

THE BROWARD COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES'  
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY  
TASK FORCE

INITIAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

June 4, 2018

Exhibit #24



NEWTOWN-SANDY HOOK  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 194 | NEWTOWN, CT 06470 | NSHCF.ORG

February 2018

**To: The Parkland Community, Broward County, Florida**  
**From: Robert Schmidt, Chair of the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation**  
**Re: Endorsement of Dr. Lori Leyden**

Dr. Lori Leyden is an International Trauma Specialist whose work after the Sandy Hook Tragedy made a huge positive impact on the healing of our community.

I have known Dr. Leyden for five years as a colleague and as a friend. Dr. Leyden introduced the Emotional Freedom Techniques (aka. "Tapping") to our community and arranged for trainings and mentoring of hundreds of therapists in the area to help heal the grief and trauma resulting from the Sandy Hook School shooting on December 14, 2012.

Having worked with survivors of the genocide in Rwanda, Dr. Leyden knew exactly how to help our community. She arrived in Sandy Hook just two days after the tragedy and immediately began working with members of the community and making connections with therapists.

I met Dr. Leyden at the Connecticut Counseling Association (CCA) Conference in March 2013. She was introducing Tapping and I was presenting on the effects of the trauma on the Sandy Hook community. I was immediately impressed with Dr. Leyden's credentials, compassion and dedication. I still am today.

CCA teamed up with Dr. Leyden and offered free introductory Tapping workshops to counselors in Newtown-Sandy Hook and surrounding towns. At the time Tapping was not very well known so we worked together to spread the word. Both the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation (NSHCF) and Sandy Hook Promise provided grants for Dr. Leyden to introduce Tapping to the community, and to train therapists.

Since that time NSHCF has done surveys of what types of therapies were most helpful and Tapping always ranked near the top; considerably higher than the established Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and other cognitive therapies. As a Licensed Professional Counselor who lives and practices in Sandy Hook I have witnessed the almost miraculous healing that Tapping can bring. I urge you to take advantage of Dr. Leyden's talent and knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Schmidt".

Robert Schmidt, LPC

[Counselor.Bob@hotmail.com](mailto:Counselor.Bob@hotmail.com)

203-788-2821