

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-INVESTIGATION REPORT (DPS-302-E) (REVISED 2/3/06)

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Report #:	1200704559	- 00013032
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Report Type:	Initial Report: 🗌	Prosecutors Report:	Supplement: 🛛	Re-open: 🗌	Assist: Closing:	

Attachments: Statements:
Teletype:
Photos:
Sketchmap:
Evidence:
Other:

				Y OFFICER , DANIEL E.		BADGE NO 0336	INVESTIGATING OFFICE JEWISS, DANIEL E.	R	BADGE NO 0336		
INCIDENT ADDRESS 00012 Dickinson Dr/						APARTMENT NO	TOWN CD T097	TYPE OF EXC Not Applicable	EPTIONAL CLEARANCE	CASE STATUS Active	

---- SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ----

(Consultation from Dr. Anne Balboni, PsyD EMT I/C)

ACTION TAKEN:

On 01/04/13, I contacted Eileen Grady Vermilye, LICSW who is the U.S. Dept. of Justice Employee Assistance Program Deputy Administrator. I explained that we were fielding requests for specific case information from the parents of surviving students. The parents were asking for this because their children were telling them and their therapists things about the shooting and it was difficult for the parents and therapists to correctly respond to them because they didn't have any facts themselves. At this point they were relying on information from other parents and the media but they couldn't discern what was true and what wasn't.

I further explained that although we have policies and procedures about releasing case information, we wanted to do what was best for these families. I asked her if she knew of any information available that could guide us in supporting these families. Eileen recommended that I contact Dr. Anne Balboni, PsyD EMT I/C, who had worked with the Rhode Island State Police before.

I located the following information concerning Dr. Balboni. She is the state coordinator & clinical director of the state wide Rhode Island Critical Incident Stress Management TEAM, Inc. Dr. Balboni earned a Masters in Education, a Masters in Counseling and a Doctorate in Psychology. Anne serves as a member of the ICISF Board of Directors as well as ICISF faculty member, authoring the CISM Applications with Children's class. She is an ICISF approved instructor for twelve ICISF classes. Dr. Balboni has presented on crisis intervention topics internationally as well as assisted numerous groups in the development of crisis response teams. Dr. Balboni is a member of the Rhode Island Disaster Mental Health Task Force and

THE UNDERSIGNED, AN INVESTIGATOR HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT: I AM THE WRITER OF THE ATTACHED POLICE REPORT PERTAININGTO THIS INCIDENT NUMBER. THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN WAS SECURED AS A RESULT OF (1)MY PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND KNOWLEDGE: OR (2)INFORMATION RELAYED TO ME BY OTHER MEMBERS OF MY POLICE DEPARTMENT OR OF ANOTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT: OR (3)INFORMATION SECURED BY MYSELF OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE PERSON OR PERSONS NAMED OR IDENTIFIED THEREIN, AS INDICATED IN THE ATTACHED REPORT. THAT THE REPORT IS AN ACCURATE STATEMENT OF THE INFORMATION SO RECEIVED BY ME.

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serves as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Rhode Island in their Emergency Management Program. She has over forty five years experience in the field of education, twenty-eight years as an EMT and twenty one years as an EMT instructor. Private practice includes CISM intervention, education & consultation with emergency service organizations, veteran's organizations, schools & industry. Dr. Balboni is board certified in traumatic stress and credentialed as a Diplomate with the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. She is a member of the International Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists.

On 01/07 & 01/08/13, I spoke to Dr. Balboni who was extremely helpful and informative. She suggested the following information:

- Limiting the damage and trauma that can occur in the aftermath of an incident should be a top priority of law enforcement. The CT State Police will not only be remembered for their immediate response to the shooting, but for their timely and proper response with information to the victims and their families afterwards... or not.
- Parents of survivors and the deceased absolutely have a NEED TO KNOW.
- Meetings with the parents should be done as soon as possible and as often as possible in a face to face setting. Once a week if necessary.
- It is critical as law enforcement to align ourselves with the parents and not be seen as an adversary. Ask them to hold information in confidence and this will build an alliance with them.
- Many survivors will hold themselves responsible for the death of the victims.
- The human brain needs to process what has happened.
- When children are traumatized they will make up information to fill in the blanks for the info that they do not have.
- Parents naturally want to be able to tell their children "yes" or "no" that something happened or didn't happen or that it happened in a certain way.

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- Explain to parents that we have procedures and protocols to follow, but then tell them that we will give them whatever information we can as soon as we can. If we don't know something, then tell them that, but then tell them as soon as we do know it.
- Without direct information from law enforcement, rumors will get out of control.
- Usually providing graphic information is not recommended, but in this case parents might need a little more detail then we would normally disclose.
- Ask the parents what information they want to know and how soon they want to know it. Keep that relationship open. Each parent may be different in that respect. Some may want to know now... some may not be ready until a year from now. Keep a file for each parent about what they want to know and then provide it to them as soon as we know it.
- Have counselors experienced in dealing with grief and loss on hand at the meetings.
- Even if there still is a crime scene or evidence, allow the parents to touch or see what they can if they need to and just cover up the rest. This can be extremely important to their grieving process.
- Don't say things like "If there's no harm in telling you..." when referencing what information can be disclosed because to them the greatest harm has already been done.

Dr. Balboni also advised me that she works with the first responders to the Station Nightclub fire from 2003. She then offered her services to the investigators for this case.

On 01/16/13, I informed Dr. Balboni about how our meetings with the families went (which were held on 01/15) and our plan for future meetings. I also thanked her for her support and advice.

---- END REPORT ----

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