

## Commission on Social Services

### Town of Wilton

January 10, 2013 – Minutes

**Attending:** Roseann De Simone, David Graybill, Peg Koellmer, Judy Mabley, Virginia Smith, Christine Tenore (guest observer), and Judy Zucker

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chairman Peg Koellmer. Peg introduced David Graybill, new Commission member. An updated membership roster was distributed to members.

The revised minutes for the December 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Commission Business:** Cathy Pierce, Director of Wilton Social Services, was unable to attend due to illness, and as a consequence, several agenda items were tabled until next month's meeting. These included a review of the holiday gift giving program and an update on the Wilton Interfaith Council/Wilton Community Assistance Fund.

Peg Koellmer presented a summary of the program held earlier that day at the Wilton Library (see attached). Speakers included Jennifer McNamara, president of the Wilton Domestic Violence Task Force, representatives of the newly-formed Wilton chapter of CT Against Gun Violence, and Dr. S. David Bernstein, a forensic psychologist.

There was discussion of safety issues at Wilton schools following Dr. Bernstein's talk and his recommendations regarding threat assessment in the schools.

Peg Koellmer will be attending future DVTF meetings and will follow up with the Wilton Against Gun Violence Group.

#### **Liaison Reports:**

**Trackside:** Peg Koellmer reported that Trackside is doing well and has submitted a flat budget request.

**Domestic Violence Task Force:** There will be a performance of "The Yellow Dress" at the Wilton Library on February 6 at 8 pm. On February 14, there will be DVCC events in Norwalk and Stamford.

**Wilton Interfaith Council** has raised approximately \$30,000 for its Warm-Up Fund for households in need of fuel assistance.

**Food Pantry:** Donations have increased.

Wilton Commons: Move-in has been scheduled for April. Judy Mabley noted the recent theft of copper from the construction site.

The Social Services Department budget presentation to the Board of Finance will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at 8:30 pm. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

David Graybill suggested that a glossary of acronyms for programs and agencies would be helpful for new members to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Smith, Co-Secretary

## WILTON AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

### Jennifer McNamara:

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Highlighted by a Proclamation, a fundraiser at Open House Gift Shop, presentations to youth and community, and purple ribbons installed by Teen Peace Works (105 in 2012 and 121 in 2011). This year, February 6th at 8pm at the library, there will be a performance of "Yellow Dress". There is a need for more fundraising and volunteers. One Wilton family used the service of the DVCC at an expense of \$11,000. On 2/14 there will be 2 events. Rise, Dance and Act will be at the DVCC locations in Norwalk and Stamford and a walk on the Capitol in Hartford sponsored by Connecticut Against Gun Violence [marchforchange.org](http://marchforchange.org).

### Ct Against Gun Violence - Wilton Chapter

Advocating for:

Background checks for arms purchases, including those at gun shows

Ban on high capacity clips and magazines

OBR (One Billion Rising) organization named for the 1 billion women and children that suffer from domestic violence worldwide.

[CAGV.org](http://CAGV.org)

### David Bernstein

Determining Threats

Almost impossible to determine external threats.

Internal threats are easier to predict.

95% of school shooters are current students

Overall risk of being shot at school is 1 in a million

We, as the adults and professionals have a duty to foresee, forewarn and protect against violent behavior.

Profile is white male, 14 to 18 years old, disenfranchised, loner, access to fire arms

Schools must have Policies and Procedures in place that are followed 100% of the time. When a high risk behavior is noted you have to investigate and do a focused threat assessment.

Zero tolerance policies do not work. No one wants to be the person to get a child removed from school. You must have a "central reporting process". Consider using an SRO (School Resource Officer) Psychologist, special education teacher or administrator. "Three Blind Men and an Elephant"

Myths about school shooters

1. They just snap
2. Drug related (only drugs found are anti-depressants)
3. Incidents of mass murder are increasing (average of 20 per year remains constant).  
Mass murder is 4 or more victims.
4. They can be predicted and prevented.

The only prevention is intervention. Taxpayers don't want to spend money to protect the children, what if the classroom was filled with diamonds? How much would you spend to protect them? What has more value to you?

"Ball in the Air" scenario.

There is a continuum. THOUGHTS→WORDS→PLANS→ACTIONS

Remember, these are NOT impulsive actions. People do not SNAP.

Example: A boy has been horribly bullied, he starts to miss school because it is too painful to attend, start suffering from hyper-vigilance (PTSS), and he develops retaliatory fantasies.

Remember, as an adult, if you don't advocate for him....he'll do it for himself.

So first he'll have the retaliatory fantasy, then he'll start putting it into words. "I hate him", "I'll get back at him", "They'll be sorry".

They start writing "dark" themed poetry and creating "dark themed" art.

They will make posting on social media sites.

In 80% of school shootings, someone knew. With 66% of school shootings, more than one person knew. They tell friends, siblings, peers and classmates. We must teach our children to report!

Next, planning. They develop a fascination with firearms and school shootings.

They will "practice" with video games. 99% of children playing violent video games are fine. They download google earth photos of their schools. Research guns and bombs on the internet.

Action. They start collecting ammo, guns, bomb making materials.

Three greatest risk factors:

Bullying

Depression with suicidal ideations

Access to firearms

Newtown was unusual for many reasons. It was external, most of these happen in "Gun Culture States"

80 plan on suicide/one third do it

China same day 23 victims, no deaths. No access to guns, it was a knife attack

THEY ALL FEEL JUSTIFIED.

What can we do?

Ask friends parents if they have firearms

Assertiveness training (aggressive vs. assertive vs. passive responses) react and let go.

Develop an anonymous reporting system

Lockdown code words

Have protocol in place if identified

Anti-bullying programs

Develop a threat assessment team

Replace doors with solid core

Replace glass with bullet proof

# Dr. S. David Bernstein

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Dr. Bernstein is the president of Forensic Consultants, LLC. He is an expert in Threat Assessment, Corporate Risk Management, and Deceit Detection. He has held appointments at Yale University School of Medicine and Harvard University Medical School, where he completed his residency in Forensic Psychology in the Department of Law and Psychiatry. Additionally he has attended training with the United States Secret Service and currently serves as a consultant for state and federal law enforcement agencies such as the FBI.

Dr. Bernstein has conducted several hundred forensic interviews throughout his career ranging from organized crime figures to convicted murderers. Through the use of verbal and nonverbal deceit detection skills, such as Statement Analysis and Cortical-Limbic Stress detection, Dr. Bernstein is able to assess the likelihood of whether an individual is being forthcoming or is attempting to evade the truth.

On the corporate level, Dr. Bernstein is frequently retained by companies and individuals going through the Due Diligence process to assess whether the individuals they are negotiating with are withholding information or misrepresenting facts.

Dr. Bernstein was part of an elite group of dangerousness experts invited to participate in a think tank for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that resulted in their national publication on workplace violence [Workplace Violence Prevention Strategies and Research Needs. NIOSH publication number 2006-144]

Dr. Bernstein has testified nationally in state and federal courts as a forensic expert. He has been cited in Connecticut case law, which was published in the Connecticut Law Journal, and recognized by the Connecticut Law Tribune as one of the best legal consultant in the state for five consecutive years.

Dr. Bernstein has conducted training lectures and workshops for state and government law enforcement agencies throughout the United States including the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council, (NEMLEC) and NEMLEC's School Threat Assessment and Response System project (STARS). In October 2010 Dr. Bernstein had the honor of being the keynote presenter for a conference on Student Threat Assessment and Dangerousness hosted by the Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In August 2011 he presented at The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals annual Threat Management conference, hosted by the

Los Angeles Police Department, and the LAPD's Threat Management Unit.

He has appeared on television news programs where he has given expert commentary concerning issues of workplace violence, corporate risk management, and psychopathy, including the Anne Le murder at Yale University, the Omar Thornton mass murder at Hartford Distributors, and the Albert DeSolvo serial murders (Boston Strangler).

Dr. Bernstein has performed hundreds of threat assessments and training workshops for corporations throughout the United States. He is frequently sought out to consult with human resource managers and corporate counsel on matters of workplace violence and corporate risk management.

He is uniquely qualified to provide various risk management services such as evaluating potential for workplace violence, sexual harassment, employee separation, and consulting on policies and procedures regarding workplace violence.

Dr. Bernstein is a full member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, the American Psychological Association, American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div 41), Harvard Medical School Postgraduate Association, American Society of Trial Consultants, and is certified by the National Center for Crisis Management in Corporate Crisis Response.