

Attending: Carol Drennan
Bill Brice
Dr. Chris Ziebell
Jana Ortega
Chief Dusterhoft
Chief Brown

The purpose of our meeting was to discuss the feasibility of accepting people who are not only over-imbibing alcohol, but are impaired by other controlled substances; namely k2.

There are several reasons for wanting to consider this:

1. The extreme difficulty in determining intoxicants
 - a. Unreliability of breathalyzer tests
 - b. Inability to test for other substances
2. Current batches of K2 produce less aggressive behaviors

The consensus of the group is if they have been medically cleared and are not combative they can be sent to the Sobriety Center. If they are transported by EMS, they will be medically checked out and deemed acceptable to the Center. A protocol will need to be developed for this purpose.

We discussed the use of a van to pick up folks and take them to the Center, but there are other options that may serve the same purpose.

1. AFD has a proposal to provide a triage center on the second floor of the ARCH. Due to the short-lived effects (in most cases) of K2 this triage may eliminate the need to go to the Sobriety Center.
2. Bill Brice spoke of a proposal that was in the COA budget 3 to 4 years ago that set aside \$500K to cover and climatize a currently open area on the ground floor of the arch to provide a staging area. (note: I will check with Rey and Public Health to see about a status on this). See Below for Mitchell Gibbs note on the status.

“They do not include conditioning now. After 4 years of rising costs, it is now cost prohibitive over what was approved. They also ran into fire code regs, levelling of the floor, ventilation, plumbing code and other issues. All efforts at this point are cosmetic and utilitarian – lockers, cameras, fencing, fans, seating, etc. No bathrooms, no walls, no conditioning. “

These 2 options don't directly fall under the umbrella of the Sobriety Center, but they will have an impact on it.

The committee would like to propose to the Board of Directors a 6-month pilot program to handle K2 cases. It will require a change to the Articles of Incorporation. Dr. Ziebell offered his services (along with Dr. Strakowski) to speak to the City Council and the Commissioner's Court to get their approval for the pilot. It was suggested that we wait to amend the Articles until late in the year (or early 2018) because there may be other changes to be made.

Background: From the Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE IV. PURPOSES, ACTIVITIES

The Corporation shall be incorporated to aid and to act on behalf of the City and the County to accomplish their governmental purpose; namely to staff, manage, and operate a sobriety center for the safe short-term treatment and management of persons under the influence of **alcohol**, and to provide those persons with information on and referrals to community-based outpatient services, for the purposes of preservation of law enforcement, judicial, and medical resources in the jurisdictional limits of the City and the County.

Definition of Intoxication per the Texas Medical code:

not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination of two or more of those substances, or any other substance into the body;