The misuse of prescription drugs and the increasing availability of synthetic opioids have led to a
dramatic increase in overdose deaths in North Carolina, including in Cary. The stigma associated with
the misuse of prescription drugs in strong, and the failure to talk about the extent of the problem in our
neighborhoods and communities hampers the effectiveness of intervention strategies.

Cary has implemented a pilot project that measures the concentration of various opioid metabolites in
wastewater in distinct geographic areas. This pilot project has facilitated a community conversation to
increase awareness. Working with our data analytics and predictive modeling partners, Biobot Analytics,
SAS and RTI, we are working to develop new insights and patterns that will, over time, inform the
development of prevention and treatment programs.

In the meantime, Cary supports the state-wide efforts being undertaken to combat the opioid crisis,
including the NC Department of Health and Human Services’ Opioid Action Plan and the NC Department
of Justice’s efforts to confront North Carolina’s Opioid Crisis through prevention, treatment and
enforcement.