



ODYSSEY HOUSE LOUISIANA

SOBERING CENTER

SLEEP, SAFETY AND SUPPORT

The Sobering Center is a **25-bed facility** to receive individuals identified as **publicly intoxicated** by NOPD, State Police, other law enforcement agents based within Orleans Parish, and/or New Orleans EMS. Intoxicated individuals would stay at the facility while they sober up, under the care of trained staff. The Sobering Center will welcome and care for anyone so deemed publicly intoxicated, including “chronic inebriates,” i.e. individuals with substance use disorders who live on the streets, as well as visitors to New Orleans who have over-imbibed.

The Sobering Center addresses **public safety** for both inebriated clients and the general population. Rather than remaining on the streets, vulnerable individuals are removed from harm’s way or an escalating situation and brought to a **safe, secure environment** until they are able to make more conscious choices. The Sobering Center is a more appropriate destination than jails or emergency rooms, as clients will be monitored for specific cues, recover from immediate acute alcohol impairment, and have a “warm handoff” into medically supported detox or additional services if appropriate.

The Sobering Center is a partnership with Odyssey House Louisiana and



SOBERING CENTER FAQs

WHY IS A SOBERING CENTER NEEDED?

OHL's Sobering Center would reduce the time and energy spent by EMS and NOPD on responding to non-violent, acutely intoxicated individuals, and reduce public expenditures within the health care and criminal justice systems, while improving the options for chronically inebriated individuals to receive access to more cost-effective and coordinated life-saving care and treatment.

WHERE IS THE SOBERING CENTER LOCATED?

732 N. Claiborne Ave
New Orleans, LA 70116

This is an ideal location for the Sobering Center, both in its proximity to OHL's treatment facilities and to downtown.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF OPERATION?

The Sobering Center will operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION?

To be eligible for Sobering Center admission, the client must be:

- Conscious and ambulatory (client can walk, or be assisted in walking, through the door)
- Non-combative
- 18 years or older
- Impaired on alcohol; clients who are impaired from other substances may be transferred to hospital emergency department or a detox program including OHL's Medically Supported Detox program.

IS IT VOLUNTARY OR INVOLUNTARY?

Both voluntary admissions via walk-ins and inebriated individuals deemed necessary for admission by EMS or NOPD will be admitted. **If you see an intoxicated individual in need of services, please call 911.** All admits should be evaluated by EMS or NOPD to ensure that they are medically stable to enter the Sobering Center and do not need a higher level of care.

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

Most clients will remain asleep throughout their stay, will be routinely checked to monitor vital signs, and will be provided with nutrition and oral fluids. At the Sobering Center, clients will have access to a bed, meals, showers, and laundry services. They will also be provided with safety, clinical staffing, and access to treatment. A breathalyzer will be completed upon entering the center to ensure that the client is intoxicated from alcohol and not another substance. Drug tests and blood tests will not be completed.

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF STAY?

The average length of stay would be 4-8 hours, at which point individuals would be released and referred to additional services if needed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Upon sobering up, an over-imbibed visitor or resident will simply return to their hotel or home via ride share, taxi or personal pickup. However, especially important for street-dwelling, serially inebriated clients, the Sobering Center will uniquely serve as a much-needed intervention and referral for substance use disorder treatment programs, including the OHL's Medically Supported Detoxification center and Residential Treatment Program. OHL will arrange transportation to admit willing clients into treatment as soon as they are ready.