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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### Press Release

#### DA Morrissey asks Seniors to help in Opiate Crisis at Milton Summit

*Senior Summit co-hosted by Fuller Village and BI Deaconess Hospital – Milton*

## 2014 SENIOR SUMMIT



*District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey delivering his message about safe use, safe storage and safe disposal of prescription medications to seniors from several towns attending a regional Senior Summit held at Fuller Village in Milton.*

Senior citizens have at least two very important roles to play as Massachusetts grapples with soaring levels of opiate addiction and related crime, District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey told participants in a regional Senior Summit last week.

"First, we know that too many opiate addictions grow out of pills taken from home medicine cabinets by family or visitors; seniors can do a great service by bringing pills they no longer need to their police station for safe disposal," District Attorney Morrissey said. "There are no-questions-asked disposal kiosks in 25 county police stations, including Dedham, Milton, Braintree and Quincy."

Morrissey also asked the group to use their stature as grandparents. "Your grandchildren want to hear from you more than you know; you can help guide them without the friction that can be part of parent conversations," Morrissey said. "Simple messages: Just because a doctor proscribed it to one person, doesn't mean it is safe for another; the risk of short term harm and the long term consequences of misused pharmaceuticals are in fact very acute."

The June 17 regional Senior Summit was hosted by Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton and Fuller Village in Milton in partnership with the District Attorney. The audience was comprised of elders and officials from Milton, Quincy, Braintree and Dedham

Remarks from Peter J. Healy, president and CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess – Milton and Deborah Felton, executive director of Fuller Village were followed by "Detection and Coping Strategies for Depression," presented by Nurse Practitioners Maureen O'Shea and Barbara Pinchera, who are also associate professors at Curry College.

"Experience shows us that when seniors become isolated or infirm, that is when they are more likely to become targets for people looking to take advantage or other kinds of problems," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Working with BI Deaconess Hospital and organizations like Fuller to focus on wellness, on staying connected and staying strong is a natural partnership for us."



*District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey, left, Fuller Village Executive Director Deborah Felton and Beth Israel Deaconess – Milton Hospital President Peter J. Healy hosted the regional Senior Summit.*