



INVESTIGATING SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN A SCHOOL SETTING

Norfolk DA Morrissey hosts 100 at training on campus sexual assaults



Victims of campus sexual assaults will be better served, supported and protected if colleges, local police departments and district attorneys work in concert to investigate those crimes, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey told a gathering of about 100 local college and police officials at a training he organized at Curry College June 10.

"We recognize that our colleges and universities have specific federal obligations under Title IX," DA Morrissey said. "But that doesn't mean that we cannot work together to assure the best evidence collection and the most supportive and appropriate process possible for those who have been the targets of these crimes."

The audience, composed of high school and college administrators, campus police officials and numerous police detectives from municipalities that host colleges, got four hours of training. That included overviews of the collection and preservation of digital and biological evidence. There was a discussion of the civil liability and Title IX obligations for federally funded schools from civil attorney Jeffrey Dolan from Boyle, Shaughnessy and Campo.

Steph Trilling from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and attorney Farah Hill, program director at Norfolk Advocates for Children, also presented on the resources available through their organizations. Nurse Kristi Holden explained the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) humane forensic evidence collection program. Curry College donated the use of its auditorium for the event, and Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities President Richard Doherty helped build attendance among his members.

"We sponsor, organize and offer training and in return we build relationships with our partners in public safety," District Attorney Morrissey said after the event. "And at the end of the day, we know that we have done what we can to assure that victims are being supported and helped by people with the best training and contacts we can provide."

Area colleges represented at the event included Babson, Dean, Wheelock, Emmanuel, Curry, Laboure Boston University, Wentworth Institute of Technology and MassBay Community College. Other schools included King Philip Regional High School, Milton Academy and Beaver Country Day.