**

**9:30 AM**

**LOB, Room 1A**

**Minutes**

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Terry Edelstein and Bernie Sullivan

**Members Present:** Adrienne Bentman, Ron Chivinski, Robert Ducibella, Kathleen Flaherty, Alice Forrester, Ezra Griffith, Chris Lyddy, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Denis McCarthy, Barbara O'Connor, Wayne Sandford, David Schonfeld, Harold Schwartz

**Members absent:** Scott Jackson

- I. Call to order at 9:30 AM
- II. Co-chair Terry Edelstein makes motion to revise agenda. The committee approves the motion.
- III. Committee members introduce themselves.
- IV. Commissioners Rehmer (DMHAS), Mullen (DPH), Pryor (SDE), and Katz (DCF) presents on state agency trauma response to Sandy Hook.
  - a. Key takeaways from their presentations include: state agencies continue to maintain contact with families; resilience is one of Connecticut communities' strongest assets; state agencies modeled strong collaboration; many donations and volunteers;
  - b. Key recommendations made by the Commissioners include: new requirements for communication between mental health personnel and school security; extend training in psychological first aid, grief and response; coordinate response teams in advance and make them available to school systems; utilize unified command system; strengthen integration between school and behavioral health agencies; consider holding drills; rethink school security and design; emphasize children need to be protected not policed
- V. Dr. Marlene Wong, PhD. Associate Dean of the University of Southern California presents on National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Her presentation emphasizes:
  - a. How does a school begin to recover? Schools must create perceptions of renewed security for students and families, teachers and other staff.
  - b. Schools must have a referral system; understand how to treat children showing evidence of stress; be able to initiate conversations about trauma and tragedy; and have people trained in child trauma in schools



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- VI. Dr. Tomas DeMaria presents on foundation of the 9/11 Family Center. His presentation emphasizes:
  - a. Children will respond to traumatic exposure in different ways and at different times.
  - b. Grief and loss are common experiences in childhood and must be dealt with: establish guidelines for planning memorials and commemorative activities
- VII. Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools presents on increasingly important role of school district in meeting needs of a community.
- VIII. Meeting adjourns at ????