
Sobering Facilities: 2017 Legislative Assembly Report



Oregon
Health
Authority
Health Systems Division

Sobering Facilities: Legislative Assembly Report

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The 2015 House Bill 2936 (bill) requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to report on sobering facilities to each regular session of the Legislative Assembly, beginning with the 2017 regular session. The reports must cover the extent to which sobering facilities registered with OHA have provided safe, clean and appropriate environments for police officers to take people who are intoxicated. OHA may also report any other information that the agency determines may be useful to the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the benefits of sobering facilities.

Registry overview

Pursuant to the bill, OHA registered three sobering facilities currently in operation on the effective date of the 2015 Act. All three sobering facilities submitted registration requests before the December 31, 2015, deadline attesting that the facility meets the following definition in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes 430.306

(8) "Sobering facility" means a facility that meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The facility operates for the purpose of providing to individuals who are acutely intoxicated a safe, clean and supervised environment until the individuals are no longer acutely intoxicated.*
- (b) The facility contracts with or is affiliated with a treatment program or a provider approved by the authority to provide addiction treatment, and the contract or affiliation agreement includes, but is not limited to, case consultation, training and advice and a plan for making referrals to addiction treatment.*
- (c) The facility, in consultation with the addiction treatment program or provider, has adopted comprehensive written policies and procedures incorporating best practices for the safety of intoxicated individuals, employees of the facility and volunteers at the facility.*

OHA provided each sobering facility with written confirmation of the facility's registration. The existing sobering facilities that registered are:

Name	Address	County	Registration Date
Willamette Family, Inc. Buckley's Sobering Services	605 W. 4th Avenue Eugene, OR 97402	Lane	August 27, 2015
Addictions Recovery Center Moore Sobering and Stabilization	338 N. Front St. Medford, OR 97501	Jackson	September 4, 2015
Central City Concern Sobering Program	20 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd. Portland, OR 97232	Multnomah	December 21, 2015

Also pursuant to the bill, OHA is allowed to register up to three additional sobering facilities after January 1, 2016. One sobering facility submitted a written request for registration attesting that the facility meets the definition in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes 430.306 as stated above. Two additional sobering facilities have been identified; however, they have not asked to be registered.

The newest registered sobering facility is:

Name	Address	County	Registration Date
Choices Counseling Center	1010 Foundry Grants Pass, OR 97526	Josephine	April 13, 2016

The identified unregistered sobering facilities are:

Name	Address	County
Klamath County Sobering Facility	TBD	Klamath
Status: The engineering and floor plans are finalized, architectural drawings complete. The funding for the construction is ready and the property has been rezoned and platted. The cold and wet winter weather of 2016-2017 has delayed the start of construction. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2017. Policies and procedures have been developed and staffing patterns in place. Partners are in place and as a community, they are ready.		
Douglas County Sobering Facility	TBD	Douglas
Status: Adapt is expected to receive the funding and contract with Douglas County. ADAPT plans to subcontract with community groups, including United Community Action Network (UCAN), to deliver the services.		

Registry totals

OHA's current registry includes four sobering facilities with two unregistered sobering facilities expected to submit registration requests.

The benefit of sobering facilities

The sobering facilities have developed successful strategies to protect the health, safety and well-being of the intoxicated person, peers and staff. There have been no reports of extreme critical incidents such as deaths or aggravated assault or battery in any of the registered sobering facilities. Each facility reports it is procedurally sound and operationally fluid.

The registered sobering facilities have provided acutely intoxicated people with a safe place to stay while the chemical effects of the intoxicant(s) subsides to the point at which they are safely able to leave the facility under their own volition. Many people using the sobering facilities face severe life challenges—they are chronically homeless, have been involved in the criminal justice system, experience higher rates of co-occurring disorders or lack vocational and psycho-social stability, for example.

The sobering facilities offer a variety of treatment options and referrals to help people know when they are ready to engage in a program of recovery. These facilities are also resource centers, providing information on a variety of social service options people may wish to access when they leave. Trained sobering technicians should be made available to ensure safety of the clients, staff members and those transporting clients to and from the facilities. Services of this type are focused on safety and may last anywhere from four to 48 hours.

Sobering facilities benefit communities in many ways, including driving down the use of law enforcement and emergency rooms and driving up the number of people using substance use disorder treatment programs and other social services. While sobering centers are not part of substance use treatment, per se, they complement traditional public safety services by providing both an alternative to incarceration and a health and safety option that costs much less than a hospital emergency department.