



# Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

Mental Health Services Working Group



## CONSENSUS ITEMS

1. **Mental Health First Aid:** Promote training for teachers, school nurses, school counselors and other community members to help them identify mental illness and respond to psychiatric emergencies.
2. **Mental Health Task Force:** Create a task force to conduct a comprehensive study of Connecticut's mental health system and make recommendations for enhancements to the mental health system for 16-25 year olds. Topics for the task force to pursue may include:
  - a. Improving early intervention and treatment,
  - b. Closing gaps in private insurance coverage,
  - c. Improving case management and follow up,
  - d. Addressing the shortage of psychiatric professionals and specialized services,
  - e. Alternate service delivery and payment models,
  - f. Looking at models of mental health delivery for young adults,
  - g. Creation of a centralized resource center that would serve as an information clearinghouse for individuals and families regarding mental health issues.
3. **Case Coordination Initiatives in Probate Courts:** Promote programs that provide case coordination/management for individuals with mental illness, including programs that provide liaisons between the mentally ill and courts, providers, community agencies and family members. For example, Melissa's Project, ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Teams, and Peer Bridger Programs.
4. **American Academy of Pediatrics Collaboration Model:** Implement a program similar to the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP) to train pediatricians to intervene with children who have mental health conditions and prescribe and manage medication when appropriate.