



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA Michael Morrissey, Franklin PD meet with seniors on prescription drug safety

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Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey partnered with Franklin Police and the Council on Aging to have a combined drug collection opportunity and prescription drug safety event at the Council on Aging recently – enlisting seniors in law enforcement's ongoing fight with addiction and the crime and harm it brings.

"We know from professionals in the field that as many as 75 percent of those who become addicted to heroin and pain pills had their first exposure to opiates from a pill taken out of the medicine cabinet of a family member or friend," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Franklin Police have been early and strong partners in our work to curtail this unintended supply line to young people."

Franklin Police were among the first to accept grants from DA Morrissey to place a prescription drug collection kiosk in the police station in 2011, and it has been available to residents 24-hours a day since that time.

"We also know that some residents, including the seniors who are the recipients of a good number of prescriptions, do not always have the mobility to get to the police department," Morrissey said. "We worked with Chief Stephen Semerjian and Detective Michael Kenney to hold a mobile drug take-back at the Senior Center, to which seniors are provided transportation."

One man deposited two boxes and a bag of pill bottles into the container being supervised by Det. Kenney, announcing that his load represented "20-years' worth," of drugs he had been waiting for a way to dispose of safely. Flushing unneeded drugs is no longer considered environmentally safe.

"We know that prescription drugs are being diverted for abuse, often without the owner knowing it, from visitors or workers entering the home and taking them," Morrissey said. "Every unneeded opiate we can collect and destroy is one less chance that will happen."