

March, 2013

## House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Holds Forum on Mental Illness and Violence

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As part of the ongoing review by the House Energy and Commerce Committee into mental health issues raised by the Newtown tragedy, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA) and ranking member Diana DeGette (D-CO) held a forum on March 5, 2013 to explore issues related to severe mental illness and violence.

Shortly after the 113th Congress convened in early January, the subcommittee launched an examination of mental health treatment, federal grant programs, and research into mental illness and violence.

At the March 5 forum, the subcommittee brought together researchers and providers to engage in a dialogue on severe mental illness and how to identify and treat those at risk of violent behavior. The panelists explored issues related to early detection of mental illness; how the treatment for people with severe mentally illness has changed over time; the programs and treatments currently being offered, including involuntary treatment, and where these services are provided, including inpatient settings, health centers, schools, and by the criminal justice system; what treatments are successful; and barriers individuals and families face when seeking treatment for people with severe mental illness.

Panelists included:

- Thomas Insel, M.D., Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Harold Koplewicz, M.D., President, Child Mind Institute
- E. Fuller Torrey, M.D., Founder, Treatment Advocacy Center
- Michael Welner, M.D., Founder and Chairman, The Forensic Panel
- Pete Earley, Writer, parent of a son with mental illness
- Pat Milam, Parent of a son with mental illness
- Liza Long, Parent of a son with a mental disorder
- Michael Fitzpatrick, MSW, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness

For more information about the hearing, please click on the following link:

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/press-release/after-newtown-oversight-and-investigations-subcommittee-engages-national-conversation>

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