

First of all, let me express my appreciation to whomever is responsible for this "email testimony" idea. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my input despite being unable to attend in person.

On the subject of mental health and guns;

The State Police has a fantastic system in place to prevent the "wrong people" from purchasing firearms. Through the Uniform Arrest Reporting system, all arrest reports by State and Local Police are forwarded to the Firearms Unit of the State Police (SPFU). The firearms unit can then determine if the alleged crime meets the standards for a "firearm disqualifier." If the disqualification is found to be applicable, a permanent record is kept on file.

Meanwhile, any firearms sales or transfers in the State of Connecticut require a sales authorization number from the SPFU. A firearm transfer and sales form is filled out with the identity of the buyer and forwarded to the SPFU. Before that authorization number is issued, the purchasing party is checked against SPFU records to determine if any disqualifiers exist. If yes, the sale is not approved.

My suggestion is to apply the same kind of principal to the field of Mental Health. I feel that all Psychologists, counselors, social workers, therapists, etc, should be required to report to the SPFU, any clients who display or report homicidal, suicidal, or feelings of violence. Upon receipt of these mental health reports, the SPFU can issue a firearms disqualifier against the patient.

If HIPAA and or doctor/patient confidentiality is concern, I would suggest that ONLY the name of the patient be forwarded to SPFU, without any details of the patient's condition or illness. Provisions could also be made to require approval from the reporting Mental Health professional before any firearm sale is approved by the SPFU.

As an option, mental health professionals could forward these reports to a newly created firearms liason official, hired by DMHAS, working in cooperation with the SPFU.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to prevent anyone from stealing, or otherwise illegally obtaining a firearm, but with a system like this in place, potentially violent and/or homicidal persons can be prevented from purchasing firearms.

Thank you for your time,  
Marc Catalano  
20 Rocky Ledge Dr.  
Clinton, Ct.