

TOWN *of* CARY

2019-2020 State Legislative Agenda Legislative Advocacy Position Statement

Topic: Opioid Crisis in North Carolina

Contact: Lana Hygh, Director of Special Projects, (919) 469-4006, lana.hygh@townofcary.org

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 is 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.