
PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE FIREARM EPIDEMIC

A National Consultation

November 14, 2016

Instructional Building
72 East Concord Street
Hiebert Lounge
Boston, MA



Boston University School of Public Health

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues:

We are glad that you could join us today. This meeting brings together deans and directors of public health schools and programs from across the United States with a small number of select public health leaders from around the country.

We have structured the meeting such that we can discuss what the top priorities for a newly elected administration should be to help mitigate the firearm epidemic, and how academic public health might engage around encouraging these priorities. We also hope that the meeting will help us address how academic public health can be most effective in helping to “move the needle” on the public conversation around this issue.

That is an ambitious agenda for any meeting, and so we have assembled speakers representing the political, academic, and advocacy arenas to help set the stage leading up to the discussion.

We have long been looking forward to this conversation. Thank you for being a part of it.

Warmly,

Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH
Dean, Robert A. Knox Professor
sgalea@bu.edu

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Breakfast

9 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Sandro Galea, Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor, Boston University School of Public Health

SESSION I

POLITICS: WHAT IS THE POLITICAL AND LEGAL LANDSCAPE?

9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker, Massachusetts House of Representatives

9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

George Annas, William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor, Boston University School of Public Health

9:50 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Maura Healey, Attorney General, Massachusetts

10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

BUILDING A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA: SESSION I

10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

Break

SESSION II

DATA: FIREARMS IN AMERICA—WHAT DO WE KNOW?

10:35 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

David Hemenway, Professor, Health Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Director, Harvard Injury Control Research Center

10:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Daniel Webster, Professor, Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

11:15 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Corinne Peek-Asa, Professor, Occupational and Environmental Health, and Associate Dean for Research, University of Iowa College of Public Health

11:35 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

BUILDING A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA: SESSION II

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Lunch

SESSION III

ADVOCACY: HOW DO WE MOVE THE NEEDLE?

12:15 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.

Shannon Watts, Founder, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

12:35 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.

John Feinblatt, President, Everytown for Gun Safety

12:55 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

David H. Chipman, Senior Policy Advisor, Americans for Responsible Solutions

1:15 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.

John Rosenthal, Founder, Stop Handgun Violence

1:35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

BUILDING A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA: SESSION III

1:45 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Break

SESSION IV

BUILDING A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA: WHAT NEXT?

2 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

On Action Towards Change

3:50 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wrap-Up

Sandro Galea, Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor, Boston University School of Public Health

SPEAKERS



GEORGE J. ANNAS

**William Fairfield Warren
Distinguished Professor,
Boston University School
of Public Health**

George J. Annas is the William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor at Boston University School of Public Health, director of the Center for Health Law, Ethics & Human Rights at SPH, and a member of the Department of Health Law, Policy & Management at SPH. He is also a professor at the Boston University Schools of Law and Medicine. Annas is the author or editor of 20 books on health law and bioethics, including *The Rights of Patients* (third edition, 2004), *Public Health Law* (second edition, 2014), *American Bioethics* (2005), *Worst Case Bioethics* (2010), and *Genomic Messages* (2015). He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Annas is the co-founder of Global Lawyers & Physicians, an NGO dedicated to promoting health and human rights.

SPEAKERS



DAVID H. CHIPMAN

**Senior Policy Advisor,
Americans for Responsible
Solutions**

David H. Chipman serves as a senior policy advisor for Americans for Responsible Solutions (ARS), a gun violence prevention organization established by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, a retired United States Navy veteran, test pilot, and NASA astronaut. Chipman served 25 years as a special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). During Chipman's work for ATF, he first was a street agent, disrupting criminal organizations trafficking firearms from Tidewater, Virginia, to New York City, and targeting the worst-of-the-worst armed offenders already in possession of illegal guns as a member of ATF's Washington, DC, Special Response Team (ATF's version of SWAT). Later, as a member of ATF's National Response Team, he participated in the on-scene investigations of the first World Trade Center bombing; the Branch Davidian raid near Waco, Texas; and the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

After 9/11, Chipman directed ATF's transition from Treasury into the Department of Justice, while leading ATF's national firearms programs division. During his tenure, he launched ATF's Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) program, aimed at preventing homicides with guns in targeted US cities, and was honored for his efforts with the US Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety.

Following his retirement from ATF in 2012, Chipman served as a senior policy advisor for Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG), and in 2013 he transitioned to become the senior vice president of sales at ShotSpotter, a gunshot detection tech firm based in Silicon Valley, California.

Originally from Metro Detroit, Chipman is a graduate of American University and received a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University.



HAROLD COX

**Associate Dean,
Public Health Practice,
Boston University School
of Public Health**

Harold Cox is associate dean for public health practice and associate professor of community health sciences at Boston University School of Public Health. He is a member of the Massachusetts Public Health Council and the Boston Public Health Commission and serves as chair of the statewide Regionalization Working Committee, which is exploring methods to improve public health service delivery in Massachusetts. At SPH, Cox manages the newly formed Activist Lab, which seeks to engage the school in real-world public health. Trained as a social worker, he has extensive practice experience with mental retardation, HIV/AIDS, and governmental public health.

SPEAKERS



ROBERT A. DELEO

Speaker, Massachusetts
House of Representatives

House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo has represented the Town of Winthrop and a portion of the City of Revere in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 1991. DeLeo's priorities include strong fiscal management, supporting individuals facing adversity and battling addiction, and giving residents a competitive edge through educational opportunities.

In 2014, DeLeo led the legislature in passing a consensus-driven gun safety law that closed existing loopholes, created a sustainable framework to stop gun trafficking, and established best practices for school safety. The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence has noted that the legislation is among the strongest in the nation, including an important set of provisions that exist in no other state.

During that same session, the speaker championed domestic violence legislation that created new criminal offenses and elevated penalties, boosted prevention efforts, and sought to empower victims.

Since becoming speaker, DeLeo has spearheaded three economic development packages that focus on improving the Massachusetts economy through comprehensive strategies. He has been lauded for his effective and creative approach to job creation, which leverages the strengths of diverse sectors to bolster the Commonwealth's economy in its entirety and address regional inequalities. A *Boston Globe* article praised Speaker DeLeo as "one of the biggest champions of our innovation economy" and described him as "knowledgeable and fluent in getting things done, what the innovation economy needs."

Under his leadership, the House of Representatives has made strides in helping to combat the current substance addiction epidemic. The legislature has passed two medically comprehensive substance addiction bills and has increased funding for this public health crisis to unprecedented levels.



JOHN FEINBLATT

**President, Everytown
for Gun Safety**

John Feinblatt is president of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the United States. He is a senior advisor to former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and, in addition to his role at Everytown, has led Bloomberg's efforts on immigration reform, infrastructure investment, and marriage equality. During the 12 years of the Bloomberg administration, Feinblatt held the position of New York City criminal justice coordinator and in 2010 was appointed to be the mayor's chief policy advisor. Prior to joining New York City Hall, he was founding director of the Center for Court Innovation and the founding director of Midtown Community Court.

SPEAKERS



SANDRO GALEA

Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor, Boston University School of Public Health

Sandro Galea, a physician and an epidemiologist, is dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. He previously held academic and leadership positions at Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the New York Academy of Medicine.

In his scholarship, Galea is centrally interested in the social production of health of urban populations, with a focus on the causes of brain disorders, particularly common mood-anxiety disorders and substance abuse. He has long had a particular interest in the consequences of trauma, including firearms. He has published more than 640 scientific journal articles, 50 chapters, and 10 books, and his research has been featured extensively in current periodicals and newspapers. His latest book, co-authored with Katherine Keyes, is *Population Health Science*, published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

Galea holds a medical degree from the University of Toronto and graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University. He also holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow. Galea was named one of *Time* magazine's epidemiology innovators, and has been listed by Thomson Reuters as one of the "World's Most Influential Scientific Minds" for the social sciences. He is past president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Epidemiological Society. Galea has received several lifetime achievement awards for his research, including the Rema Lapouse Award from the American Public Health Association and the Robert S. Laufer, PhD, Memorial Award from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. He is a regular contributor to *Fortune* magazine and has published widely in the lay press, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Business Review*, the *Boston Globe*, and *The New York Times*. His research has been cited by these publications as well as BBC, Slate, WBUR, and NPR, among others.



MAURA HEALEY

**Attorney General,
Massachusetts**

Maura Healey was sworn in as attorney general on January 21, 2015, pledging to lead the "people's law firm."

Since taking office, Healey has tackled issues touching the lives of residents across Massachusetts, including the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic, escalating healthcare costs, workers' rights, and student loan costs. She has focused on strengthening consumer protections and improving our criminal justice system.

Building on her promise to run an office that serves people across the state, Healey launched the Community Engagement Division in May 2015. The first-of-its-kind division brings the attorney general's office and its work into neighborhoods and communities across the state.

As a civil rights attorney, Healey is committed to ensuring that all residents are treated fairly. Prior to her election, Healey helped lead the attorney general's office as head of the Civil Rights Division and as chief of the Public Protection and Business & Labor Bureaus. While chief of the Civil Rights Division, Healey was the architect of the state's successful challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act and argued the case in federal court. In these roles, she also shut down predatory lenders that were wreaking havoc on Massachusetts communities and oversaw a team that has worked with homeowners to help make their loans affordable.

Early in her career, Healey clerked for Judge A. David Mazzone in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Prior to joining the attorney general's office, Healey was a junior partner at the international law firm Wilmer Hale (formerly Hale and Dorr) and was a former special assistant district attorney of Middlesex County. Healey graduated from Harvard College in 1992 and was captain of the women's basketball team. She played professional basketball in Europe before returning to Massachusetts to attend Northeastern University School of Law.

SPEAKERS



DAVID HEMENWAY

**Professor, Health Policy,
Harvard T.H. Chan School
of Public Health; Director,
Harvard Injury Control
Research Center**

David Hemenway is an economist and a professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a former James Marsh Visiting Professor at the University of Vermont. He is director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, former director of the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, and former president of the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR). Hemenway received the Excellence in Science Award from the American Public Health Association and fellowships from the Pew, Soros, and Robert Wood Johnson foundations. In 2012, he was recognized by the CDC as one of the 20 “most influential injury and violence professionals over the past 20 years.” In 2013, he received a Commissioner’s Commendation from the Boston Police Commissioner for exemplary services to the people of Boston. Hemenway has written more than 200 journal articles—more than 100 on gun violence—and five books, including *Private Guns Public Health* (University of Michigan Press, 2006) and *While We Were Sleeping: Success Stories in Injury and Violence Prevention* (University of California Press, 2009). He has received 10 Harvard teaching awards.



CORINNE PEEK-ASA
**Associate Dean for
Research and Professor,
University of Iowa
College of Public Health**

Corinne Peek-Asa is the associate dean for research at the University of Iowa, College of Public Health, and professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. She received her PhD in epidemiology from UCLA. She is the director of the CDC-funded University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center and director of an NIH-Fogarty international trauma and violence prevention training program. As part of this training program, she led studies examining firearm and small explosive injuries to children in Croatia and Bosnia following the Balkan Wars. She has current studies in the areas of violence prevention, transportation safety, and acute care. Peek-Asa has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and is an appointed member of the Driver Education Committee of the Transportation Research Board. She helped establish and served as the past president of the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and received the SAVIR President's Award in 2011. Peek-Asa was named a Research!America Public Health Hero in 2010.

SPEAKERS



JOHN ROSENTHAL

**Founder, Stop
Handgun Violence**

John Rosenthal, president of Meredith Management, is a successful real estate developer and manager in Massachusetts who has distinguished himself in his ability to balance corporate and individual responsibility. In 1995, as a gun owner, recreational trap shooter, and businessperson, Rosenthal founded Stop Handgun Violence. The organization has been the lead advocate for Massachusetts' effective gun violence prevention laws and initiatives, and its work has been symbolized by the 20-foot-high iconic billboard that he built on the side of a parking garage along the Massachusetts Turnpike near Boston's Fenway Park. Massachusetts now has the most effective gun laws, is first in the nation consumer protection regulations for firearms, and has the lowest firearm fatality rate per 100,000 capita of any urban state and the third lowest overall in the United States.

Rosenthal is also active in community-based environmental and renewable energy issues as well as social and economic justice. He has organized and advocated extensively in support of safe and renewable energy and against nuclear power. Rosenthal has also founded several effective nonprofit organizations. In 1987, Rosenthal started the Friends of Boston's Homeless. The organization, a partnership with the City of Boston, has raised more than \$20 million, serves 800 people every night, and helps transition more than 400 formerly homeless men and women in Boston beyond shelter with housing and full-time jobs each year.

In June 2015, Rosenthal and former Gloucester Police Chief Leonard Campanello co-founded the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative to support the innovative Gloucester Police Angel program and help other police departments around the Commonwealth and the nation address the deadly epidemic and disease of opioid addiction.



SHANNON WATTS

**Founder, Moms Demand
Action for Gun Sense in
America**

Shannon Watts is the founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Watts is a mother of five who, prior to founding Moms Demand Action, was a stay-at-home mom and former communications executive for both public relations agencies and Fortune 500 corporations. The day after the Sandy Hook tragedy, Watts started a Facebook group with the message that all Americans can and should do more to reduce gun violence. The online conversation turned into a grassroots movement of American mothers fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. Moms Demand Action has established a chapter in every state of the country and is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with more than 3 million supporters. Since founding Moms Demand Action, Watts has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, and NPR, and has written for *Time* and the *Washington Post*.

SPEAKERS



DANIEL WEBSTER

Professor, Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Daniel Webster is one of the nation's leading experts on the prevention of gun violence. Webster has published more than 100 articles in scientific journals on topics including gun policy, violence prevention, youth violence, intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and injury prevention. He is the lead editor and a contributor to *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). For more than 20 years, Webster's research and policy analyses have helped shape local, state, and federal policies on gun violence prevention. He is regularly called upon by local, state, and federal policymakers as well as advocacy groups for his expertise on gun violence prevention. He is frequently quoted in top-tier national media outlets, including *The New Yorker*, MSNBC, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the Associated Press.

Webster's research and leadership have been particularly evident in Baltimore, where he advises the mayor's office, police department, and health department on strategies to reduce gun violence. He co-chairs the advisory board for Safe Streets, a public health program to prevent shootings involving youth by changing behaviors and social norms related to gun violence. Webster led Baltimore's Homicide Review Commission and now leads the Johns Hopkins-Baltimore Collaborative for Violence Reduction. In 2016, he received Baltimore City's Health Equity Leadership Award.

Nationally, Webster's research on handgun purchaser licensing and background checks led to the introduction of federal legislation in the House and Senate in 2015 and was the basis for a national faith-based advocacy campaign. President Obama cited this research in his 2016 address to the nation on gun violence as evidence in support of universal background checks. He has been an invited speaker at events convened by the White House, testified before the US Congress, and spoken before state and local legislators working on gun violence. In 2015, Webster received the David Rall Award for science-based advocacy on behalf of public health.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Boston University School of Medicine

Boston University School of Public Health

Central New York Master of Public Health Program

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Urban Public Health Program

Colorado School of Public Health

CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy

Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health

Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Master of Public Health Program

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Kent State University College of Public Health

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Public Health

Loyola University Chicago Master of Public Health Program

Mercer University Master of Public Health Program

New York University College of Global Public Health

Northeastern University Bouvé College of Health Sciences

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Oregon Health & Science University

Rutgers School of Public Health

San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health

Stony Brook Medicine Program in Public Health

Temple University College of Public Health

Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health

Thomas Jefferson University College of Population Health Master of Public Health Program

Tufts University School of Medicine Public Health Program

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences and Public Health

University at Albany, State University of New York, School of Public Health

University at Buffalo, State University of New York, School of Public Health and Health Professions

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health

University of California, Irvine Program in Public Health

University of Cincinnati Master of Public Health Program

University of Georgia College of Public Health

University of Iowa College of Public Health

University of Kansas School of Medicine

University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences

University of Massachusetts Boston

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Department of Public Health Sciences

University of Michigan School of Public Health

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

University of San Francisco Master of Public Health Program

University of South Florida College of Public Health

University of Southern California Master of Public Health Program

University of Texas Medical Branch Public Health Program

University of Washington School of Public Health



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