



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
40 THORNDIKE STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02141**

MARTHA COAKLEY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Tel: 617-679-6500  
Fax: 617-225-0871

**Contact: Emily LaGrassa/Melissa Sherman  
(617) 679-6522**

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**MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND MIDDLESEX PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR YOUTH, INC. HOST TRAINING ON ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS**

**WESTON** – The Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. hosted a training session yesterday, February 14, entitled, "Creative Approaches for Managing Behavior Problems in Children and Adolescents," as part of their "Spring 2006 Contemporary Mental Health" series. The training was presented by Kevin Creeden, of the Whitney Academy.

This workshop discussed intervention strategies to teach students to improve their self-regulation skills, including steps that teachers and school administrators can take to develop a more supportive and caring classroom, and adapting classroom routines and environments to make them more user-friendly for students exhibiting behavioral problems. Additionally, this workshop was designed to provide participants with a new perspective and approach to help avoid getting "stuck" in a struggle for compliance with students who are not responsive, as well as discussing the more straightforward behavior management approaches for treating adolescents.

Kevin Creeden, M.A., LMHC, LMFT, has over 20 years of experience with children, adolescents, and their families, working extensively with sexually and physically aggressive youth. He is Director of Assessment and Research at The Whitney Academy and he trains and consults nationally to schools, youth service and mental health agencies. The Whitney Academy is a nationally-recognized residential treatment center specializing in the treatment of dually diagnosed (cognitively delayed and/or psychiatrically disordered) young men, ages 10 to 22, who present with a wide spectrum of sexualized behavior problems ranging from trauma reactive to sexually abusive.

This session was the first of a three-part educational program for school staff throughout Middlesex on ensuring the safety and well-being of students, called the "Spring 2006 Contemporary Mental Health Series." Part two of the series will be held on March 6, 2006, and will be called, "Become a 'Super Model': How to Effectively Help Teens with Eating and Body

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Image Problems.” Part three of the series will be held on May 4, 2006, and will be called, “Parenting Essentials: What Professionals Need to Know to Help Parents with Discipline, Self-Esteem & Communication.”

Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY) is a non-profit organization established in 1988 by the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office and ten school districts to foster communication on school-related legal issues relating to substance abuse and violence. Through Project Alliance, MPY’s primary initiative, the non-profit provides prevention and intervention resources, as well as training and programming to Middlesex school districts and communities using a combination of educational outreach, technical support, and community-based strategy development to address a variety of youth health and safety issues. MPY now includes over 60 member school districts. For more information on Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. and Project Alliance, please visit [www.projectalliance.org](http://www.projectalliance.org).

This training session was held in Alumnae Hall at Regis College in Weston, yesterday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Approximately 70 people attended, including principals, guidance counselors, health education coordinators, teachers, public safety officials, and social services professionals from the following school districts and organizations:

- Arlington
- Bedford
- Belmont
- Billerica
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Chelmsford
- Concord-Carlisle
- Everett
- Framingham
- Groton-Dunstable
- Holliston
- Lexington
- Littleton
- Lowell
- Malden
- Marlborough
- Medford
- Natick
- Newton
- Reading
- Somerville
- Wakefield
- Waltham
- Watertown
- Weston
- Wilmington
- Woburn
- The Amigos and Kings School (Cambridge)
- Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School
- Chelmsford Coalition Against Drugs
- EDCO Collaborative (Cambridge)
- Evergreen Community Services (Malden)
- Nashoba Valley Technical High School
- Natick Fire Department
- Shawsheen Valley Technical High School
- West Somerville Neighborhood School
- Weston Community Health Coalition

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