



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Substance Use Prevention Advisory Commission

Tuesday, August 12, 2025
12:00 PM

Regular

Department of Public
Health and Human
Services
Training Room 1
1005 W. Worley St.
Columbia, MO 65203

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Lindner called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m.
- b. Lindner paused briefly for introductions.

Present: 8 - Molly Lindner, Vinita Khanna, James Bayless, Paul Leykamp, Gregory Carbins, Jennifer Maddox, Beth Morrison and Megan Jones

Absent: 1 - Cheryl Moore

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Bayless moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Maddox and passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: [Draft meeting minutes](#)

- a. Khanna moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jones and passed unanimously

IV. REPORTS

a. University of Missouri

Jones provided an update on recent developments at the University of Missouri, noting that staffing has historically been a challenge. She assumed the role of Associate Director in an interim capacity in January and was appointed as the permanent Director earlier this summer. Since joining the University, a year and a half ago, much of her work has centered on building the prevention coalition, with a primary focus on substance use prevention and related topics such as sexual assault and misconduct prevention. Over the past year, the coalition formed three subcommittees and expanded membership by nearly 40%. Key initiatives have included developing a social norming campaign for the Mizzou campus, making policy recommendations, and enhancing the bystander intervention program to address drug and alcohol issues. The coalition's policy subcommittee provided recommendations to clarify campus drug-free policies using plain language to reduce confusion among students, faculty, and staff. In the spring, the subcommittee also addressed concerns surrounding "Reading Day," which has historically been associated with high-risk drinking. In response to input from community partners, neighbors, and law enforcement, the coalition developed harm reduction and prevention strategies, including coordinated communication, alternative programming, and providing food and water to students. Partnerships with the police department and the city helped align messaging. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and university leadership also sent campus-wide communications. While some students were not pleased with the messaging, feedback indicated the day's atmosphere was improved, with fewer hospitalizations from residence halls and more respectful interactions with law enforcement.

Jones also reported success with the coalition's social marketing campaign, which addressed impaired driving and other health behaviors, and noted increased outreach and education. Looking ahead, the coalition has added a new layer of executive sponsors-senior leaders and administrators across campus-to strengthen strategy, sustainability, and integration of prevention efforts into campus culture and policy. These changes aim to create more opportunities for community stakeholder involvement. The university is also hiring a new health educator for harm reduction and alcohol prevention, a role previously held by Jones. Members expressed appreciation for the coalition's efforts, noting that students recognized increased enforcement as professional and respectful, which was a positive shift compared to previous years.

b. Columbia Public Schools

Maddox reported that the school year is about to begin, with Jump Start Day for 6th and 9th graders scheduled for Monday and the first full day of classes for all students on Tuesday. Preparations are currently underway for the start of the year. She had no additional announcements at this time.

c. Staff report

During the staff report, members were reminded to check their term expiration dates on the City of Columbia website and reapply if interested in continuing to serve. It was clarified that members are typically contacted by email when their term is nearing completion to confirm interest in renewal, with terms lasting three years.

Updates from the Planning and Promotion Unit focused on substance use prevention efforts. Following the 2023 Community Health Assessment, substance use and healthy behaviors were identified as priority areas, leading to the formation of action teams. The Boone County Overdose Response Coalition (BCORC) serves as the substance use action team, while the healthy behaviors team addresses prevention strategies. The Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) contract was renewed for FY26, allowing the team to continue overdose prevention and naloxone distribution education. Monthly "Save a Life" trainings have now been conducted in every ward of Columbia and surrounding county areas, including Centralia and Ashland, and October will mark three consecutive years of monthly events. The team also provides presentations to organizations upon request and participates in community events to distribute health education and naloxone. BCORC meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays at 9 a.m. Additionally, Health Program Coordinator Heather Harlan created a Family Resource Pocket Guide to support families of individuals with substance use disorders, available at the meeting. The FR-CARA grant, funded by SAMHSA, supports a partnership with MU Ambulatory Services in which community paramedics respond to suspected overdose calls, offering onsite care and connecting patients and families to resources. The Planning and Promotion Unit manages data and reporting for the grant.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Attachments: [Public Health Staff Development Day Tobacco Briefing](#)

a. Presentation Discussion

Flucas reported on several emerging substances of concern found in local retail settings. Feel Free, marketed as a natural energy drink, acts on opioid receptors, causes withdrawal-like symptoms, and is not responsive to naloxone, creating treatment challenges. A compound known as 7-OH similarly binds to opioid receptors, and the FDA is moving toward a Schedule II classification. Concerns were also noted about adulterated kratom products, which increase dependence and illness risk, and kava, which poses risks of liver damage, dependence, anxiety, insomnia, and addiction. The FDA is aware of these products, and local cases have been reported. Surveillance continues, with such products observed in vape shops.

Legal age requirements for tobacco sales remain inconsistent-federal law sets the minimum age at 21, Missouri state law at 18, and city ordinance at 21. Within city limits, under-21 individuals may sell but not purchase tobacco, revealing potential supply chain loopholes. A free, state-supported Tobacco Retailer Training Program is available, providing a standardized curriculum and QR code access for retailers. The training has been positively received and is used for immediate corrective education when violations occur. Year-to-date, the local health department recorded one underage sales violation, while the FDA documented three through its youth buyer program. This reflects a notable decline compared to 11 violations last year and 26 three years ago. Potential policy changes include exploring a city ordinance requiring retailer training, modeled after SMART server training, and linking it to the Tobacco Retail License (TRL).

Perkins stated Department staffing has improved, allowing for greater enforcement capacity, including support during Stop Day events. The alcohol compliance data system is undergoing updates, and staff are working with IT to restore full reporting by the next session.

Flucas stated Nicotine pouches-often containing more nicotine than cigarettes, with some exceeding 90 mg per pouch-are marketed as cessation aids despite only 3 mg and 6 mg FDA-approved nicotine replacement products being sanctioned. Age restriction enforcement varies, with some clerks misclassifying pouches as non-tobacco. Compliance checks identified pouch sales among the small number of recent violations, alongside one vape and one JUUL pod sale. Many campus and organizational tobacco-free policies do not explicitly include pouches, and staff recommended policy updates. State-provided policy mapping resources are available to assist institutions, and the city may review its policy to ensure inclusion. An increase in cigarette and cigar use was noted, possibly influenced by greater media portrayal and normalization.

Proposed legislation restricting candy-like nicotine and THC packaging did not pass, and such products remain available in shops. These items pose risks due to child-appealing designs, unclear labeling, and potential for nicotine overdose. The federal Farm Bill's hemp provisions allow retail sales of Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC products, including edibles and beverages, with limited oversight and inconsistent labeling or testing standards. Local regulation is constrained until federal or state law changes. City Council has also expressed interest in exploring a local vaping tax to offset declining cigarette tax revenues, with the goal of reducing youth access and use. Challenges include the absence of a comprehensive statewide retailer database for vape sellers and potential preemption concerns if state action is not aligned

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Council Person Sample with Ward 3 attended the meeting, offering partnership and requesting input on how the Council could best support the Commission's work. Specific areas of inquiry included the potential for mandating tobacco retailer training similar to the SMART server training requirement, exploring the feasibility of a local vaping tax, and coordinating stakeholders to address substance use among the unhoused population. It was clarified that the Commission's role is to advise Council on substance use issues and service coordination rather than provide direct services. For ordinance-related matters, such as a training mandate, the Commission should submit a formal report to Council requesting permission to study the issue and develop recommendations. Existing networks, such as the Boone County Overdose Response Coalition (B-CORC) and the recovery coalition, were identified as effective convening points for stakeholder collaboration on homelessness-related substance use concerns. Actionable steps discussed included providing Council with URLs and materials for the free, state-aligned Tobacco Retailer Training, considering integration of mandatory retailer training into Tobacco Retail License (TRL) requirements, and leveraging existing coalitions to coordinate services for individuals affected by substance use disorder (SUD), including unhoused residents. A family resource pocket guide, designed for loved ones of individuals with SUD, was made available. Additionally, a QR code was shared for public use to report problematic products-such as gummies designed to mimic candy-or adverse effects, as well as to submit observations of underage access to restricted substances.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 12, 2025

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:54 p.m.