



EMPOWER TASK FORCE Annual Newsletter FY 2025



Picture: Henrico County and Pyramid Healthcare broke ground on the Detox and Treatment Center in June 2025, the Center will open by Summer 2026.

The first full year of the renamed “Empower Task Force” was an eventful one. These stories reflect the limitless energy and dedication that our Task Force members bring to Preventing, Treating, and Combating Substance Use in our community.

FY 2025 will probably be best remembered for the creation of the first Regional Recovery Day. A room full of vendors, amazing speakers, and a panel discussion that affected everyone in the room made an unforgettable event. The bar has been set high, but I am convinced that **Regional Recovery Day 2025, already set for September 3, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Henrico Sports & Events Center**, will be an even more amazing event.

The updates in this report reflect the many efforts of Henrico County employees and the Empower Task Force committees. Just this past week, I learned from a Task Force member that she was told a story of a person’s life experience and how he believed that Henrico County’s effort had saved his life. Those stories, and those victories, validate the hard work and dedication that our members embody.

Based on the flurry of activity in the first few months, FY2026 looks to elevate the bar even higher. FY2026 will certainly be remembered for the development and planned opening of Henrico County’s first Detox and Treatment Center in partnership with Pyramid Healthcare. This unique public and private partnership has been a long time in the making and will open many new doors to residents who need both withdrawal management and residential treatment. An operating and management Board will be created to ensure best practices at the facility.

We invite your attendance at our meetings which occur every other month on the third Thursday at 2pm at Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services - East located at 3908 Nine Mile Road, Henrico, 23228.

The best part of my job is working with the members of the Empower Henrico Task Force and seeing the tangible impact on our County and its residents. FY2026 is already shaping up to be an even more transformational year.

Mike Feinmel

HENRICO COUNTY, VA

HENRICO, CHESTERFIELD, HANOVER AND RICHMOND PRESENT

THE SECOND ANNUAL

REGIONAL RECOVERY DAY

CELEBRATING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN RECOVERY

WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 3, 2025
4:30 - 8:30 P.M.

DR. STEPHEN LOYD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER
A PERSON IN LONG-TERM RECOVERY WHO CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND IS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE MICHAEL KEATON CHARACTER IN “DOPESICK”

HENRICO SPORTS & EVENTS CENTER
1 ALL STAR BOULEVARD
GLEN ALLEN, VA 23059

FREE
TO THE PUBLIC

PEER PANEL
BREAK OUT SESSIONS
COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR
ACUWELLNESS
REVIVE! TRAINING
MUTUAL AID GROUPS

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

[HTTPS://RECOVERY.HENRICO.GOV](https://recovery.henrico.gov)

Chairs of the Empower Task Force:

Mike Feinmel, Deputy County Manager
Leslie Stephen, Assistant Director, HAMHDS

Committee Chairs:

Data: Phil Lathrop, Fire
Samuel Orr, Police

Prevention: Jacquelyn Smith - White, HAMHDS
Salvatore Mule, Police

Youth Outreach: Katherine Johnson, Henrico Public Schools
Surprise Parker, HAMHDS

Treatment: Karen Branin, HAMHDS
Megan Ortiz, HAMHDS

Grants: Mike Feinmel, Deputy County Manager
Laura Totty, HAMHDS

Diversion: Sara Tolentino, HAMHDS
Sarah Perkins - Smith, Recovery Court

Henrico Sheriff's Office

Our mission is to seek innovative and compassionate ways to assist both those incarcerated and those reentering the community and strongly emphasize comprehensive support planning.

The Sheriff's Office continues to offer a range of established programs, including R.I.S.E., O.R.B.I.T., and the growing Medication Assisted Treatment (M.A.T.) program. We have launched targeted services to connect justice-involved veterans with the Department of Veterans Services, ensuring that veterans can access essential resources before reintegrating into the community. A specialized Veteran's Docket within the Henrico General District Court has been created.

Numerous community partnerships have developed within the Sheriff's Office, including a collaboration with Bank of America to provide financial literacy training to inmates enrolled in the M.A.T. program. Additionally, we have partnered with VCU Empowerment to provide certified doula services for expectant mothers, helping them build a strong support network during labor. Furthermore, peers from HAMHDS and FIRE have delivered REVIVE training to all program participants, ensuring that Narcan is readily available to them upon their release.

In 2024, our R.I.S.E. program successfully enrolled 559 new participants, a testament to our commitment to nurturing hope and empowering recovery. The Mobilize Recovery Across America Bus Tour visited Henrico Jail West, providing support to incarcerated individuals. The Sheriff's Office partnered with Mobilize Recovery and the McShin Foundation to spread a powerful message of hope through a concert featuring Season 20 American Idol winner Noah Thompson.



Efforts to tackle substance use disorder extend beyond the facility, reaching into the community to encourage meaningful dialogue. The "Hidden in Plain Sight" program is offered in collaboration with HAMHDS, HCPS, HPD, the Henrico Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start, and guest speakers from Virginia Fentanyl and Substance Awareness (VFSA). ORBIT participants visit HCPS classrooms to share stories of recovery, the dangers of early substance use and its profound impact on brain development, encouraging a brighter, healthier future for our youth.

The Henrico Sheriff's Office remains committed to providing extensive support both within the facility and throughout the community.

Diversion Committee

The primary goal of the Diversion Committee is to develop evidence-based innovative practices that guide, support and expand diversion efforts. Collaboration between multiple county agencies has been the key to diversion successes.

The committee participated in educational opportunities including training on the neurobiology of substance use disorder, the legal competency process and information from multiple community treatment providers regarding services offered.

Substance use and mental health education materials were added to inmate tablets to promote self-directed recovery efforts. HAMHDS peers provided REVIVE training to all individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorder and enrolled in Forensic Discharge Planning.

A tabletop exercise was conducted with judges, attorneys, police, sheriff's office, and magistrates with the purpose of illustrating the resources required to manage dually diagnosed individuals within the carceral setting.

Additional projects included:

- Henrico Sheriff's Office (HSO) partnered with Accountable Care Management Group to assist inmates with Medicaid applications to allow them immediate access to treatment upon release.
- Medication Assisted Treatment programing expanded within the jail setting.
- HAMHDS clinicians and peers provided Reentry101 bi-weekly meetings which cover topics of release and community support planning.
- Both "fast track diversion protocol" and the "duty docket diversion process" was developed and implemented allowing additional diversion options for those with a behavioral health diagnosis.
- Veteran's Docket has been approved to treat those with co-occurring diagnoses.
- Behavioral Health Docket was awarded a BJA grant. The inaugural graduation was held on July 30, 2025.
- 2 new medical assistant positions were funded by HSO allowing for an accelerated verification of behavioral health medications ensuring treatment is more timely.
- Development of a process to ensure Recovery Court participants receiving a sanction continue their Behavioral Health medications while serving the sanction.



Recovery Court

The Henrico County Recovery Court has been in existence since 2003. Recovery Court is a specialized court docket within the judicial system that focuses on individuals with substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system. We offer intensive, judicially supervised interventions, combining treatment, counseling, and supervision to assist participants in achieving recovery.

The program has completed 64 graduations, and 305 participants have successfully completed graduation requirements. The next graduation is scheduled for September 9, 2025, at 12:00 in the Henrico County Circuit Court.

Also, the Recovery Court hosts an annual 5K named in honor of the former administrator. The 7th annual Bernard Greene 5K will be held on October 11, 2025, at Deep Run Park. We hope you will participate!

Bernard Greene Memorial 5K

Run/Walk Timed Race

Date: October 11, 2025
Location: Deep Run Park
Time: 9:30 am
Registration \$35
<https://runsignup.com/bernardgreenememorial5k>
Music, bounce house, information tables, and more!

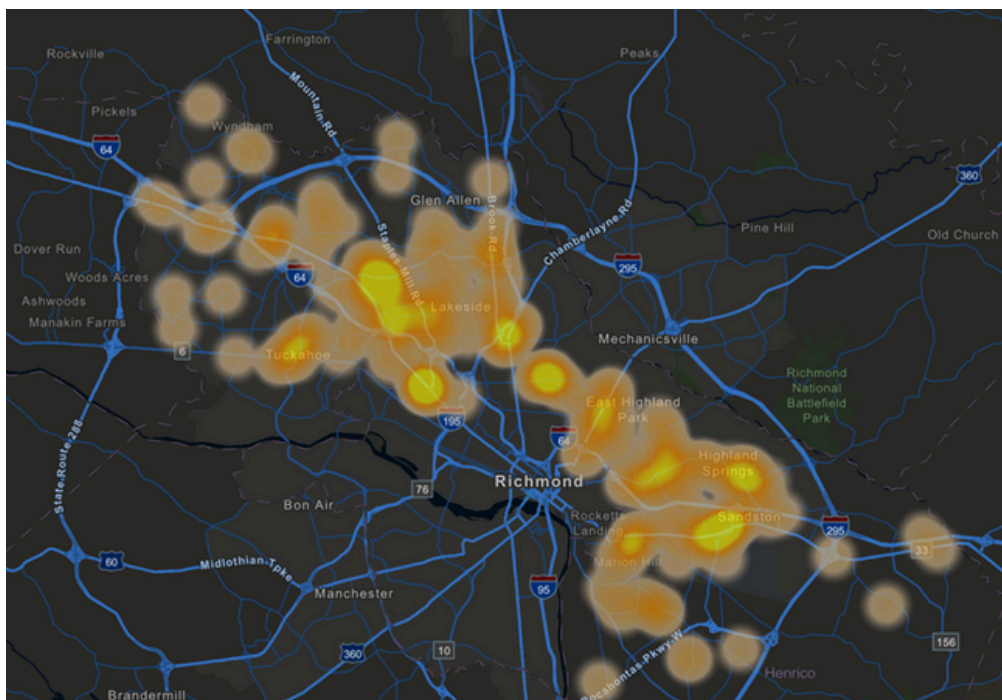
For any questions, contact Sarah Perkins-Smith 804-501-7596
Make checks payable to Henrico County Community Partners and mail to
8600 Dixon Powers Drive Henrico, VA 23228


Henrico Recovery Court
Running Over A New Leaf

Data Committee

The Empower Henrico Task Force Data Committee continued to play a vital support role this year by responding to numerous data requests from other committees. Thank you to Michael Roth (Fire), whose years of dedicated service have been instrumental to our success. This year, the committee began tracking monthly web traffic to the new Empower Henrico website, with findings shared across the task force. A key focus has been overcoming barriers to sharing EMS data, which is currently restricted due to privacy regulations.

A collaborative effort is underway to enable County IT to access and de-identify data from multiple sources. We are investigating all the options to enable us to use local data to determine local decision making. These efforts aim to improve quality assurance, evaluate treatment and prevention strategies, and better track patient outcomes across Henrico County. Finally, a management specialist was hired to work with the Empower Task Force specifically for data mining and data analysis to ensure decision making is based on sound, objective data and targeted outcomes are tracked and achieved.



The above is a sample of the Henrico County Heat Map. A heat map shows in real time where overdoses are occurring. From the map, the county is able to see where the larger numbers of overdoses are occurring and can target interventions in those areas to help reduce the overdose rate and ultimately save lives.

Henrico Community Corrections

Community Corrections plays a critical role in supporting individuals with substance use disorders. We strive to enhance public safety while also promoting rehabilitation and holding individuals accountable. Officers assess risk and needs- and make the appropriate referrals for treatment programs. Interventions may include substance testing, mandated treatment, recovery support services, and frequent check-ins to ensure progress. By connecting individuals to evidence-based care and community resources, Community Corrections helps to reduce recidivism, support long-term recovery and improve individual and community resources. Our agency continues to oversee the Community-Based Housing for Individuals in Recovery Program (CHIRP) and we also provide intensive supervision to individuals through the Community Alternative Program (CAP) which includes facilitating Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT).

CARE Team, Division of Fire

The CARE Team with Henrico Fire has continued its mission to provide comprehensive peer support and substance use disorder (SUD) services across Henrico County. The program offers education, outreach, recovery support, and interagency collaboration.

Key Service Metrics (Monthly Averages)

- Residents Assisted with Peer Support/Referrals: 62
- Training Provided (Revive and Others): 11
- Narcan Boxes Distributed: 111
- Calls to Peer Line: 32

Outreach and Community Engagement

- Weekly outreach efforts include distribution of Narcan, fentanyl/xylazine test strips, wristbands, education and recovery resources to individuals with SUD.
- Co-visits were conducted with Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Medical Response Team (MRT), and Adult Protective Services (APS) to provide integrated support.
- Ongoing partnership with Daily Planet Health Services to offer combined medical and recovery outreach.
- Community Outreach events.

Recovery and Education Initiatives

- Recovery 101 educational meetings at Libbie Mill and Fairfield Libraries through 2024.
- Weekly hybrid SMART Recovery for Family and Friends meetings.
- Speaker at community events including Hidden in Plain Sight, CIT Training, new EMS/FF orientation, and jail-based programs.
- Revive training to community stakeholders.



Collaborative Efforts

- Active participant in Empower Task Force, Treatment Team, Youth Outreach, CHIRP, and STAR.
- Partnered with Homeward to provide Narcan and resources.

Professional Development and Recognition

- Achieved certifications in Problem Gambling, Human Trafficking Awareness, and became a National Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Certified SMART Recovery Facilitator, and Recovery Ally Trainer.
- Developed a First Responder Mental Health and SUD Resource Guide.
- NACO award for the innovative recovery wristbands created by William Pye, CPRS.

Program Innovations

- Overdose Leave-Behind Initiative: Fire/EMS began distributing resource bags at overdose scenes, containing Narcan, test strips, recovery materials, and family support information.
- Post-Overdose Follow-up: Weekly phone follow-ups expanded to in-person outreach beginning January 2025, with positive community feedback.



VOAA Funding, Grants Committee and Abatement Efforts



The Grants and Opioid settlement committee has been extremely active in FY2025 in anticipation of FY2026. Henrico County and the Empower Task Force submitted 8 proposals for projects utilizing Opioid Abatement Authority funds and was awarded all 8. Henrico participated in an additional 2 other VOAA applications with other localities.

The new individual (Henrico only) awards are as follows:

Place-Based Media: Anti-Vaping and Marijuana Campaign **\$9,900**

A targeted marketing campaign focused on adolescents to inform and modify addictive behaviors. More information found in the Youth Outreach Committee report.

Naloxone Distribution Cabinets for Libraries and MHDS **\$22,991**

6 Naloxone distribution cabinets will be placed throughout the county. Libbie Mill and Fairfield libraries are initial sites. Additionally, HAMHDS will install 4 naloxone distribution cabinets at the main offices.

Operation Stop! **\$250,000**

Henrico County was one of 7 Virginia jurisdictions to experience a significant increase in overdoses in the African American community. Reversing these numbers and providing support to these impacted communities is the number one priority for the task force. Empower TF developed 5 immediate strategies: **Contracting for a Needs Assessment to advise of community needs, best practices, and recommended strategies; Hiring a Peer Recovery Specialist to connect with community members; Collecting Data focusing on determining where resources should immediately be applied; Increasing Harm Reduction materials in the community; and Developing Monthly Community Events to connect residents with services.**

Empower TF also submitted two Cooperative Grant Proposals with neighboring jurisdictions:

Regional Recovery Day (with Chesterfield, Richmond, Hanover) **\$46,946**

Building on the success of the 2024 event, the regional partners were awarded a grant to expand the scope and participation in the 2025 Regional Recovery Day which is scheduled for September 3, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Henrico Sports & Events Center. The event will again feature speakers and a vendor fair.

Hospital Liaisons- PPW (with Col Heights, Richmond, Chesterfield, Hanover) **\$270,349**

In 2023, a VOAA regional planning grant was utilized to employ the VCU Wright Center to complete a needs assessment for pregnant and parenting mothers battling substance use disorder. As a result of the data provided, the localities were awarded funding for a new effort. The localities will hire 2 registered nurses to serve as liaisons between hospitals, OB/GYN offices, other medical facilities, and local DSS and Community Service Boards. These nurses will provide education to medical providers as well as make connections with community resources for treatment and recovery support.

Empower TF also submitted three projects for VOAA renewal:

DSS Kinship Navigator **\$86,248**

In 2024, Henrico DSS first hired a Kinship Navigator to work with families at risk of having children placed in foster care due to parental substance use. The Kinship Navigator is knowledgeable about substance use and is fully aware of resources in the community to support youth and family members with SUD. The position supports family members of youth at risk for foster care, so they can stay in supportive family settings rather than be moved to traditional foster care. This project was the subject of a presentation at the national RX Summit in 2025.

VOAA Funding, Grants Committee and Abatement Efforts cont....

MAT Treatment Hours Expansion

\$87,750

Since FY24, Empower TF has received funding to expand prescriber hours to provide medication assisted treatment to residents in need. Utilizing FY2025 funding, HAMHDS was able to increase the number of residents receiving this service.

Pregnant and Parenting Women Recovery Program (with New Kent, Charles City Counties) **\$643,312**

As discussed further in this Annual Report, FY2026 will be the third year of the PPW program. This project will continue to have the financial flexibility to meet the needs of these families, and the certain increased participation due to the Hospital Liaisons award. This program won a 2025 NACo award for the impressive outcomes achieved.

In addition, Henrico County also participated in 2 Cooperative Partnerships led by neighboring localities:

Chesterfield Recovery Academy - FY26

Hiring peer recovery specialists to work with families whose youth are engaged with Chesterfield Recovery Academy

Richmond Resource Guide - FY25

Development of an online resource guide for the entire metro-area for persons needing assistance with SUD.

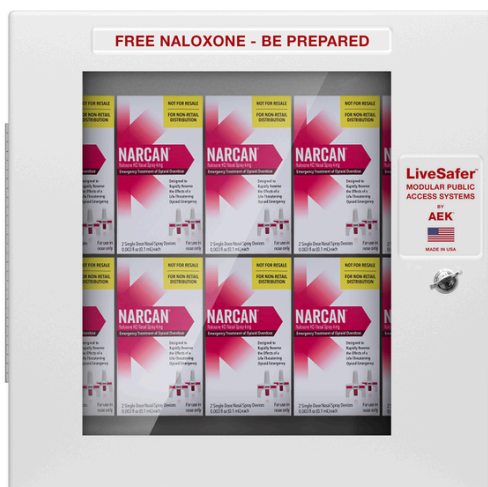
Henrico also has direct distribution opioid abatement funding to support multiple projects; here are just a few:

- Police Athletic League substance use education
- First Tee Recovery Event
- Mobile unit supplies
- St. Luke summer programming
- Wound care kits
- Drug Disposal Kits for the Aging Work Group
- SUD Director at HAMHDS
- Data Specialist for the Empower Task Force



The Empower Task Force is working hard to utilize data in decision making and management so that the right projects are funded and produce positive and impactful outcomes.

The Grants committee welcomes ideas and thoroughly explores each project proposed. Please email [Mike Feinmel](#) or [Laura Totty](#) with new project ideas.



Youth Outreach Committee

The goal of the subcommittee is to ensure that youth have access to resources, prevention messaging, input and leadership in work to combat youth substance use.

The committee participated in many activities this year. One such activity was Hidden in Plain Sight. The committee partnered with Henrico High Schools, Henrico Sheriff's office, Henrico Fire, Too Smart 2 Start and HAMHDS to host five events in middle and high schools. Substance use prevention education and Rapid Revive Training were provided for community members. Participants heard from current inmates from the Henrico County Jail as well as peer recovery specialists working in the community.



The committee worked closely with Varina High School's Communication Department to support local youth surveys and focus groups for the purpose of understanding the youth perspective on substance use. Results from these efforts led to a partnership with Place Based Media for a targeted advertising campaign for youth funded through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

Additional activities included:

- Provided education materials at the Teen Summit RVA
- Supported education and prevention efforts at St. Luke Apartment Connect + program
- [Adolescent Fentanyl Fact Sheet](#) was disseminated to all families through the schools. The resource highlights the [It Only Takes One Campaign](#).
- Tiered Intervention School Counselors (TISCs) completed their first year providing substance use prevention, intervention and mental health support in all high schools in Henrico County. Their work has had a tremendous impact on students.



Henrico PAL

Based on the grant award from the Opioid Abatement Authority in October 2024, Henrico PAL made significant strides in developing its youth substance awareness initiative across Henrico County, following its guiding principle: "The Right Way Not Right Away." With deliberate planning and support from HAMHDS Prevention Program Manager Jacquelyn Smith-White, the program shifted focus to first strengthening youth mental health and wellness before diving into substance-specific topics like vaping, alcohol, gambling, and drugs. This foundational approach aims to help youth build confidence, understand themselves, and develop the resilience needed to resist harmful coping mechanisms. Henrico PAL successfully onboarded seven diverse Substance Awareness Counselors who are facilitating evidence-based programs like Botvin LifeSkills and the One Circle curriculum. Over 900 youth ages 6 to 18 received these lessons.

Additionally, PAL is collaborating with the Henrico Police Division to educate more than 300 middle and high school students on the dangers of fentanyl, supported by specialized training. Further efforts are underway with HAMHDS to introduce One Circle Curriculum to enhance trauma-informed, culturally competent programming. Henrico PAL is proud of the progress made and remains committed to growth, partnerships, and long-term impact on the youth of Henrico County.



Henrico County Public Library

The Henrico County Public Library (HCPL) has staff serving on the Empower Task Force and several committees. In fall 2024, HCPL collaborated with Henrico EngAGE/Advocate for the Aging, HAMHDS and Henrico Recreation and Parks to launch a quarterly newsletter highlighting resources and events of interest to the senior community. Library staff helped redesign the website to a new version: <https://recovery.henrico.gov/>.

HCPL offered to be one of the first organizations in Henrico County to pilot the wall-mounted Naloxone boxes as well as provide this medication at the reference services desks at the Libbie Mill and Fairfield Area libraries.

HCPL hosted a table at the Regional Recovery Day 2024, sharing resources for those in recovery and promoting library services to families. HCPL offers many pro-social recovery opportunities.

HCPL continued to add to its bolstered addiction and recovery book collection, incorporating specific titles recommended by Empower subcommittees and peer recovery specialists.

Finally, HCPL has more than 60 library staff members who are REVIVE!-trained, and Narcan is stored at all library locations to be used in emergencies. HCPL is a strong ally in the fight against overdose in our community.

Treatment Committee

The Treatment Subcommittee has been busy throughout the year with multiple projects.

A small but mighty work group formed to bring naloxone vending machines to Henrico County. The work group decided to start small and implement newspaper-style boxes to four HAMHDS clinics and two library locations. Committee members received VOAA funding to cover the cost of the naloxone and the newspaper boxes. This resource will be available by the end of 2025.

A family support work group was developed and focused on identifying resources in the community for family members and loved ones of individuals with substance misuse. A list of resources was identified to include support groups, education programs, books, and podcasts. These resources were added to the family page of the Empower Henrico Website, <https://recovery.henrico.gov>. Moving forward, the work group will monitor this resource to ensure it is up to date.

The treatment committee spent considerable time developing a plan for addressing the high numbers of overdoses in the African American population in Henrico County. A STOP application was submitted and approved by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority. Project objectives are 1: identify residents at higher risk of OD and specifically those who may be hard to reach using traditional outreach methods. 2. Develop and implement a targeted outreach and communication strategy for high-risk individuals. 3. Implement or expand harm-reduction efforts targeting the identified high-risk population. 4. Implement or expand treatment and/or recovery support services for this high-risk population. This will be accomplished via a comprehensive needs assessment/gap analysis completed by a contracted provider, the addition of a peer position in prevention to complete targeted outreach, education and linking to treatment resources within the African American population, and developing strong partnerships with organizations/entities serving this population and adding naloxone and harm-reduction materials in the Neighborhood Resource Center, and a targeted education/prevention campaign to be used at frequently visited locations such as convenience stores and barber shops.

Henrico Police

The Prevention Services Unit in collaboration with Community Policing, Henrico Fire CARE Team, Moments of Hope, Feed More, and HAMHDS conducted a hotel initiative to provide resources for families in need of services. Many of these families have struggled with substance misuse. The locations visited were the Regency Inn (1500 Eastridge Road) and Motel 6 (7831 Shrader Road). The items distributed included food, resource sheets, NARCAN, and toiletries. This annual initiative resulted in 109 total contacts.



The Community Policing Unit also participated in the Homeless Point in Time. The purpose of Point in Time Count is to contact unhoused individuals residing within Henrico County. Many of these individuals have experienced mental health and/or substance use struggles. Resources are provided to everyone with whom there is contact. This is a biannual initiative that is conducted in summer and winter.

Supervisory members and intelligence analysts of the Police Division's Drug Enforcement Unit are tasked with regularly attending the Empower Task Force meetings to offer insight from the law enforcement perspective on trends and patterns they are seeing and work to contribute toward the community's battle with substance abuse.

To support this important mission, two supervisory Police Division members attended the 2025 Rx and Illicit Drug Summit in Nashville, TN to collaborate with colleagues from around the country on how other localities are using innovative ideas to address substances and the overdose epidemic.

The first Regional Recovery Day was held on September 30, 2024, at the Henrico Sports & Events Center. Police attended and had an active role.

Richmond & Henrico Health Districts

Henrico residents played a key role in Richmond & Henrico Health District's Community Health Assessment process. Of the 1,263 surveys completed, 465 were from Henrico County. Residents shared what's working and what's not. Violence, chronic disease, and mental health including substance use emerged as the most urgent health challenges. Throughout 2025, RHHD and its partners are advancing a Community Health Improvement Plan focused on these challenges.

Efforts to address substance use disorder include:

- Naloxone & Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution
- Overdose prevention education
- Partnership with the Governor's Office and the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS) to support statewide naloxone education for the General Assembly, staff and the public
- Partnership with Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services with mobile MAT treatment and harm reduction
- Community Health Worker Engagement including on-site health education, CPR demonstrations, blood pressure checks and navigation to social and supportive services
- Utilization of Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) – insights shared with internal and external partners
- Development of a Regional Resource Guide for Substance Use, Mental Health and Behavioral Health developed.



Aging Actively Initiative

Formed in October 2023 under the Empower Henrico Treatment Committee, the Aging Actively Workgroup addresses substance use, prevention, medication misuse, and accidental overdoses among Henrico's aging population. In partnership with local experts and community providers, the group uses a community-based approach, including outreach through the Henrico Public Library's Bookmobile to many over 55+ communities in the county. The purpose is to deliver education on safe medication disposal and overdose prevention. The group also produces a quarterly Aging Actively publication, featuring events, helpful resources, contact information, and practical tips tailored to older adults. Supported by funding Henrico County's direct distribution of Opiate Abatement funding, the initiative has distributed 623 medication disposal kits and trained 85 individuals in naloxone administration.



Regional Recovery Day 2024

The first annual Regional Recovery Day was held on September 30, 2024. The event took place at the Henrico Sports & Event Center and marked the end of National Recovery Month. It was presented by Henrico, Chesterfield, Hanover and the City of Richmond. This free event included speakers, a peer panel, AcuWellness, Revive Training, County and City Resources, and a vendor fair. The event was well attended, and feedback was positive, prompting the four localities to plan another event on September 3, 2025. The event was so successful, the localities won a **National Association of Counties Award** and this year's event is being funded through an application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

Please join us for an even bigger event this year. See the flyer on the cover for details!



Pyramid Healthcare Henrico County Partnership

In early 2022, Pyramid Healthcare became aware of Henrico County's efforts to establish a substance use treatment center as part of a comprehensive effort to establish an effective local recovery ecosystem. The County was in search of an experienced and trustworthy behavioral healthcare organization to build and operate a state-of-the-art facility to serve the community with detox and residential treatment services.

With over 25 years of experience providing these exact services to underserved residents in communities across the east coast, Pyramid Healthcare was immediately interested in partnering with Henrico County to bring their concept to life. With two large existing substance use programs in Virginia and a firm understanding of the treatment landscape in Virginia, Pyramid engaged with County leadership on strategies to build a program that would address high overdose rates and alleviate strain on local emergency services.

As of July 2025, Henrico County has formally partnered with Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. to break ground on a state-of-the-art substance use disorder treatment center. Located at 3808 Nine Mile Road in Henrico. The facility is expected to open its doors in spring 2026. Prioritizing admission for county residents, the new treatment center serves those most vulnerable within our community, providing access to critically needed withdrawal management and ASAM Level 3.5 residential treatment services in a secure environment focused on sustainable, long-term recovery.

The goal of this partnership is to integrate Pyramid Healthcare's treatment services seamlessly within Henrico County's established treatment and recovery ecosystem. To maximize impact, the county is collaborating with Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. to establish streamlined referral protocols with local police, EMS and criminal justice entities, strengthening our community's ability to respond to substance-related emergencies. By aligning our resources and expertise, Henrico County and Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. aim to reduce overdose rates, relieve burdens on our public systems and empower struggling community residents toward lasting wellness. Additionally, we hope that this public-private partnership will serve as a blueprint for other communities seeking innovative solutions to combat the addiction crisis.

Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (HAMHDS): Outpatient Services

HAMHDS serves over 600 individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) each year. Services include peer support, evidence-based individual and group therapy, medication-assisted treatment (OBAT), mobile services, Hep C treatment if medically approved and AcuWellness. Staff provide groups in Henrico County jails and support those in the jail MAT program transitioning to HAMHDS community services. HAMHDS understands the importance of non-judgement and individualized treatment. Services are available for individuals with co-occurring SUD and mental health conditions. We are committed to integrated and collaborative client focused care. In FY26, HAMHDS SUD staff will be implementing the evidence-based treatment of contingency management in a more extensive manner. These efforts will be specifically utilized for group attendance.

Recovery looks different for everyone, and our peers are versed in abstinence-based and harm reduction strategies. We utilize REVIVE training to educate individuals on spotting an overdose and equip them with the lifesaving medication, Naloxone. To register for REVIVE training, call 804-727-8515. Additionally, we offer items such as overdose prevention kits, wound care kits, drug disposal kits and medication lock boxes.

Over the past several years, we have increased the availability of community-based services such as Pregnant and Parenting Women's Recovery Services, the Mobile Re-entry program and the Mobile Unit Community Treatment program. All three of these programs were recognized by the National Association of Counties and have been designated as NACo award recipients in 2025. We have purchased a mobile unit to be delivered in late 2025 and plan on increasing the amount of time spent in Henrico County offering mobile SUD treatment.

To enroll in services, simply walk into Same Day Access any time Monday through Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Thursdays: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Locations for Same Day Access are: 10299 Woodman Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 and 3908 Nine Mile Road, Henrico, VA 23223, or call 804-727-8515.

Pregnant and Parenting Women Recovery Services

Through a collaboration between Henrico, New Kent and Charles City counties and funded through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, the Pregnant and Parenting Women Recovery program has been in existence since the winter of 2023. This program provides wrap-around supports to women who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder and their children. To date the program has served 53 women.

Both the women and children are linked with needed medical care, mental health treatment, substance use recovery support, medication management, transportation support, childcare, vocational assistance and housing support. Since the start of the program five children have returned to live with their moms after out of home placement. Eight babies have been born and none of them experienced Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Referrals come from many sources: hospitals, treatment programs, recovery homes, social services, jails and self-referrals. To seek services please attend Same Day Access or call 804-727-8515.

One mom, N.N. shared, "You guys helped save my life. I was considering giving up my kids, I was giving up. I was alive but I wasn't living." After having received services she reports, "Because you guys helped me gain confidence to have a foundation and basically helped me feel normal again...Ultimately you guys gave me a safe space. The safety and comfort I feel when I come there, it feels like a retreat almost – so that I can recondition myself...I feel ready to do life, I'm more confident in applying for jobs and my kids are doing so much better. I get through the days without using at all and it has surprised me. No cravings at all. HAMHDS teaches you how to fish, they teach you the tools that help you to survive and thrive."



Prevention Services Unit

HAMHDS Prevention Services Unit (PSU) works to prevent substance use, mental illness, suicide, youth violence and gambling while promoting overall wellness.

PSU is responsible for the merchant education of 325 stores that sell alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and/or provides access to gaming and gambling in Henrico, Charles City and New Kent. The team visits each store and provides education to the stores on their responsibilities as retailers of these items.

Connect programming offers after school and summer care in five underserved and resource poor communities in Henrico. This year a fifth site, St. Luke Apartments, was added due to the generous support of Senator Lamont Bagby. In addition, the Coventry Gardens program transitioned to The OAK in a newly formed partnership with Henrico County Public Schools. This transition allowed more children to participate. Connect offers homework assistance, literacy support, education on substance use prevention and overall wellness. Additionally, there are opportunities for educational field trips, hot meals daily, and lots of fun! The Connect program has many partners including Henrico Libraries, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, YMCA and others. In FY 2025 more than 200 students were served. Outcomes show both a significant increase in reading level and significantly increased unfavorable attitudes towards alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for participants.



Thirty-two teens participated in the Youth Ambassador (YA) program. YA is a teen program designed to address substance misuse, violence and gaming/gambling in our community. The youth created and produced one radio PSA and one TV commercial. YA attended the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project at Christopher Newport College in July 2024. YA also completed Project Sticker Shock activities, a program where teens and staff place stickers at establishments that sell substances. These stickers warn of the legal penalties for providing alcohol to minors and using fake IDs to purchase alcohol with the goal being to provide education and to change the attitude of those who provide alcohol to minors.



Prevention Committee

The Prevention Subcommittee is a collaborative effort comprising HAMHDS, Richmond Henrico Health District Henrico Libraries, Henrico Police Department, Henrico Department of Social Services, and the Too Smart 2 Start Coalition. Our mission is to promote prevention efforts, enhance community resources, and foster a culture of empowerment in Henrico County.

In our commitment to enhancing community engagement and accessibility to resources, the Subcommittee has successfully revised the previous Bounce Back website. The new platform, <https://recovery.henrico.gov> serves as a resource hub, offering information on substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.

During Prevention Week, the Subcommittee hosted an event entitled, The Power of Possibilities. This initiative featured the documentary, Speaking Through Me, followed by a panel discussion at the Henrico Theatre. The event aimed to raise awareness about mental health and substance use issues while showcasing community resources. The positive response from the community underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing these critical issues.

Currently, the Subcommittee is researching programs designed for faith leaders and hope to focus efforts on engaging this population in the coming year. We aim to create a network that fosters understanding and support for substance use prevention within the community. If you are a faith leader and are interested, please reach out to Leslie Stephen at 804-727-8500.



Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition

Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition has had a successful year. The Coalition was awarded a Drugs Free Communities Grant by the Drugs Free Community Support Program. The funding serves as a capacity building resource for coalitions in pursuit of increasing community engagement and reducing youth substance misuse.

An Executive Board Member of the coalition began serving on HCPS's School Health Advisory Board. The coalition participates on several Empower committees where we have been an active partner, hosting Hidden in Plain Sight events to empower parents to speak with their youth and participating in the Power of Possibility, a town hall discussing the dangers of youth substance misuse and the importance of family and community solutions.

In pursuit of reducing youth substance misuse, the coalition partnered with a community provider to host 5 fun and interactive healthy decision knowledge bowls. Collectively the events hosted nearly 500 middle and high school students as they competed to learn and practice substance misuse prevention strategies. The coalition also collaborated with partners to provide life skills and substance misuse prevention workshops.

The coalition is significantly expanding and training its team of youth leaders to engage with civic organizations and businesses. Youth leaders will lead our community with ensuring an environment that encourages youth to avoid substance misuse and to make healthy decisions. A DMV grant to promote safe and sober driving will support this effort and allow for an assessment of Henrico's youth views and behaviors about substance misuse. The results of this study can inform the county's youth-serving organizations about the direction to take the most impact.

What can YOU do to help your community?

Get trained to use naloxone - for training and free naloxone, please call 804-727-8515.

Host a naloxone training for your community organization. Call 804-727-8515 to learn how.

Lock your medications.

Safely dispose of medications that are no longer being used.

Help others to avoid peer pressure.

Encourage members of your community to seek mental health services when needed.

Learn good stress management for yourself and support it in others.

Learn how to combat the stigma of addiction.

Be an advocate.

Share your story.

Get engaged.

Spread the message that recovery works.

Talk with people in recovery.

Participate in Task Force efforts.



**EMPOWER
HENRICO**

Preventing, Treating and Combating Substance Use
