



## CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

---

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COMMISSION

To: Honorable Members of the Columbia City Council  
From: Molly Borgmeyer, Chair  
Substance Abuse Advisory Commission  
Date: August 11, 2016  
Re: Naloxone

The Substance Abuse Advisory Commission (SAAC) for the City of Columbia is charged with advising the City Council in matters pertaining to substance abuse as well as promoting and recommending the coordination of programs and policies intended to prevent and reduce the abuse of alcohol and other controlled substance. As many are aware, opioid use across the nation has increased in recent years and has reached an epidemic level. Opioid overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Unfortunately, like many communities across the country, Columbia is also now experiencing this epidemic.

Naloxone is an emergency opioid antagonist that blocks the effects of any opioid overdose when administered in a timely manner. Increasingly, first responders and public safety personnel are carrying and using naloxone as they respond to increasing incidents of opioid overdose. Currently, it is our understanding that hospital-based EMT's in Columbia carry naloxone but Columbia Police and Fire personnel do not. However, the SAAC has learned that City of Columbia public safety personnel are typically the first responders on the scene.

Because they are often the first to respond to an overdose and based on best practices identified in other communities, the SAAC feels that it would be highly beneficial for City of Columbia Police and Fire personnel to be equipped with and trained to use Naloxone. Therefore, at May 11, 2016 meeting of the SAAC, the members of the commission unanimously voted in favor recommending the City Council require Columbia Police Department and Fire Department public safety personnel to carry and use naloxone and provide the resources needed for doing so.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Should you have questions regarding the above information, I would be more than happy to speak with you and can be reached via email at [molly.borgmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:molly.borgmeyer@gmail.com).

Substance Abuse Advisory Commission ♦ c/o Division of Human Services  
1005 W. Worley ♦ P.O. Box 6015 ♦ Columbia, Missouri 65205-6015  
Phone: (573) 874-7488 (voice) ♦ TTY: (573) 874-7356 ♦ Fax: (573) 874-7756  
E-Mail: [HumanServices@como.gov](mailto:HumanServices@como.gov) Web Page: [www.como.gov](http://www.como.gov) (Search: **Human Services**)