



MIDDLESEX PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUTH, INC.

# Workshops & Trainings

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY GERRY LEONE'S OFFICE

FALL 2011  
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

THE MIDDLESEX  
PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR YOUTH INC.

## REGISTER NOW! School Safety Summit Teen Dating Abuse: How to Foster Healthy Relationships

Featuring:

- Michael Jellinek, M.D.
- Casey Corcoran, M.Ed.
- Melrose Alliance Against Violence & the Melrose Public Schools

September 26,  
2011

Nashoba Valley  
Technical High  
School

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## School Safety Summit to Focus on Teen Dating Abuse

Is he experiencing being texted or called obsessively? Is he compelled to report his whereabouts at all times? Is she being controlled or pressured to do things she does not want to do? If this is happening to someone at your school or in your community, how can you intervene to reinforce positive teen relationships?

These questions, and many others, will be explored at the **16th Annual School Safety Summit, to be held on September 26, 2011 at Nashoba Valley Technical High School.** The topic of The 16th Annual School Safety Summit will be teen dating abuse, an important concern in fostering healthy relationships.

The theme for this year's School Safety Summit was selected in conjunction with Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone's announcement that MDAO's 2011-2012 school-based initiative will be *Building Healthy Relationships*. Teen dating relationships are just one topic under the larger umbrella of healthy relationships. Please refer to District Attorney Gerry Leone's letter on page two regarding this initiative, on which the DA is asking schools and law enforcement to focus this year.

Additionally, the school-based initiative, *Building Healthy Relationships*, builds on last year's theme of *Using Good Judgment*, to empower youth to display respect and tolerance in all of their relationships with peers, partners, and adults.

The School Safety Summit will feature keynote addresses from Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone and Michael Jellinek, M.D. Dr. Jellinek is the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and President of Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He brings a wealth of experience and insights about the nuances of adolescent development, including dating relationships.

Casey Corcoran M.Ed., Director of Start Strong Initiative, will share information about how schools can work with teens to build healthy teen dating relationships. Corcoran recently directed the "Break-Up Summit 2.0," where he taught teens to identify unhealthy dating relationships and gave

teens the tools to deal with the uncomfortable situation of breaking up. Corcoran keeps his advice current, incorporating today's reality of social media by specifically addressing how teens' relationships play out on social networking sites, such as Facebook. Corcoran has an in-depth understanding of the dynamics in this area of teen relationships.

The Melrose Public Schools, in conjunction with the Melrose Alliance Against Violence, will present a working example of how schools can partner with community organizations to support healthy relationships in and out of school. This partnership, which has been ongoing for more than a decade, will give a nuts and bolts approach as an example to other school districts.

Additionally, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office will discuss the impact restraining orders and harassment prevention orders have on students and schools. These civil orders are requested from the court if a plaintiff is in fear of immediate harm. Both types of orders may require fellow students to be kept apart from one another, even though they attend the same classes. Many schools and law enforcement officials grapple with these circumstances. The District Attorney's Office will provide guidance to police departments and schools on how to prepare for these difficult situations.

Participants for this conference may register through MPY's website or by calling Judy Nolan at 781.897.6806. Please see page eight for further registration information. For more information on DA Leone's continuing healthy relationships initiative, including the 2009 PSA Project winner on the topic of teen dating violence, please visit [www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org).

DA Leone  
Announces Healthy  
Relationships  
Initiative





## THE MIDDLESEX PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUTH INC.

Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. is a private non-profit organization affiliated with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. Established in 1988, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. fosters collaboration among community leaders, public safety agencies, and educators to safeguard students in Middlesex County. Our members include more than 60 school districts in Middlesex County and also a number of private schools.

### MPY STAFF



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Nina Pomponio is returning to full-time Assistant District Attorney practice. A new Prevention & Education Coordinator will be joining the MPY staff this fall.

### Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

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## FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY GERRY LEONE

### D.A. Leone Announces Focus On Healthy Relationships

**G**reetings! Welcome to the start of another school year! It is a busy and exciting time for all of us and I always look forward to reconnecting with you after the summer break.

This year, our school based initiative is *Healthy Relationships*. In the wake of several incidents affecting the safety of our youth, most recently involving alleged teen dating violence, we wanted to re-focus our energy into a collective effort to address the importance of healthy relationships for youth.

Whether it is teen dating abuse, bullying, peer pressure, intolerance, substance abuse, or disrespectful actions, all too often our youth are surrounded by the potential for unhealthy influences in their relationships. We need to encourage young people to extend last year's theme of good judgment into evaluating the relationships in their lives.

While this office sees the back-end tragedies of what are extreme examples of unhealthy relationships, we know that our youth may be experiencing indicators of unhealthy relationships and not realizing or minimizing these indicators.

This year, we aim to educate teenagers and each other on what distinguishes behaviors between healthy and unhealthy relationships. For instance, how many kids would say that their friendship with a peer who consistently pressures them to use drugs or go drinking with them, despite their previous refusals, is an unhealthy relationship? Or what about the friend who ridicules another for cautious behavior in class by calling them names and disrespecting them in front of others? While deeming a dating relationship that involves violence to be unhealthy may seem obvious to most youth, these other forms of unhealthy relationships may not be as obvious.

That is why we feel that this is an important dialogue that we hope to engage in this year and one we expect to learn a lot from ourselves. We will focus on how we, those entrusted with the care and safety of our youth, can contribute to a school and community climate that encourages healthy relationships, while at the same time being able to recognize those unhealthy indicators and know what to do about them.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you on September 26, 2011 for MPY's School Safety Summit featuring Dr. Michael Jellinek and Casey Corcoran, where the focus will be on healthy relationships. On behalf of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, I wish you a healthy and safe start to the school year.

Gerry Leone, Middlesex District Attorney  
Chair, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

### 2011-2012 Public Service Announcement (PSA) Project

**D**A Gerry Leone has announced that "Choosing Yourself: Making Decisions that Promote Healthy, Substance-Free Relationships" will be the topic for this year's PSA. *The application form is available on the MPY website, [www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.com](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.com)*

### MPY HAS MOVED!!

**M**iddlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. has moved to another site of the District Attorney's Office at 47 Thorndike Street, Cambridge, MA 02141. All other contact information remains the same.

# Spotlight: Lexington High School Students Win 2011 PSA Contest!

In the 2011 PSA Project on the topic of cyber safety, Middlesex DA Gerry Leone is proud to announce that two students from Lexington High School were the winners.

A total of 77 entries were submitted by students from the 59 school districts throughout Middlesex County. The five PSA finalists were then selected from those entries by a panel of school personnel, law enforcement officials, and members of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

James Cullen and Kyle George, aspiring filmmakers at Lexington High School, created the winning entry entitled "Texting and Driving." The video aired on the Fox 25 Morning News on June 27, 2011. To view the winning video, please visit <http://MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.com/news/video.php?video=4>.

James and Kyle sought to speak to the teenage community through a media they could understand and relate to: videogames. James told Fox 25 Reporter Elizabeth Hopkins, "Hopefully, my PSA can save some lives."

"James and Kyle submitted a creative and compelling PSA, relaying their message in a meaningful way to their peers, and I congratulate them on creating the winning entry, overwhelmingly voted for by students throughout Middlesex County," District Attorney Leone said. "Cyber safety is a very real concern as technology continues to develop in a dynamic way and our young people use e-communication as their prevalent mode of communicating, presenting new and unintended consequences that can result in dangers to them."

This is the third annual PSA contest held by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. In 2010 the topic was impaired driving, and Lowell High School submitted the winning entry. In 2009, the topic focused on teen dating violence, and Somerville High School submitted the winning entry. Winning PSA videos of the past are available to view on the MPY website.

For 2011–2012, DA Leone has selected the PSA topic of building healthy, substance-free relationships free from negative influences and based on exercising good judgment, tolerance and respect. Application are available on the MPY website.



DA Gerry Leone and winners James Cullen and Kyle George pose with reporter Elizabeth Hopkins after filming an interview for Fox 25's Morning News, on June 23, 2011.

## DA Leone Donates Over \$100,000 In Forfeiture Funds to Community Programs

In an effort to aid the violence and drug prevention efforts of youth organizations in Middlesex County and provide youth with positive alternatives to crime, Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone has donated in excess of \$100,000 of drug forfeiture funds to six community summer programs. Donations, primarily earmarked for youth summer employment, are as follows:

- \$20,000 donated to the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board to fund summer jobs for 16 at-risk youth in Lowell.
- \$10,400 donated to the Lowell Community Health Center Teen Coalition under the Lowell Roundtable on Substance Abuse Prevention to sponsor 6 youth and 2 adult chaperones to attend the 2011 Mid-Year Training Institute, which is hosted by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America.
- \$20,000 donated to Wayside Youth & Family Support Network's Tempo Program to fund approximately 14 at-risk young adults (17–24 years of age).
- \$10,000 donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Framingham for scholarships for 10 low-income, at-risk youth from the Framingham area, ages 6 to 16, to attend a summer camp at the Club.
- \$20,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Framingham, to expand its ability to provide afterschool pick-up transportation from school to the Boys & Girls Club.
- \$20,000 donated to the Metro South/West Regional Employment Board to fund summer employment for approximately 8-10 at-risk youth for up to six weeks.

This initiative is another example of DA Leone's proactive, hands-on approach to community partnerships for the betterment of Middlesex youth. This will be an annual initiative for Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone.

# FALL 2011 CONFERENCES



## THE 16TH ANNUAL SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

### Teen Dating Abuse: How to Foster Healthy Relationships

*Michael Jellinek, M.D.*

*Casey Corcoran, M.Ed.*

*Rebecca Mooney, M.Ed.*

This Summit is designed to give participants the tools to recognize abusive youth relationships and positively intervene to reinforce healthy relationships. The keynotes will be Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone and President of Newton-Wellesley Hospital Dr. Michael Jellinek. Casey Corcoran will highlight tools used to prevent teen dating abuse and promote healthy teen relationships. The Melrose Public Schools and the Melrose Alliance Against Violence have been partnering for more than a decade and will present a model of a program that has had a very positive impact on teens in that community. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office will address the proper use of restraining orders and how schools and law enforcement can collaborate to keep teens safe.

**September 26, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,  
Registration: 8:30 am**

**Nashoba Valley Technical High School**  
\$50 for members, \$150 for non-members.

**Special Offer**—Each member district may bring up to 10 participants for \$150. All participants must be registered together on the MPY website and registration must be paid by one purchase order or check.

## PREVENTION CONFERENCES

### School Attendance Summit

*Jay Blitzman, First Justice, Juvenile Court Department, Middlesex County*

*Tim Carey, Probation Officer, Middlesex Juvenile Court*

*Tom Malone, Metro Regional Counsel, Department of Children & Families*

*Rich Melillo, Director of Student Services, Somerville Public Schools*

*Rebecca Pries, Executive Director, Adolescent Consultation Services*

Truancy and tardiness are concerns for many school districts. Attendance issues correlate with lack of school achievement, juvenile delinquency and dropping out of school. This summit will bring together representatives from schools, the law enforcement community, The Department of Children and Families, and the court system to explore root causes of attendance problems and to make positive recommendations to combat truancy and tardiness. This very informative summit was presented last year and is being repeated due to high demand.

**October 13th, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,  
Registration 8:30 am  
One Cranberry Hill, Lexington**

*Free for members, \$50 for non-members*

### Building a Prevention Framework to Address Teen Sexting Behaviors

*Andrew J. Harris, Ph.D.*

*Judith Davidson, Ph.D.*

This conference focuses on teen "sexting" behavior, its related issues, and its implications for educational policy and practice. It will feature findings from a federally-funded, multi-state study of youth and adult perspectives on teen sexting led by researchers from University of Massachusetts, Lowell. The morning will feature focus groups examining participant perspectives on the nature of teen sexting, its motivations, and its social and developmental context, as well as the adequacy of existing responses and prevention strategies. It will also include a presentation by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office addressing the legal ramifications associated with sexting cases involving minors. Following lunch, the University of Massachusetts, Lowell research team will present findings from student focus groups conducted in three states and nine communities in spring 2011. Drs. Harris and Davidson will discuss the themes and

patterns that emerged from these groups, and will lead an audience dialogue on associated implications for educational practice and policy. This forum will represent one of the first formal presentations and discussions of these nationally relevant findings.

**December 9, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,  
Registration: 8:30 am**

**UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center**

*Free for members, \$50 for non-members*

## MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

*Free for members, \$50 for non-members  
CEUs for this series have been applied for*

### FALL MENTAL HEALTH SERIES #1

#### Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth

*Chris Bellonci, M.D.*

*Grace Sterling Stowell, M.A.*

Dr. Bellonci will provide an interactive presentation discussing the stages of self-identification for youth with a sexual minority identity (i.e. lesbian, gay or bisexual) including case examples from his years of work with this population. He will also discuss some of the mental and behavioral risks associated with coming out in a world that can be hostile to these identities (risks of depression, suicide and substance abuse). He will then detail the supports and services youth need at each stage of self-identification. Grace Sterling Stowell will present an overview of transgender community issues, particularly issues facing transgender youth as well as a conceptual framework for understanding transgender people.

**November 4, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,  
Registration: 8:30 am**

**Keefe Technical School, Framingham**

# PRESENTERS

## **FALL MENTAL HEALTH SERIES #2** **Assessing and Managing** **the Suicidal Youth**

*Michael Jellinek, MD*  
*Lawrence Berkowitz, MPA, Ed.D.,*  
*Jim McCauley, LICSW*

The death of a student, whether sudden or anticipated, presents challenges to school leaders and mental health professionals who are often dealing with their own overwhelming feelings of grief and sadness. Dr. Jellinek will provide an overview, outlining how the response of school staff may be an instrumental factor in helping students heal from the trauma. James McCauley and Larry Berkowitz will highlight the complications involved when the student death is a suicide. The conference will conclude with a riveting presentation from AT&T which focuses on distracted driving, specifically texting while driving. This program is available for high school students and may be requested as an in-service training.

**November 14, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,**  
**Registration: 8:30 am**  
**Newton Wellesley Hospital**

*Free for members, \$50 for non-members*

## **FALL MENTAL HEALTH SERIES #3** **"The Glass Ain't Half-Full; Heck,** **It's Overflowing!" Creating a** **Strength-Based Culture in Schools**

*Charlie Appelstein, M.S.W.*

Strength-based practice is an emerging approach to helping at-risk children, youth, and families that is exceptionally positive and hope-inspiring. Its focus is on strength-building rather than flaw-fixing. It begins with the belief that all individuals have strengths and past successes that can be utilized to stop problem behavior and enhance decision making. This presentation will highlight many of the key principles and techniques of this life-changing, inspiring approach to guiding high-risk young people.

**December 2, 2011, 9:00 am–2:00 pm,**  
**Registration: 8:30 am**  
**Keefe Technical School, Framingham**

*Free for members, \$50 for non-members*

**Michael Jellinek, M.D.** is Board Certified in Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry and he has written over 200 articles and chapters. With Michael Murphy, Ed.D., he developed the Pediatric Symptom Checklist, which is a brief screening instrument that helps Primary Care Pediatricians identify children with psychosocial dysfunction. Dr. Jellinek is currently the Chief of Child Psychiatry at MGH, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and President of Newton Wellesley Hospital.

**Casey Corcoran, M.Ed.** is the Director of the Start Strong Initiative at the Boston Public Health Commission. Previously, Casey worked at Peace Games, a Boston based violence prevention organization, leading program evaluation work as well facilitating trainings and professional development activities at schools. For the past ten years he has also worked with at-risk adults and youth in Boston around issues of dating violence, domestic violence and sexual health. He received his M.Ed. from Trinity College and is a certified batterer/dating violence intervention counselor.

## **Prevention Conference:** **Teen Sexting Behaviors**

**Andrew J. Harris, Ph.D.** is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at University of Massachusetts Lowell. An expert in public policy, Dr. Harris is lead investigator for a federally-funded, multi-state study designed to inform effective responses to teen sexting behaviors.

**Judith Davidson, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor in Research Methodology and Program Evaluation in the Graduate School of Education, University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Her passion is qualitative research in all its forms and permutations, from qualitative computing and arts-based inquiry to action research and research instruction.

## **Mental Health Series #1**

**Christopher Bellonci, MD** is a Board-Certified Child/Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist who has worked in residential treatment and school consultation since completing his Child Psychiatry training at McLean Hospital in 1993. He is currently Assistant Professor in the Psychiatry Department of Tufts Medical School and the Medical Director and Senior Clinical Consultant at the Walker School.

**Grace Sterling Stowell, M.A.** has been a pioneering activist and leader in the social justice and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) youth communities for over 30 years. Grace is currently the first Executive Director of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (BAGLY). She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Commission on GLBT Youth. Grace received a B.A. in English from Curry College and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University.

## **Mental Health Series #2**

**Lawrence Berkowitz, MPA, Ed.D.** is the Director and co-founder of Riverside Trauma Center. He is an expert training about suicide. Dr. Berkowitz has consulted with numerous schools and communities in Massachusetts on trauma responses and clinical issues for the past 20 years. He holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from Western New England College and a Doctorate of Education in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University.

**Jim McCauley, L.I.C.S.W.** is the Co-founder and Associate Director of the Riverside Trauma Center. He has more than 20 years experience managing outpatient programs for both children and adults. He is also a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology Department at Suffolk University. Jim has a special interest and provides consultation and training on postvention services, suicide clusters, and suicide prevention coalitions. He has presented at several statewide and national conferences on these topics.

## **Mental Health Series #3**

**Charlie Appelstein, M.S.W.** is a nationally prominent youth care specialist and author whose primary focus is on working with children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral problems. President of Appelstein Training Resources, LLC, Charlie trains and consults all over the United States as well as internationally. He has authored three youth care books: *No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: Understanding and Responding to the Challenging Behavior of Troubled Children and Youth.*

# IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

## IN-SERVICE TRAININGS

Each Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. member district may select up to five on-site in-service trainings, as a benefit of membership. Minimum of 25 participants required.

### **An Act Relative to Bullying— How This Legislation Impacts Our Schools\***

This in-service training helps school districts understand this mandate by reviewing the specifics of the legislation and emphasizes when bullying crosses the line into criminal activity. We also explore the critical cyber component of bullying. This in-service training supports Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone's 2011–2012 school-based initiative on healthy relationships.

### **School Investigations: Bullying, Harassment, Drugs, Weapons**

Under what circumstances do school officials have a legal right to search and/or seize? What is the school's duty to investigate under *An Act Relative to Bullying*? For schools to be safe, they must be free from harassment, weapons and contraband. This in-service training clarifies the role of the school and the role of the police in areas such as search/seizure of cell phones and other electronic devices.

### **The Dynamic of the Power Differential —How This Impacts Bullying**

*An Act Relative to Bullying* does more than create mandatory reporting for bullying incidents. M.G.L. ch.71 §370 also includes a professional development requirement by which all school districts must educate staff in the use of developmentally appropriate bullying prevention and intervention strategies, as well as have a working understanding the "complex interaction and power

differential" in bullying cases. This in-service delves into these areas.

### **The Social Media Revolution— Facing Up to Facebook\***

Whether we like it or not, teens and parents throughout Middlesex County are using Facebook. Social networking sites have truly revolutionized the ways we communicate. This workshop takes a practical approach to social networking, including a systematic guide to the ever-changing privacy settings.

### **Texting & Driving—"It Can Wait"\***

This program, sponsored in collaboration with AT&T, is an anti-texting and driving educational presentation. It includes a powerful and moving documentary, produced by AT&T, which features stories from individuals whose lives have been forever altered by texting while driving.

### **Cyber Safety from a Forensic Perspective —Sexting, Texting & Child Predators\***

The internet, cell phones and social networking sites offer powerful and almost limitless opportunities to gain knowledge and make contact with others. Unfortunately, these technologies are sometimes misused. While there are many positive aspects of technology, this in-service discusses some common dangers youth face while using the internet. This training is also available for school presentations to staff.

### **Protecting Children & Youth— 51A Mandated Reporting**

Training in the 51A process is now mandatory for all licensed school staff working with students. In order to facilitate the training of large numbers of staff, the Child Abuse Unit at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office has created a free online training. This training, available at [www.middlesexcac.org/51a-omrt](http://www.middlesexcac.org/51a-omrt), outlines indicators of abuse and/or neglect and explains what to do if a mandated reporter suspects child abuse or neglect.

### **Underage Substance Use\***

Substance use by teens continues to be a major issue. While street drugs are readily available in many communities, many teen drug users easily obtain over-the-counter or prescription medications from a variety of sources, including their family's medicine cabinet. Use of inhalants, steroids and bath salts is also presented. Additionally, Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone actively collaborates with schools and community organizations to promote healthy teen relationships.

### **Social Host Liability\***

MPY offers this in-service training for parents and community members. This training presents the most up-to-date information as to the legal, social and health-related consequences of serving minors alcohol. Particularly during prom and graduation season, parents should understand their personal liability if minors are drinking in their home, even without their knowledge or approval.

### **Improving Attendance & Truancy**

This training focuses on the importance of intervening early when students, especially in elementary school, show a pattern of missing school or arriving late. We will explore the dynamics of why some students have difficulty coming to school. We will also explain legal avenues, including the *Failure to Send* law and the *Child in Need of Services (CHINS)* process, along with how to collaborate successfully with the courts and social service agencies.

### **Teen Dating Abuse**

Teen dating abuse is on the rise nationally. Many teens have little understanding about what it means to be in a healthy relationship. In fact, 1 in 3 teens report knowing a friend or peer who experienced assaultive behavior by a significant other. This workshop will explore the dynamics of teen dating abuse through the eyes of teens. It will also review

**For on-site in-service workshops, please see the back cover for more information.**

**Please Contact**—Margie Daniels at 781-897-6808 to request in-services or email her at [margie.daniels@state.ma.us](mailto:margie.daniels@state.ma.us). Email is preferred.

forms of emotional abuse unique to the teenage population and examine cultural and societal influences that perpetuate ideals of power and control. This in-service training supports Middlesex Gerry Leone's school-based initiative to build healthy teen relationships.

#### **Gangs in Our Communities**

A growing concern about gangs, gang activity and gang behavior exists in many communities. This training highlights the trademarks (colors, signs, graffiti, and tagging) of various national and local gangs and explains how they recruit and retain members. This in-service is made possible, in part, from a previous Project Safe Neighborhood grant awarded to Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone's Office. The Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit spearheads this presentation.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Does your school district/community have a plan should there be a natural disaster or terrorist attack? Is this plan articulated well and clearly understood by all constituents? This individualized training addresses these important considerations for emergency preparedness. This in-service supports District Attorney Gerry Leone's SECURE (Safe Effective Community Understanding and Response to Emergencies) initiative.

#### **Suicide**

This training is designed to improve the skills and confidence of counselors and other key school officials who are on the frontline in the identification of students who are at-risk for suicide. Participants will learn the scope of the problem and review suicide risk factors. We will present best practices in risk assessment, and attendees will learn several techniques for eliciting suicidal ideation.

*\*May be presented for parental presentations*

## Guest Feature: Choosing Yourself

### **Making Decisions that Promote Healthy, Substance Free Relationships**

**A Message From MPY President Tony Pierantozzi**

***Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention An MDAO/ MPY Initiative***

**A**t Middlesex Partnerships for Youth (MPY), our core mission is to ensure the health and safety of all youth in Middlesex County. For the past 20 years MPY and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office have established a strong collaborative effort with Middlesex County school districts, police departments and fire departments providing training and education on a variety of important topics with the systemic goal of strengthening prevention and intervention strategies to assist our youth. Each year the Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone, the Chairman of the Board of MPY, sponsors a



Public Service Announcement (PSA) Project focused on risky youth behavior. This year's topic is a familiar one to all partners, "Choosing Yourself—Making Decisions that Promote Healthy, Substance Free Relationships."

School districts throughout Middlesex County have been addressing this problem for many years and data from youth risk behavior surveys supports the fact that teens are using alcohol, drugs and tobacco with less frequency. However, substance abuse continues to be a significant problem among teens and one that we must continue to assertively address. The PSA Project will help promote a sense of individual responsibility, assist the student in addressing peer pressure, address the consequences of using illicit and illegal drugs and engage the students in the learning process.

As Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools, I am aware that "there was an overall pattern of slight decline between 2008 and 2010 in current substance abuse among Somerville High School students evidenced by our Youth Risk Behavior Survey. For example, current alcohol use decreased from 37% to 33%, cigarette use from 15% to 13% and marijuana use from 21% to 19%." As you can see by these statistics there is still much to be addressed. The use of substances by teenagers is the result of a combination of factors including peer pressure, curiosity and availability and invariably results in a negative social and mental impact on the individual. It is becoming increasingly challenging to address these high risk behaviors.

Under the direction of Executive Director, Margie Daniels, the MPY staff and speakers at MPY events, MPY will continue to provide trainings and seminars to both schools and families on substance abuse issues. Through continuous collaborative efforts from MPY, Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone's Office and member school districts, we will be able to offer our most precious resource, "our students" the improved ability to make good healthy choices, stay focused on their future, to develop a strong sense of self and to effectively communicate their needs to others.

Thank You,

Tony Pierantozzi

Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools,

President of Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

## All Event Registration Is Now Online!

**MPY has launched a new website. Please visit us at: [www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org)**

On the website, you can find information and registration applications for all upcoming conferences and events. To register, click the "EVENTS" tab, find the event, and click on the title. Next, click the "Register Now" button at the bottom of the page. Please fill out all required fields. The most important of these is the school district / agency; this allows us to properly bill for your attendance, if there is a fee.

Once you have finished entering your information, click "Submit Registration." You will then receive a confirmation on your screen to print immediately, and an email confirmation will follow. Please save a copy of this confirmation and bring it with you to the event. If the event requires a fee, you will receive an invoice by mail. Please submit a copy of the invoice with your payment. We accept checks or money orders made out to Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

Please note that we will no longer routinely be accepting registration by fax, email, or over the phone. Our new online registration system will provide a greater level of efficiency in registering for events. Should you not have email access, please call Judy Nolan at 781-897-6806, and she will register you.

In addition to registration for events, our new website provides helpful information on our in-service workshops and on how to schedule an in-service workshop in your school. Check our website often for MPY updates, including the news and photos from our recent events.

Finally, if you are looking for additional information on a particular subject, click the "PREVENTION" tab for informative brochures and web resources. MPY will provide you with cutting edge information on topics relating to prevention and intervention in matters of health and safety for youth.



Photo by Matt Stone

**[www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org)**

### ON-SITE IN-SERVICE TRAINING REQUESTS

- See pages 6 and 7 for a full list of available in-service programs. For more information or to schedule programs (up to five), call Margie Daniels at 781.897.6808 or email her at [margie.daniels@state.ma.us](mailto:margie.daniels@state.ma.us)
- **A minimum attendance of 25** is required per training. Each school district conducts its own preregistration. If you anticipate a drop in attendance or need to cancel, please call MPY, Inc. at least 48 hours in advance. The in-service may be cancelled at the presenter's discretion because of inclement weather or low attendance.
- **Please submit requests** at least two months in advance.

### PAYMENTS

- **Events are generally free** or no more than \$50 for Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. members and \$150 for nonmembers. Please pay by check or purchase order, payable to Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.
- **If you registered for an event and are unable to attend**, please give 72 hours notice, or you will be charged a cancellation fee. If you register for an event, but do not attend and did not notify us, you will be charged the full price for the event. To cancel you **MUST** contact Judy Nolan by sending an email to [judy.nolan@state.ma.us](mailto:judy.nolan@state.ma.us)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Registration is required:** Please register three weeks in advance of each conference or event.
- **Accessibility:** All events are handicap accessible.
- **Weather or Other Emergency Cancellations:** Check our website [www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Fax:** 781.897.6801

**Mail:** Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.  
47 Thorndike Street, Cambridge, MA 02141

**Online:** [www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org](http://www.MiddlesexPartnershipsForYouth.org)