



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA Morrissey launches prevention series for parents available on cable-access

Opiate and prescription abuse first target



The first of Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's *Norfolk Prevention Coalition* videos has been provided to all Norfolk County cable systems. DA Morrissey, at left, hosted North Quincy High School Nurse Kristen Houlihan, Lyn Frano from Weymouth Mayor Kay's Opiate Coalition, and next to Frano Dr. John Kelly, a substance abuse specialist Massachusetts General Hospital and a Harvard Medical School Professor.

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District Attorney Michael Morrissey has produced the first in a series of a half-hour cable-access programs designed to prevent the tragic consequences associated with substance abuse, bad teenage decision making, and other societal issues by educating parents and the general public.

“The primary focus of our office has to be aggressively prosecuting crimes committed in our communities. But a small investment in education can lead to preventing many senseless crimes that not only cause a great deal of suffering, but are very costly to the taxpayers,” District Attorney Morrissey said.

The first program currently airing focuses on prescription drug abuse, particularly the explosion of opiate addiction associated with abuse of pain medication such as Oxycontin.

“Fatal opiate overdoses is the leading cause of accidental death in the Massachusetts, more than automobile crashes,” Morrissey said. “Parents are key to stopping this from consuming their children, but parents need information to be effective.”

Morrissey's first half-hour seminar features three speakers with different expertise: Harvard Medical School Professor and Massachusetts General Hospital Dr. John Kelly; North Quincy High School Nurse Kristen Houlihan; and Lyn Frano, from Weymouth Mayor Sue Kay's Opiate Coalition. The program was provided to the local cable-access stations in every Norfolk County community this month.

“Prosecuting drug trafficking after those drugs have ruined lives, or taken lives, is important, but it is not the only answer,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Our communities need to fight opiate addiction before it consumes the next generation, and parents taking advantage of the education and assistance available to them, and experts like these, is an important part of that.”

The Norfolk Prevention Coalition series is funded with drug forfeiture money and not taxpayer funds.

Upcoming broadcast times are available in local cable listings.