



## Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes September 27, 2021

### Our Mission

*We work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in our community.*

Dr. Denise Dowd, MPH and pediatric emergency physician drew comparisons between the public health epidemics of gun violence and the COVID-19 virus. The biggest headway will be made with PREVENTION.

With both injury and disease we :

- Identify , Define, Prioritize
- What causes the problem—what are the risk factors using the Epidemiological Triangle
- Who is the HOST (injured person)... What is the AGENT that injures and where is the ENVIRONMENT Where Host and Agent are Found.
- How can we address those causes, find interventions
- Study outcomes... How well did it work?

With COVID-19 the three points of the triangle are:

- HOST (Risk factors—Elderly, Pre-existing health conditions, masking)
- The AGENT is the disease
- The ENVIRONMENT that increases risk (crowded, closed spaces, proximity)

With pediatric firearm injuries and suicides:

- HOST is developmental mental stage of young child, or impulsivity, intoxication with adolescents
- AGENT is easy access, trigger strength, storage
- ENVIRONMENT is availability, or with adults cultural, political factors may play a part

Important to provide “Layered Protection”

- Gun locks provide a time delay which may counter impulsivity of self-harm  
Guns are the most lethal means of suicide completion – 90% effective vs. 2% with pills
- Pediatricians emphasize “child safety” rather than “gun safety.” They no longer ask patients if they have a gun in the house, they give every parent information on how to keep their children safe—from drowning prevention to gun safety—everyone gets it
- Our job is to keep kids safe, not for them to keep themselves safe.

The book *Children Under Fire: An American Crisis*, by John Woodrow Cox, was highly recommended. Dr. Dowd is quoted on pages 57 & 58.