ANNUAL WORK PLAN

SUBSTANCE USE ADVISORY COMMISSION

FY 2027

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Substance Use Advisory Commission (SUAC) is to inform, advise, and support the Raleigh City Council on matters related to substance use and its impact on individuals, families, and the community. The Commission promotes evidence-based approaches to prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. The SUAC works to reduce stigma, elevate the experiences of community members, encourage collaboration across sectors, and support policies and strategies that advance a healthy, safe, and inclusive Raleigh.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The City of Raleigh's Strategic Plan outlines the City's key priorities and sets a clear path for future goals and actions. The Substance Use Advisory Commission and its initiatives are aligned with the following strategic objectives:

- ❑ Community Safety
- ❑ Quality of Life

FY 26 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bi-annual Medication Drop-Off Events: The commission held two medication takeback events in FY2026. These events allowed individuals to drop off unwanted, expired, or unused medications to Raleigh Police who then dispose of it properly.

Partnership Development: The commission hosted 4 partners in the Raleigh community to visit SUAC meetings in FY2026. Participants were given time during the monthly meetings to present on their role in the community regarding substance use disorders and time for questions afterwards. SUAC also partnered with numerous organizations in Raleigh to be present at a variety of events including Raleigh Times First Friday, Rally for Recovery, and more. At these events the commission distributed brochures, notebooks, pens, drawstring bags, feminine products, hand sanitizers, first aid kits, and more.

Unhoused Encampment Visitations and Supplies: The commission visited 2 unhoused encampments and gave out supplies and resources to them. By doing so, the commission was able to build partnerships with the community, such as Healing Transitions, distribute needed supplies, and learn more from those who are experiencing being unhoused and the relation of that to substance use disorders.

Raleigh Times First Friday: The commission partnered with Raleigh Times to be present at First Fridays. While at the events, the commission gave out brochures and spoke with individuals about SUAC's mission. The commission also gave out supplies to those who wanted them. This partnership allows SUAC to spread awareness about the commissions mission and purpose.

FY27 FOCUS AREAS

Project	Description	Strategic Plan Alignment	Target Date
Partnership Development	Partner with local organizations, agencies, businesses, and institutions to share resources, broaden outreach, and strengthen our collective impact in addressing substance use disorders and related concerns. Extend monthly invitations to guest speakers to share their experiences, challenges, ideas, or innovations related to substance use. See Partnership Development under Events for more information.	Community Safety	6 presentations a year
Unhoused Encampment Outreach	Work with Rapid Response at Healing Transitions and fellow commission chairpersons to deliver resources, such as Naloxone kits and first aid kits, and information regarding the commission to unhoused populations because this can be a co-occurring vulnerability with substance use disorders. This may include visiting encampments and shelters.	Quality of Life	2 a year
Bi-annual Medication Drop-Off Events	Partner with Raleigh Police Department to collect unwanted, unused, or expired medications.	Community Safety	Fall 2026, Spring 2027
Raleigh Times First Friday Events	Partner with Raleigh Times to attend at least 3 First Friday events to disseminate information about the commission's purpose and resources to individuals.	Community Safety	3 times a year

Events

● **Various Events:** The commission would like to be present at various events including Rally for Recovery, Raleigh Times First Night Friday's, Poe Fest, and more. By being present at a variety of events, the commission can reach a broader scope of the Raleigh population. This allows more people to learn about the commission and our mission.

● **Bi-annual Medication Drop-Off Events**: As part of our ongoing efforts to prevent prescription drug misuse and promote safe medication disposal practices, SUAC plans to continue its participation in the bi-annual medication drop-off events in collaboration with local pharmacies and law enforcement agencies. These events provide community members with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused or expired medications, reducing the risk of diversion, abuse, and environmental contamination. Aligning with the community safety strategy from the strategic plan. These take place in the Fall of 2026 and Spring of 2027.

Education and Outreach

Education:

Partnership Development in support of the City's goal of enhancing public well-being and reducing disparities, SUAC will collaborate with the first responders, shelters, and a variety of other local organizations that work with individuals with substance use disorders to pilot initiatives that strengthen care coordination and improve access for impacted populations. These efforts will support broader citywide metrics around reducing overdose deaths and increasing trust in public health systems. The commission intends to host 6 speakers a year. Aligning with all three of the selected strategies from the strategic plan: Quality of Life and Community Safety.

> Use experience mapping during meetings to visualize the path from crisis to recovery, highlighting key barriers and potential solutions. SUAC can allocate time in 6 meetings throughout the year to focus on learning more about individual's experiences with substance use services from the initial emergency response through long-term recovery. Possible focus areas and speakers are listed below.

Stigma Reduction: Tailored to different community groups such as parents, healthcare professionals, employers. The workshop could provide education on challenging stigma, promoting empathy and supporting individuals with substance use disorder. Option to offer continuing education credits for healthcare professionals and professional development training for employers to encourage participation and engagement. Opportunity to partner with local agencies for this event rather than SUAC hosting the event.

Naloxone Training: Partner with local organizations to co-host and support a Naloxone training for the Raleigh community. This would educate the public on how to and when to use Naloxone. This relates to the Community Safety strategy.

Community Outreach:

Raleigh Times First Friday Market Events: By engaging at events like First Friday, SUAC supports Raleigh's broader strategy to enhance residents' quality of life through improved community wellness, education, and public engagement. These events provide a valuable opportunity for SUAC to connect with the city's nightlife industry, engage with local vendors and attendees, and expand its presence while gathering meaningful resources and data. SUAC intends to attend 3 of these a year. Aligning with the Community Safety strategy from the strategic plan.

Unhoused Encampment Outreach: To disseminate information and resources to unhoused populations in Raleigh. Resources could include Naloxone kits, first aid kits, and additional information and resources regarding substance use. Minimum of 2 visits. Aligning with the Quality of Life strategy.

These initiatives reflect SUAC's commitment to equipping individuals, families, and communities with the knowledge and resources needed to address substance use disorders effectively. They also directly support Raleigh's strategic goal of advancing a holistic approach to community safety, emphasizing trauma-informed care, stigma reduction, and the cultivation of community trust. Through collaboration,

public education, and evidence-based practices, SUAC will continue to drive meaningful progress and contribute to a healthier, more resilient Raleigh.

BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBERS

Saul Parada, Chair
Christopher Gibson, Vice Chair
Kemi Amola-Hill, Budget Liaison
Rhianna Flory, Secretary
Terri Conyers
Jean Hammer
Ryan Hausfeld
Brooklyn Price
Martin Woodard
Aracelys Torrez, Staff Liaison