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EXECUTIVE

- ADMINISTRATION
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INTERVENTION & PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- PUBLIC POLICY
- LEGISLATION
- VICTIM WITNESS BUREAU

TRIAL TEAMS

- CAMBRIDGE REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- MALDEN REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- WOBURN DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY UNITS

- APPEALS & TRAINING BUREAU
- CYBER PROTECTION PROGRAM
- FAMILY PROTECTION BUREAU
- CHILD PROTECTION UNIT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT
- ELDER/DISABLED UNIT
- SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

STATE POLICE DETECTIVES

- COMPUTER FORENSICS
- HOMICIDE
- SIU

REGIONAL OFFICES

- CAMBRIDGE
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL

DISTRICT COURT OFFICES

- AYER
- CAMBRIDGE
- CONCORD
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL
- MALDEN
- MARLBOROUGH
- NEWTON
- SOMERVILLE
- WALTHAM
- WOBURN



September 2, 2020

Office of Senator Michael Rodrigues, Chairman
 Senate Committee on Ways and Means
 State House, Room 212
 Boston, MA 02133

Office of Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairman
 House Committee on Ways and Means
 State House, Room 243
 Boston, MA 02133

RE: FY 2019 Middlesex (Northern) District Attorney's Office
 Report to the Senate and House Ways and Means Committees
 Regarding the **CY 2019 Community Based Juvenile Justice Program**

Dear Senator Rodrigues and Representative Michlewitz:

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 12, §32 [each] district attorney, "... shall submit an annual report on each program, including statistics and findings, to (the) House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means...."

On behalf of Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan's Office, please accept this filing, which serves as a summary of the Community Based Justice (CBJ) program activities for the 2019 calendar year.

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office continues to cultivate and maintain effective relationships with numerous local institutions that work daily with youth to intervene in their lives, prevent their involvement in criminal matters, and divert, remediate, and rehabilitate through programming and other services. Through frequent CBJ meetings, Community Youth Development Collaborative Meetings, our juvenile and young adult diversion programs, and other community partnerships, we have created a comprehensive system to support the youth population of Middlesex County.

This year our office has continued the practice of attending regular Community Youth Development Collaborative Meetings in the City of Lowell and the City of Framingham. The mission of the Community Youth Development Collaborations [CYDC] is to bring together a larger group of community stakeholders, which expands beyond the partnerships anticipated by CBJ, for larger-scale, community change aimed at the improvement of youth services. The CYDCs first identify the current needs of youth within the community, and then create partnerships between public and private industry community stakeholders targeted at meeting the identified needs.

Participants in these Collaborations include the city or town manager, city councilors town selectpersons, the police chief and officers, school superintendents and principals, area university and college representatives, community service care providers, and our employees. Examples of the product of such collaborations have been applications for and the receipt of funding from state and federal grantors to community service providers, partnerships with private industry donors to provide funding targeted at community needs, and reliance upon the analysis and expertise of professors and graduate students within local universities and colleges to interpret crime statistic data and to generate models for social improvement.

As information ascertained from CBJ meetings in the Lowell area underscored a trend of opioid use disorder and broader misuse of prescription medication, District Attorney Ryan worked with community partners concerned with increased youth and young adult substance use and overdose fatalities. Beginning in calendar year 2012, District Attorney Ryan, then General Counsel to the District Attorney, spearheaded an Opioid Task Force in the Lowell region which united community stakeholders to address opioid use disorder, the implications of the disease of addiction, and its costs to the communities. The meetings, which District Attorney Ryan continues to chair, have continued each month since 2012, with the goals of mobilizing resources and developing a comprehensive approach to address this substance abuse crisis.

The meetings were and remain focused on the intersection of behavioral health and substance use disorder and the implications to our communities: financial, social, and personal. The task force meetings generally involve law enforcement, fire and EMS, the medical community, local community service providers, community public health, and schools.

From this model, District Attorney Ryan created four additional opioid task forces, which meet regularly:

The Eastern Middlesex Opioid Task Force was established in July 2015 and meets at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford. Its geographic catchment area is North Reading, Reading, Wakefield, Stoneham, Melrose, Medford, Malden, Everett, Woburn and Winchester.

The Central/South Middlesex Opioid Task Force was established in May 2016 and alternates its meeting locations between MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham and Emerson Hospital in Concord. Its geographic catchment area is Framingham, Natick,

Sherborn, Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton, Wayland, Sudbury, Marlborough, Hudson, Stow, Maynard, Boxborough, Acton, Concord, Lincoln, Lexington, Bedford and Carlisle.

The Charles River Regional Opioid Task Force was established in June 2018 and meets at Newton Wellesley Hospital in Newton. The geographic catchment area of this task force is Newton, Waltham, Weston Watertown, Natick, Needham and Wellesley. (Needham & Wellesley, although not in the county, are invited to attend.)

The Metro Region Opioid Task Force was established in 2019 and meets at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. The geographic catchment area of this task force is Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge and Somerville. Because Mount Auburn Hospital's community programming area includes Watertown and Waltham, they are also invited.

During 2019, in addition to considering the causes effects of the opioid crisis from various angles, the Task Forces also heard presentations on the topics that continue to be areas of concern for CBJ attendees. These include (1) vaping, from a public health perspective as well as detection measures; (2) prevention, recovery, and education; (3) cannabis and the new cannabis regulations; and (4) mental health awareness in schools.

Task Force meetings continue to foster collaboration to ensure the sharing of information, the maximization of resources, and the identification of areas for legislative action, community-based programs and integrated public policy.

In 2013, District Attorney Ryan engaged the Administrative Office of the Trial Courts as well as area health care and service providers to work toward the establishment of a **Drug Court** session in the Lowell District Court. District Attorney Ryan worked with the Presiding Justices of the Lowell District Court and the Lynn District Court Drug Court session to provide Lowell District Court partners an opportunity to view a successful Drug Court in action.

In June of 2014, the Lowell District Court Drug Court was launched. The drug court session is held every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the second session of the Lowell District Court. Prior to the session commencing each week, the Lowell Drug Court Team, including judges, defense attorneys, assistant district attorneys, probation officers, police officers, counselors, clinical case managers, and court clinicians, meets at 12:15 p.m. to prepare for the upcoming session. In order to graduate from the Lowell Drug Court, participants must complete four phases. This trajectory is approximately 18 months.

Middlesex Juvenile and Young Adult Diversion Programs

The Middlesex Juvenile and Young Adult Diversion Program is a creative and progressive program which offers an alternative to formal prosecution in the juvenile and district court system for certain eligible young offenders. The program seeks to address root causes of youthful criminal behavior and encourage participants to work towards making better choices while also minimizing any life-altering consequences. The diversion program is a *pre-arraignment* model designed to protect young people from having – or further extending - a criminal record. Diversion provides an opportunity to participate in remedial programming and restorative justice, attend counseling, address underlying substance use issues and/or perform community service in lieu of prosecution.

Under the model, prior to arraignment, ADAs in the juvenile and district courts identify and refer diversion-eligible cases to the Diversion Director for initial review. The police may also refer a case directly prior to a complaint issuing. The Diversion Team reviews each case referred and seeks input from all relevant parties, including the police and any victims. Our collaboration with the police and the other CBJ partners assists us in gathering relevant information, particularly with regard to juveniles. With this input, eligibility to participate in the program and terms are determined.

Once accepted into the program, at a confidential intake meeting with the young person, their counsel, if any, and, in the case of a juvenile, a parent or guardian, an individualized diversion contract is formulated. Potential diversion conditions are innumerable, but typically youth are given the opportunity to complete a life skill or other remedial program, engage in counseling, participate in restorative justice, or explore and address substance use issues. Additionally, diversion participants may engage in community service and write letters of apology, where appropriate. Each participant is also asked to write a reflective essay about their experience in the diversion program. If a young person satisfies all of the requirements of diversion, there are no further proceedings in the court system related to the diverted matter. The program allows participants to be accountable for their mistakes, reduce the likelihood of recidivism, and work to move forward without having (or adding to) a board of probation record, which can have long-lasting adverse effects in many areas such as employment, housing eligibility and availability of academic opportunities.

Each diversion case is overseen from intake through conclusion by the Diversion Team, which includes the Diversion Director, the Juvenile Case Manager, the Young Adult Diversion Coordinator and the Young Adult Case Manager. The Case Managers visit the four juvenile courts and all eleven district courts every month, meeting with juvenile and young adult program participants to create their contracts. In 2019, the steady diversion caseload and expansion of eligibility for diversion led to the creation of the Young Adult Diversion

Coordinator role, filled by an ADA. The Young Adult Diversion Coordinator reviews all new young adult case referrals and discusses them with the Diversion Director to determine candidate eligibility.

Despite the increasing resource demands, we consider diversion a critical component of our overall prevention efforts. The diversion program is also sustained by the on-going efforts of the Director of District Courts, multiple juvenile and district court ADAs and administrative staff. In calendar year 2019, the Diversion Team screened 275 juveniles for diversion. Of these 275 juvenile cases screened for diversion in 2019, 206 juveniles were approved to participate in the program. Also in 2019, the Diversion Team screened 252 young adults for diversion. Of that 252, 202 young adults were approved to participate in the program.

District Attorney Ryan is committed to inclusive diversion options for youth. This has been borne out not only by the expansion in age for those eligible for diversion to under the age of 26, but also by the expansion of the scope of cases that are diversion-eligible. A juvenile or young adult is still eligible for diversion consideration despite having a prior criminal record. Making diversion available to those who have already had contact with the courts prevents further extension of criminal records when remedial programming can be more effective.

On an on-going basis, the Diversion Team engages in community outreach to collaborate with existing and new community partnerships with programs that offer services such as mental health counseling, life skills programming, help with substance use disorders, and youth employment training to generate locally accessible options for diversion conditions. Additionally, the Team regularly engages in outreach to educate schools, police and other youth involved agencies about the opportunities offered by the diversion program.

Restorative Justice

District Attorney Ryan continues to be committed to utilizing Restorative Justice partnerships to further the goals of intervening in the lives of at-risk youth to prevent crime, to reduce juvenile delinquency, and to provide youth with opportunities for positive change. Driven by the belief that Restorative Justice is a process that seeks to truly repair the harm caused by crime, District Attorney Ryan has been an advocate for expanding the use of Restorative Justice programming across Middlesex County and across the Commonwealth.

In 2019, we continued to partner with Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) of Concord to expand the opportunities for Restorative Justice practices throughout the county. The Diversion Team actively looks for cases that would benefit from Restorative Justice programming.

In 2019, 22 diversion cases involved a referral to a partner Restorative Justice provider. We have also partnered with the Middlesex Community College Law Center's

Restorative Justice Program to find opportunities to increase our use of this approach in Lowell and the surrounding areas.

Pre- Arraignment Drug Diversion and Treatment Program

On November 30, 2016, we announced the launch of the first pre-arraignment adult drug diversion and treatment program in Middlesex County. This program is targeted to provide critical intervention to individuals with substance use disorders at the earliest point in their intersection with the criminal justice system. Prior to arraignment, an ADA identifies and refers an eligible participant to one of the organizations with whom we partner to provide substance use disorder treatment. These include the Lowell House, Inc., the Gavin Foundation, and the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC). A standard treatment program is 16 weeks. If a participant successfully completes the program, any criminal charges are dismissed prior to arraignment.

This model builds off of our collaborative approach to addressing substance misuse in our communities. By bringing multiple organizations to the table to help identify participants for this program, we are able to connect a larger number of individuals with treatment programs. The goal of the program is to provide a psycho-educational experience related to alcohol and drug use and its effect on a participant's life. By raising awareness and influencing behavioral changes, it is the ultimate goal of the program to lower participants risk for any future substance related problems, including related criminal activity.

In addition to our pre-arraignment drug diversion program, we have also established pre- arraignment mental health diversion and veterans diversion programs, in accordance with *An Act relative to criminal justice reform*, signed by Governor Charles Baker on April 13, 2018. In these initiatives, we partner with Eliot Human Services which provides counselling and treatment.

Ongoing Programs

Smart Choices

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office continues to partner with youth programs across the county to incorporate *Smart Choices* into their curricula. In 2019, over 200 students participated in *Smart Choices*, including children from Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Maynard and Somerville.

Our *Smart Choices* program is based on the principle that good decision-making takes practice. District Attorney Ryan leads students, grades 6-9, in an exercise designed to help young people think critically about their choices. Students are provided with various scenarios and analyze how they would handle each situation. These scenarios involve issues

that have been identified as ongoing trends among teens such as cyberbullying, sexting and substance misuse.

Through *Smart Choices*, we have heard directly from young people that while they are knowledgeable regarding the impacts of risky behaviors, they struggle to decisively avoid them. Participants of the program have spoken candidly about the reasons why they might hesitate to make safe choices, such as not riding in a car with someone under the influence. Some of these reasons include fear of their parents' reactions, peer pressure and hesitation to communicate "no" in front of their friends. During these engaging discussions, District Attorney Ryan and the students brainstorm responses that would help them feel better prepared to assertively articulate their choices in difficult circumstances.

Youth engagement has been integral to our prevention efforts in the community. District Attorney Ryan often shares the responses from *Smart Choices* participants when speaking to parents about the importance of open dialogue with our children.

Summer Safety

During the summer months, children and teens may encounter a number of situations that present dangers to their health and safety. The Middlesex Summer Safety Campaign runs from June through Labor Day and includes a number of events and public communications aimed at preventing summer-related injuries and fatalities. The campaign is focused on risks related to cars, windows, water, bicycles and fireworks.

We partner with municipalities and the private sector to host community-based Summer Safety events and engage families regarding health and safety issues. In 2019, Summer Safety events were held in Newton (The Shops at Chestnut Hill) and Wakefield (Lake Quannapowitt). These events included art, games and resource tables for participants. Children and families also had an opportunity to interact with local public safety officials while exploring emergency vehicles. Certified technicians from local police departments also provide complimentary car seat installations and inspection.

Throughout the summer we also offer *Summer Safety Jeopardy*, a game that District Attorney Ryan hosts in partnership with YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs and recreational day camps. Students in kindergarten to fifth grade learn about staying safe while having fun in the summer. The participants then play a game to review the information that they learned. In 2019, the program was held in Cambridge, Hudson, Lexington, Malden, Maynard, Medford, Somerville, Stoneham, Wayland and Winchester. District Attorney Ryan's summer safety initiatives reached over 800 children and families last year.

Back-to-School Safety

On September 28, 2019, District Attorney Ryan hosted the 5th Annual Back-to-School Safety Day in partnership with Winchester Hospital, Woburn Police Department, Woburn Fire Department and over 30 other local public safety agencies and community organizations.

The annual Back-to-School Safety event is part of District Attorney Ryan's efforts to raise awareness about safety issues including traveling to and from school – biking, walking or riding the bus-- and internet safety. The event also provides an opportunity for children and families to interact with public safety officials and learn more about how their agencies keep students safe throughout the year.

Children had an opportunity to explore approximately 40 different vehicles at the event and speak with public safety officials about their work in the community. The event also featured K-9 and drone demonstrations by local and state law enforcement agencies. Families visited resource tables with health and safety information ranging from fitness to railroad tracks. In an effort to promote bicycle safety, Winchester Hospital also provided complimentary helmet fittings and gave away approximately 200 helmets to attendees. Certified technicians from local police departments also provided complimentary car seat installations and inspections for parents.

During the end of the summer, District Attorney Ryan also partners with day camps to educate and engage children about the best ways to stay safe during the school year. Topics discussed include safety related to riding the school bus, walking to school, bicycling to school, playing outdoors, and bullying. Students then play a game of Back-to-School Safety Jeopardy to review the safety information they learned.

Internet Safety

As schools deal with the ongoing challenges associated with social media and technology, our office has worked to provide updated resource information to parents and students about online safety.

Last year, District Attorney Ryan visited schools in Chelmsford, Lowell, Tewksbury, Cambridge and Maynard to discuss the importance of safe and responsible technology use. District Attorney Ryan spoke to over 2,200 students about the dangers of interacting with strangers online, the importance of protecting personal information, communicating in ways that are kind and not engaging in harmful behaviors such as cyberbullying and sexting.

Our office also partnered with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center to co-host an Anti-Bullying Train-the-Trainer Workshop and provide educators with research-based techniques to prevent and address bullying, including cyberbullying. The goal of the workshop was to help teachers, administrators and officers to identify signs of bullying that could have a severe impact in or outside of the classroom. Participants were also certified to train their colleagues on the curriculum.

Empowering Girls

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office has a longstanding commitment to the empowerment of the young women of Middlesex County. As part of that commitment, District Attorney Ryan created the Empowering Girls conference, a yearly forum for young

women that encourages confidence-building, self-assertion and goal-setting through compelling speakers and interactive presentations.

On November 13 and 14, District Attorney Ryan hosted more than 300 students from middle and high schools across Middlesex County at our eighth annual Empowering Girls conference. *Empowering Girls 2019: Empowered Girls, Empower the World* was held at the Cary Memorial Building in Lexington.

The conference was focused on empowering girls to have a positive influence on their peers and positive impact on their community. The event brought together women leaders who each spoke to students about their personal and professional journeys, including the challenges that they faced along the way. Speakers highlighted the power of using your voice to inspire positive changes in the world. They also encouraged the young women to celebrate their unique identities and stories in order to grow as leaders and accomplish their goals. Students were challenged to examine ideas of perfection and embrace struggle as a part of their learning process. After listening to the speakers, the students participated in a breakout session where they identified an issue that affected their community and developed a proposal with strategies to address the problem. Students presented their proposals to elected officials in attendance. Participants included students from Arlington, Dracut, Everett, Framingham, Lexington, Lowell, Marlborough, Medford, Newton, Wakefield, Waltham and Woburn.

Superintendents and Chiefs Breakfast

On September 10, 2019, District Attorney Ryan hosted the annual Superintendent and Chief's Breakfast at UTEC in Lowell. School superintendents, police chiefs, fire chiefs, and legislators attended the event. The breakfast is a celebration of the partnerships that help ensure the health and safety of children in the county. It is also an opportunity to share more information about community initiatives and identify ways to address ongoing youth-related trends and challenges.

Last year's breakfast focuses specifically on addressing the mental health of our young people. Recognizing that suicide was the second leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29 years, the event featured remarks from *Sarah Gaer, Riverside Trauma Center* who spoke about how to recognize signs that someone might be struggling with suicide and how to address it.

Mental Health

Over the past several years, our office has increased its focus on mental health. District Attorney Ryan is dedicated to examining the root of our young people's behavior and to intervene when possible to stop the potentially cyclical effects of the criminal justice system. Mental health intersects with youth substance misuse, criminal justice involvement, difficulties in school, home or building relationships with friends. Schools have identified mental health as an ongoing priority as students continue to struggle with anxiety, depression and suicidality.

In response to an increase in the number of suicides in the county, District Attorney Ryan launched an initiative to examine the issue of a loneliness as a potential contributing factor. In June, District Attorney Ryan convened a panel of medical professionals to discuss the impact of loneliness on our communities. The panelists discussed the ways that loneliness can impact individuals of all ages and increase the risk of substance use, depression, anxiety and suicide. During this program, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) was identified as an effective emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons. The goal of QPR is to identify and interrupt the crisis and provide support.

In the fall, District Attorney Ryan partnered with Riverside Trauma Center to offer QPR trainings for public safety officials, including police, fire and EMS, as well as state legislators. We also hosted a suicide prevention training for school administrators, which included information on QPR and ACT (Acknowledge Care Tell), a similar intervention tool geared towards youth. Participants were trained to recognize the warning signs of suicide, ask someone about suicidality and refer them to the appropriate resources.

In addition to examining loneliness, trauma is an ongoing focus of the office. Our program, Project CARE, continues to provide early and appropriate trauma-informed care to help children who have experienced opioid related trauma, such as the death of a parent. Through Project CARE, we continue to examine how childhood trauma can be predictive of life-long emotional, behavioral, and health issues. The goal of the program is to help children cope, build resiliency, help reduce the cyclical effects of substance misuse and break the cycle of intergenerational criminal justice system involvement.

Substance-Free Post-Prom and Post-Graduation Events

As part of our efforts to prevent underage substance use, District Attorney Ryan donated a total of \$10,000 to defray some of the costs associated with school-sponsored post-prom or post-graduation events.

Recipients of the grant included Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School, Arlington High School, Bedford High School, Billerica Memorial High School, Chelmsford High School, Dracut High School, Marlborough High School, Medford High School, Nashoba Regional High School, Natick High School, North Middlesex Regional High, Reading Memorial High School, Tewksbury Memorial High School, Tyngsborough High School, Wakefield Memorial High, Waltham High School, Watertown High School, Wayland High School, and Winchester High School.

Other Focus Areas

Dating Violence

On February 1, 2019, the first day of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office launched its mobile app, *Healthy Heart Matters*. *Healthy Heart Matters* provides teens with scenarios to identify when a relationship may be unhealthy or potentially abusive. These scenarios were developed with teens for teens. This app was designed to encourage young people to talk about healthy relationships and seek help if they are concerned for themselves or a friend.

Throughout the year, District Attorney Ryan also spoke to community members and educators about dating violence, including recognizing the warning signs and knowing the resources that are available to support those affected. District Attorney Ryan encouraged parents to use the app as a tool to begin conversations with their children about healthy relationships.

District Attorney Ryan also continues to partner with schools to raise awareness about domestic violence through the *Cut It Out Middlesex* program. *Cut It Out Middlesex* trains cosmetology students to recognize and respond to signs of domestic violence presented by clients in a salon setting. The program also aims to educate them about characteristics of an unhealthy relationship so that they may also examine their own dating relationships. The 2019 school-based program trained approximately 100 students.

Diversity and Equality

During CBJ meetings, school officials expressed concerns regarding racially charged comments and actions. These persistent issues highlighted the need for progressive programs and partnerships.

In May, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office partnered with the Anti-Defamation League of New England and the Chelsea Football Club (FC) Foundation to bring Chelsea FC's diversity and equality workshops to schools in Middlesex County. The program was part of an initiative by the New England Revolution and Chelsea Football Club (FC) of England to tackle hate and prejudice in all its forms by bringing people together through sport.

Coaches and staff from the Chelsea FC Foundation visited schools in Somerville, Arlington and Framingham. The program had two components; a classroom workshop and a soccer clinic to highlight the values of friendship, respect and teamwork. Workshop facilitators used the Chelsea FC team as an example of diversity to encourage students to celebrate differences and emphasize how people can come together through common goals and interests, such as sports. Approximately 350 middle school students participated in the program.

Child Protection Efforts and Initiatives

During the 2019 calendar year, we have also engaged in the following efforts and initiatives with respect to child protection:

- Designed and launched a Recertification Program for the 51A Online Mandated Reporter Training (“OMRT”): <http://51a.middlesexcac.org/>. The Recertification Program was designed for users who previously completed the Middlesex Children’s Advocacy Center’s OMRT who want or need to update their certification, but do not want to repeat the more time-intensive original training. To achieve recertification, the user is asked to demonstrate competence and understanding of the obligations under the 51A Law by completing an evaluation of 50 questions. The questions were designed to refresh the user’s memory about key points of the 51A Law and are based upon information learned in the original training about recognizing, responding to, and reporting child maltreatment.
- Staffed and conducted in-person trainings regarding G.L. Ch. 119 section 51A requirements as requested.
- Conducted Child Fatality Review Team meetings:
 - Local Child Fatality Review Teams are charged with collecting and reviewing information on individual cases in an effort to understand the causes and incidence of child fatalities and near fatalities in the county. The teams are not looking to assign blame for a child's death. Rather, they are trying to identify factors that may have contributed to the child's death so as to prevent future, similar deaths. The Local Teams advise the State Team by making recommendations for changes in law, policy or practice, which may prevent future child deaths and near deaths.
- Continued to develop and expand the TRACE (Team Response Against Child Exploitation) Program, a multidisciplinary team response to commercial exploitation of children (“CSEC”) in Middlesex County. TRACE's mission is to improve information sharing and build stronger collaboration within and between agencies so we can respond more effectively to CSEC cases, develop community understanding and identification of CSEC-involved youth, and enhance efforts to identify and hold exploiters accountable.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to share this update on CBJ and related programs with you. The legal assistance provided by the ADAs volunteering their time in the CBJ program has been invaluable to the operation of this office. CBJ and other intervention and prevention initiatives are important efforts that this office has developed over the years. We believe that this report demonstrates that our office continues in its commitment and dedication to improve and expand these important programs in this county.

If you have any questions regarding this program or our office generally, please contact me directly at 781-897-8456.

Sincerely,

Regina Scalley

Regina Scalley, Chief Fiscal Officer

cc: DA Marian Ryan
Steve Loughlin, First Assistant District Attorney, MDAO
Alice Casey, ADA & Director of District Courts, MDAO