



Conversation with Community Members at Peace House



On May 21, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff attending the daily guided group discussion with community members at Peace House. Peace House serves economically challenged and marginalized individuals. The conversation involved around 18 people who discussed the concept of a community safety center. After a short presentation, OCS staff answered questions, captured comments, and individuals participated in voting exercises and conversation about what social services and resources are important in a community safety center.

The following social services received the most votes:

- Mental Health
- Education Support
 - Classes
- Unsheltered homeless resources
 - Work with Catholic Charities and work on providing wet houses and safe living spaces
 - Detox
 - Wrap around services
 - Provide land – the State has spaces with 10 acres or more that can be used to create a safe outdoor space with security and fencing that is controlled
- Mentoring
 - Life skills/coaching
 - Motivational speakers
- Youth
 - Tutoring
 - Scholarship
 - Assistance writing applications

The following other building uses and resources received the most votes:

- Quiet/resting space
- Resource hub
- Gun buy-back
- Technology access
 - Typing classes
 - Assistance with technology classes
- Legal Services
 - Volunteer Legal Network
 - Free legal services
 - Mediation services

Other things to note:

- Focus on apprenticeships and have local contractors come to the building recruiting individuals
- Parenting classes
 - People with substance use disorder don't know how to handle emotions
- Renters rights education and workshops: People are going into encampments offering housing and people take them up on the offer only to not know their rights
- Be kind and don't give up on people – kindness goes along way
- Add a bus stop in front of the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center

- Upon entering center, make sure it's welcoming with smiling faces, people are greeted, and are not afraid to enter
 - Have rules listed so everyone understands expectations upon entering
- "Educate people on where offenders are located"
- Offer coloring books about curfews to the youth