



Virtual Opioid Task Force Meeting – Update July 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to say that our next virtual meeting will be July 1, 2020 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. We are excited to be joined by the Director of the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS), Deirdre Calvert. Deirdre will talk with us about how the COVID pandemic has impacted the work that they do every day around the opioid crisis and SUDs.

DA Ryan will share with you an update on opioids in Middlesex, but I wanted to share some important non-opioid news from the District Attorney's office. As you know, DA Ryan is deeply committed to and concerned by issues of racial justice. She notes that, as an elected District Attorney, she has a special responsibility to steer our legal system toward justice. Over the past few weeks, she and her team have examined ways in which the Middlesex District Attorney's Office can better serve our very diverse county and to be bolder in ensuring that a racial equity lens informs the decisions and policies of our Office. To that end, DA Ryan has created a full time position of Director of Racial Justice Initiatives. If you know of any qualified candidates, please encourage them to apply.

And because we will be getting together next week, I want to share information on this event, happening this week, on behalf of our colleagues at the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition. They will be hosting a webinar on **Thursday, June 25th from 7-8pm**. This will be a virtual conversation for parents/caregivers on managing anxiety for you and your family. They will be joined by two local providers who will touch on this and other subject areas for parents during this challenging time. The webinar will cover a few topics including: ethical decision making during reopening, self-care strategies, and talking to your kids about alcohol and other substance use.

I look forward to seeing you on July 1st and wish you all health, safety, and justice.

Sincerely,

Nora

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