

**Lead Agency:** County Human Services

**Program Contact:** Devarshi Bajpai

**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating

**Related Programs:**

**Program Characteristics:**

### Executive Summary

The Sobering program provides a safe, secure holding environment for persons who are publicly intoxicated due to alcohol or drug abuse. As these individuals regain their functionality, staff encourages them to seek further care. The Sobering program has more than 6,000 annual admissions.

### Program Description

The Sobering program is a multi-jurisdictionally-funded community resource that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The program provides special emphasis on ethnic minorities, people who are homeless, and women. Staff is appropriately licensed and credentialed (such as Emergency Medical Technicians) and is knowledgeable about acute alcohol/drug intoxication and emergency first aid techniques. The Sobering program serves more than 6,000 clients annually. The average length of stay is 5.5 hours.

The Sobering program serves a public safety function by providing a medically monitored environment in which these individuals become responsive to their surroundings while they are protected from abuse and neglect. This program reduces the use of critical and finite police, fire and emergency services. The Sobering program includes the CHIERS (Central City Concern Hooper Inebriate Emergency Response Service) mobile outreach van, funded by the City of Portland, to transport intoxicated persons to the program.

The Sobering program also provides a behavioral health function by providing a point of intervention for these persons who are publicly intoxicated. Before the individual is released, staff gives them information about chemical dependency, alcohol and drug treatment options, and access to additional health care.

### Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output	Total Admissions <sup>1</sup>	6,806	9,000	6,490	6,500
Outcome	Percentage of clients that successfully discharge <sup>2</sup>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### Performance Measure - Description

<sup>1</sup> Total admissions to Sobering have been declining for the last 3 years (FY10 = 9,564, FY 11 = 7,152, and FY 12 = 6,806.) Prior to July 2009, City of Portland police officers had discretion to issue a citation for some low level crimes, such as disorderly conduct and offensive littering. The police could then take the individual to the Sobering program on a civil hold if they were intoxicated. However, in July 2009 a policy change was implemented and police started making arrests for low-level offenses. At about the same time, the City Attorney advised the Portland Police Bureau that they could not transport individuals under a civil hold from private property. This decision reduced the number of individuals transported by the CHIERS mobile outreach van to the Sobering program. CHIERS had its hours of operation decreased by 6 hours a day on 7/1/2012 which is dropping the number of admissions to the Sobering program again.

<sup>2</sup> A successful discharge includes: a) no deaths in sobering (the program had one death six years ago); and b) clients are cognizant of surroundings and no longer in immediate danger of harm to self or others.

**Legal/Contractual Obligation****Revenue/Expense Detail**

	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>	2013	2013	2014	2014
Contracts	\$643,415	\$0	\$657,892	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$643,415</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$657,892</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$643,415</b>		<b>\$657,892</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Total Revenue:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

\$657,892 - County General Fund

**Significant Program Changes**

Last year this program was: #25091, Sobering