



# Conversation with the LGBTQIA+ community



May 14, 2024

On May 14, 2024 Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff co-facilitated a conversation for the LGBTQIA+ community with Formation Healing Arts about community safety centers. The event was advertised and 14 people registered in advance. The day of the event, six people were in attendance.

After a presentation about the community safety centers, OCS staff answered questions and discussed what social services and resources would be beneficial to include in the community safety centers.

Top social services that came up

- Mental health
- Food security
  - Open free food pantry for grab and go service, not logged
  - Clean/cold water 24/7 outside of the building
- Addiction
  - Safe use sites
- Unsheltered homelessness resources
  - Showers
- Harm reduction supplies
  - Distribute harm reduction supplies to providers to hand out
  - Vending machine

The following other building uses and resources were discussed:

- Access to electricity to plug in phones
- Legal services
  - Help filing taxes
- Warming stations
- Free office space
- Advocates who are not employed by the city and who can help people navigating the systems
  - Connections to services
  - Interact with the system to help people
  - Document and address hate crimes

Other areas of concern:

- Basic needs are not met
  - Provide basic needs for people – food, water, and shelter
  - Look at the community and why people don't have basic needs met
- Current response system
  - The City needs an inventory of problems the community is facing and harm that has been done
  - The structure/system is set up so people have to engage with the police
- Police
  - Undocumented, sex workers, LGBTQIA+ are targeted by MPD
  - If social services are provided it cannot be done within a police station as victims will not go there