



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA Morrissey Hosts Pediatric Safe Prescribing Conference

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The Safe Prescribing Conference hosted by Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey in April was different from those he hosted for area clinicians in 2014 and 2017 – it catered to pediatricians, school nurses, and others who treat and deal with kids.

“We see very few high schoolers dying of opiate overdose, but we see a disturbing number of overdose victims whose addictions trace back to orthopedic injuries and other reasons for legal opiate prescriptions as teens,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Addictions do not end in high school, but too many appear to begin there.”

D.A. Morrissey welcomed about 170 to the April 23 conference, which was offered at no charge to pediatricians, family practitioners, pharmacists, public school nurses and high school athletic trainers practicing in Norfolk County – all of whom earned professional development and education credits through partner organizations.

Speakers included Dr. Nicholas Chadi from Children’s Hospital, the first pediatric addiction fellow in North America, Robyn Houston-Bean, who lost her son to addiction, Dr. Christopher Gilligan, chief of the division of pain medicine at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Sarah Fallon from the Board of Registration in Medicine, Daurice Cox, Psy.D, from Bay State Community Services, Sarah Fallon from the Mass Board of Registration in Medicine and Dr. Daniel Muse, of Signature Healthcare.

“These presenters are some of the leading voices in understanding substance use disorder, how it starts and how to treat it,” Morrissey said. “Physicians and other clinicians are natural allies in the struggle to stem the crisis of addiction. I was very pleased to have so many here to hear this.”

Clinicians and law enforcement across the country are working to create and implement data-driven strategies to prevent substance use disorders, and to reduce the harm they cause to people and families, Morrissey said. “As a regional law enforcement agency, part of our job of keeping people, and communities, safe is working on problems like the opiate epidemic,” Morrissey said. “It is not just drug crimes driven by substance abuse – we see it in property crimes, violence, driving fatalities, even homicides. It is important to fight those problems at their root.”