

Gun Violence Prevention
Panel Discussion Feedback Received
April 3, 2016

Twenty-seven feedback sheets received at close of the discussion.

Not everyone answered every question.

You still have an opportunity to add your comments.

Please email them to ahatfield@westminsterpc.org

1. What did you find most meaningful about today's discussion?

- *Each panel members were well spoken and very interesting.
- *Appreciated forum of speakers and diversity of their background. Wonder if speakers could have been part of "guidelines of our time together" prior to day to allow for more focus on discussion and not agenda driven?
- *Expertise of panel members.
- *The broadness of views presented.
- *Interesting opposing positions!
- *Hearing different points of view.
- *Diversity of opinion and exposure to gun violence was very helpful. Excellent panel, well done, Colin Kelly and team.
- *Missing the prevention issue by getting sidetracked with gun laws – stats are about those who commit gun violence.
- *Thank you! It was well planned and panel was well selected. Loved having Dr. Smith on the panel; he represented a facet not typically represented on this topic. Great to educate voters!
- *All the different perspectives.
- *The variety of panelists was great. Need four minutes for statements at the beginning.
- *The clear impact that gun violence has had on Starr's life. Joan's reminder to frame the discussion by our faith.
- *Having different points of view, particularly those of the NRA.
- *Both sides represented and a lot of information covered.
- *Mix of opinions on the issue.
- *VOTE, VOTE, VOTE against the NRA!
- *Forum type.
- *The willingness of those on many sides of the issue to be together and potentially seek common ground.
- *The arrogance of the NRA position, we are in the constitution – so deal with it – makes me very sad. They buy politicians to protect their view.
- *Respectful dialogue.
- *Impressed with the way this panel was balanced. I was pleasantly surprised.
- *Understanding the existing laws.

2. What concerns or questions do you have related to gun violence prevention that you would like to see addressed in the future?

*Mental health complications to family members, victims and general bystanders. Discussion regarding mental health PTSD symptoms is extremely important.

Especially given recent crimes by retired state troopers.

*How to help children, youth and adults affected by violence and gun violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, etc.? These abuses happen prior to gun violence and are part of 'family systems'. Education available for gun safety options along with awareness of resources for prevention.

*If people have less access to guns will they find other tools for violence? i.e. bombs, cars, poison, etc.

*How to address mental health issues positively.

*Continue the dialog – very important.

*The children – those affected, those who have access to guns.

*Stop arguing stats and gun laws, focus on people who kill with guns are not law-abiding citizens, and how do we address keeping guns out of the hands of mentally ill individuals.

*I believe real change is created by how we educate our youth. With all the politics around gun laws, how can we address gun violence with youth and in schools?

*Focus on gun violence categories: suicide, crime, and domestic violence.

*The 'gaming' culture, which has anesthetized many of our young people about killing. Especially those with troubled backgrounds and mental health issues who are most likely to commit violent acts.

*Need more dialogue – what can both sides agree on in terms of changes?

*Enacting social change.

*Enforce the firearm laws on the books.

*Focus on the issue of mental illness, its role, how legislation might help (or not help) And from a legislative perspective, what could be done – what would be wise legislation.

*What laws relating to guns are not enforced?

*Community.

*Would like to know the progress of talks between the NRA and CeaseFirePA.

3. What should we consider as next steps?

Mental Health outreach programs	15
Legislative action – state level	13
Violence in our culture discussion	12
Legislative action - national level	9
Expert speakers.	8
CeaseFirePA workshops	7
Comparative study of gun violence in other developed countries.	6
Study of security in public places	5
Book study	0

Added:

*Topic of laws regarding violence. Starr mentioned the individual who shot her only receiving 5-10 years aggressive assault and 10 year probation. NB he was not charged with attempted murder with a higher sentence. Legal system issues?

*Community education and gun safety courses addressed in public schools, by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

*Gun safety education by LAW!

*Consider how we educate children of WPC on gun safety.

*Grass roots: calling on the NRA to funnel \$\$ to mentally ill and looking out for our own mentally ill.

*Mental health outreach geared at white male stress. Sponsor CeaseFirePA workshops in violent communities.

*Are there any examples of other countries, which stand up for comparison?

*Why are we not enforcing the laws already on the books?

*More discussion on mental health and gun control.

*Enforce laws on the books. Stop focus on policy – focus on community.

*NRA gun safety course.

*Legislators – local, state and federal.

4. Do you have suggestions for guest speakers for future gun violence prevention events?

*Include in the future a panel member who is a Forensic Psychology or Forensic Psychiatry expert.

*Public school educators/administrators and teachers. Mental health professionals working with victims, legislators at local level, accountable to constituents.

*Legislators, someone who has been convicted of violent crime and is now reformed. Also Sharif El-Mekki, principal of a Philadelphia turnaround school, who has been honored by President Obama at The White House and by Oprah per the role schools can play. (*Mastery Charter School-Shoemaker Campus, fiona*)

*CeaseFirePA representatives.

*How about a rep from a group that favors locking up ALL guns (save for police)? Also we need a legislator.