



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 4:00 PM

AGENDA

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, relation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5446, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA ITEMS

1. EMERGENCY SHELTER UPDATE.
2. DISCUSSION REGARDING SOBERING CENTERS.

ADJOURNMENT



Report for December 2023

Total Stays	1,597
Unique Guests	113
---- Women	42
---- Men	71
---- No Single Gender	0
---- Transgender	0
Veterans	6
Age	
18-30	22
31-50	46
51-61	37
62 +	8
Not Recorded	
Nightly Average	52

Notes

In December 2023, we assisted six guests to return to the city in which their family lives by purchasing a bus ticket.

In December 2023, we helped 12 guests access their ID, Birth Certificate and/or social security card.

In December 2023, 4 of these guests moved into permanent housing here in Norman or a housing program offered by Food and Shelter.

We had a very special Christmas Day at A Friend's House. A local food truck came with smoked meat and a ton of sides for our guests to enjoy Christmas night. Through the help of our community, we had wrapped gifts for each of our guests to open. These were lovely things quite special to them and everyone was so grateful.

Sobering Centers

City Council Oversight Committee

January 2024



What are Sobering Centers?

Sobering centers are designed to provide a safe environment for intoxicated individuals to recover from the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Goals of these types of facilities include:

- Providing care for homeless alcohol-dependent persons and improved health outcomes.
- Decrease the number of inappropriate ambulance trips and emergency department (ED) visits for homeless alcohol-dependent individuals.
- Create a law enforcement alternative to booking individuals arrested for public intoxication.

Source: <https://www.acep.org/by-medical-focus/mental-health-and-substance-use-disorders/sobering-centers>



FIRSTSTEP – OKC Metro Alliance

Public Inebriate Alternative (PIA) in partnership with the Oklahoma City Police Department

- Provides 24/7 alternate to arrest and jail for public intoxication
- Individuals are not under arrest and not charged with any other crime
- Individuals must voluntarily accept PIA admission
- Normally the length of stay is 10 hours
- Individuals have access to meals, showers, sleep, referrals to other services, and a ride home

Source: okcmetroalliance.com



FIRSTSTEP – OKC Metro Alliance - continued

Approximately 2500 admissions per year

Benefits of the program:

- PIA individuals avoid court costs and charges
- Approximate savings of 37,730 in taxpayer money per month (452,760 yearly)
- Police officers save time over conventional jail book-ins
- Cost is approximately 350,000 per year

Source: okcmetroalliance.com



Grand Addiction Recovery Center - Tulsa

Approximately 700-900 admissions per year

54% of participants are homeless

Benefits of the program:

- Co-located with both drug/alcohol treatment center and a mental health crisis unit
- 15-18% of individuals enter into substance abuse programs
- Operates a 16 person street outreach team (operates 24/7) that is able to remove an average of 39 people from the streets each month (some of these people revert to homeless status)
- City of Tulsa pays 250,000 per year for the service. I believe there are other sources of income as well

Source: Scott Whitefield, director



Norman Police Statistics

In 2023 the Norman Police Department made 634 arrests for public intoxication type behaviors. This includes both juvenile and adult arrests as well as alcohol and/or drug related types of intoxication.

Public intoxication counts by individual arrests

Subject Count	2020	2021	2022	2023
Count Over 14 to 15	1	1	0	3
Count 6 to 14	4	2	9	2
Count 2 to 5	31	34	42	51
Count of 1	291	310	374	427
Grand Total	327	347	425	483

CNT	Subject ID	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total	Homeless
1	-841564	9	15	10	14	48	YES
2	-911385	14	1	12	3	30	NO
3	-900067	1	3	11	15	30	YES
4	-948584	1		6	14	21	YES
5	-898125	7	2	5	6	20	YES
6	-162504		5	6	4	15	YES
7	-921095	2	5	4	3	14	YES
8	-184903		6	4	4	14	NO
9	-887362		1	6	2	9	YES
10	-934925		2	5	1	8	YES
11	-807100		1	6	1	8	NO
12	-677688		1	1	5	7	YES
13	-396536		1	1	4	6	YES
14	-847204		2	1	2	5	YES
15	-400019	1	1	1	2	5	NO
16	-896222		1	2	1	4	NO
17	-894612		1	1	2	4	NO
18	-880880		1	1	1	3	NO

56 individuals were arrested for public intoxication two times or more. One individual has been arrested 48 times over the past four years.



Literature Review

Characteristics of individuals using sobering centers for multiple visits:

- Male
- Homeless
- History of alcohol dependency and abuse
- Have other health related issues, both physical and psychiatric
- Other drug use



Recommendations

- Design should treat a root cause of homelessness – alcohol and drug addiction
- 24/7 operation
- Medical staff onsite
- Multiple admission methods – police, other social services, walk-ins, local healthcare agencies
- Co-located with other services such as mental health care and detox/addiction services



Literature References

Fischer, M., Iorde, M., Meischke, H., & Husain, S. (2020). Lessons learned from a sobering center pilot for acute alcohol intoxication in South King County, Washington. *Journal of Substance Abuse*, 27(2), 123-127

Smith-Bernardin, S., Carrico, A., Max, W., & Chapman, S. (2017). Utilization of a sobering center for acute alcohol intoxication. *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 24 (9), 1060-1071

Warren, O., Smith-Bernardin, S., Jamieson, K., Zaller, N., & Liferidge, A. (2016). Identification and practice patterns of sobering centers in the United States. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 27, 1843–1857

