



It's with great sadness that we inform you of the death of one of our valued Massachusetts school nurse colleagues, Laurie Melchionda, MEd, BSN, RN. Laurie was the Director of Health Services for Weston Public Schools, part-time School Nurse for the Field School in Weston, and a member of the Braintree Board of Health. Previously, Laurie worked as a School Nurse and Director of Nursing Services in the Braintree Public Schools. On Wednesday, June 17th, Laurie was the victim of a fatal shooting at her home in Braintree, MA.

Many of you may have worked with Laurie and have heard this tragic news. Laurie touched the lives of many school nurses, students, staff, families, and community members. In order to best support our school nursing community, our organizations are working collaboratively. At this time, we wish to share resources that may provide some help with the grieving process. In addition to the resources found below, we anticipate offering virtual gatherings in the

coming days for those who would like the opportunity to share stories and support each other. The schedule and information on the initial gathering will be forthcoming in an email next week.

This is a very challenging time for many reasons. Please know we are here to support you as best we can.

Warm regards,

Karen Robitaille, RN
Director of School Health Unit, MDPH

Mary Jane O'Brien, RN
Boston Regional Consultant

Caitlin Pettengill, RN
Assistant Director of School Health Unit, MDPH

Janet Guertin-Moruzzi, RN
Central Regional Consultant

Beverly Heinze-Lacey, RN
Director, BU SHIELD

Jill Connolly, RN
MetroWest Regional Consultant

Jenny Gormley, RN, President
Doreen Crowe, RN, NASN Director/President-elect
Carilyn Rains, RN, Past-President
Cathryn Hampson, RN, Regional Co-Chair
Massachusetts School Nurse Organization

Shanyn A. Toulouse, RN
Northeast Regional Consultant

Ann M. Linehan, RN
Southeast Regional Consultant

Kathy Hassey, RN
Director, NEUSHA

Veronica Webb Barrett, RN
Western Regional Consultant

RESOURCES:

Braintree Residents: William James College Interface Referral Services , Helpline: 888-244-6843 (Mon. - Fri, 9am - 5pm)	Riverside Trauma Center
South Shore Mental Health: Aspire Health Alliance	Healgrief.org