



2023 Annual Meeting Speaker Bios

Dr. Rebecca Bell, MD, MPH



Dr. Bell is a Pediatric Critical Care physician at the University of Vermont Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor of pediatrics at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM.

Dr. Bell received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and a master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her pediatric residency training as well as her pediatric critical care fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Outside of clinical care, Dr. Bell works on injury prevention efforts for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP). She is the president of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and President-Elect of the Vermont Medical Society.

Alyssa Black

Alyssa Hughes Black is a health care administrator, mother, and citizen advocate, currently serving in her first term as a Vermont State Legislator from Essex, VT. She is most well-known for her efforts to achieve sensible gun violence prevention that does not infringe on Second Amendment rights. In 2019, following the suicide of her youngest son, Andrew, she successfully lobbied both the House and Senate for a 24-hour waiting period between gun purchase and possession. Although the bill was ultimately vetoed by Governor Phil Scott, the Blacks' success in getting it passed is testimony to Alyssa's ability to effectively advocate for change.



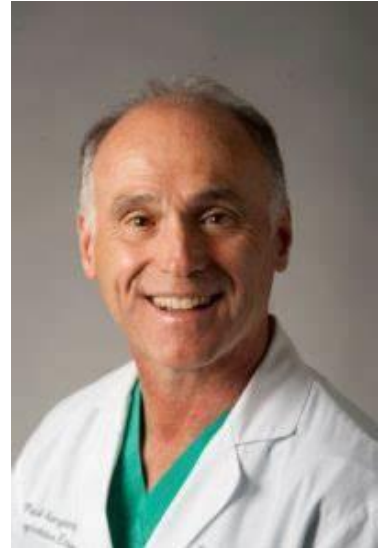
Dr. Paul Manganiello, MD, MPH

In 1979, I, along with my wife, and our infant son, relocated to the Upper Valley to join the staff of the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital and the faculty of the Dartmouth Medical School. Shortly after arriving we learned that a close relative, the godfather of our son, was shot with a handgun in Dallas, Texas.

Unfortunately, he had been present while a domestic violence situation was unfolding, and he became “collateral damage”.

It was then that I became involved in advocating for banning handguns, working with the New Hampshire Medical Society. After a couple of years, I became disillusioned, and resolved to the fact that “the time” was not now.

Fast forward to December 14, 2012, and the Newtown Connecticut, Sandy Hook School shooting. I and other residents of Vermont towns felt that we could no longer remain silent. That year, we tried to get a number of legislative bills passed, including assault style firearms, naively thinking that it would be a “slam dunk”. They all failed. The year 2012 was also the year that I retired and enrolled at The Dartmouth Institute for a Master’s Degree in Public Health. The same year, Ann Braden, of Brattleboro, incorporated GunSenseVT, and I was the graduate intern for GunSenseVT. It wasn’t until 2018, as a result of uncovering the Fairhaven School shooting plot, that meaningful gun safety legislation was enacted. We are not done, but the conversation has certainly changed.



Sarah Robinson (she/her)



In her role as the Deputy Director at the Vermont Network, Sarah oversees the external affairs of the organization – including government relations, communications, and fund development. She brings expertise in public policy, strategy, leadership development and organizational management. Sarah believes that a more just, equitable and liberated world is possible and seeks to find and catalyze opportunities in service of that vision. Sarah is a proud morning person and a lifelong Vermonter who is somehow still skeptical of winter. You will find her in her element on a summer hike in Vermont, sitting on a porch (any porch will do), cooking an abundant meal for beloved friends, or on a travel adventure that erases her limits and restores her faith in the interconnection of our world.