

Mission Street Sobering Center

Assisting Santa Clara County Residents with Substance Use Recovery

About Mission Street Sobering Center

The Mission Street Sobering Center provides an alternative to jailing and prosecuting intoxicated individuals. It's a community facility, not a correctional facility. The Sobering Center is located adjacent to the Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center and is operated by Horizon Services Inc. Here, individuals can sober up, be assessed regarding their mental health status, and get referred to treatment services as needed.

The Sobering Center benefits residents by providing the resources they need to address health problems. It also benefits the general public by freeing up law enforcement and emergency medical staff and resources so they can provide for the health and safety of the community.

Goals

- Provide public inebriates with treatment rather than incarceration and prosecution.
- Eliminate unnecessary paramedic trips and time at hospital emergency departments.
- Improve public safety by freeing up law enforcement resources.
- Free up beds in emergency departments of local hospitals.
- Improve public health outcomes, including mortality rates, by offering immediate treatment as well as linkages to treatment services for long-term recovery.
- Coordinate assistance for recurrent clients of County resources.

History

In December of 1995, the County of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose created an alternative to booking individuals arrested for public inebriation. The Department of Correction discontinued the Sobering Station Program in 2003 as part of its budget reduction plan. In September of 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Sobering Center as a pilot jail diversion program located at 151 W. Mission St., San Jose, next to the Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center. Different from the initial program, the new pilot will provide a safe environment to recover from inebriation. Staff will use motivational interviewing techniques to engage individuals and offer direct access to treatment.

Operations

- Located at 151 W. Mission St. in San Jose.
- Capacity at opening will be 5 recliners.
- Projected capacity in January 2018: 20 recliners.
- Sobering Center operation will be 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Law enforcement from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the Campbell Police Department will deliver individuals to the Sobering Center. The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety is currently exploring participation during the pilot program.
- After January 2018, all Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies will be able to bring individuals to the Sobering Center.



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