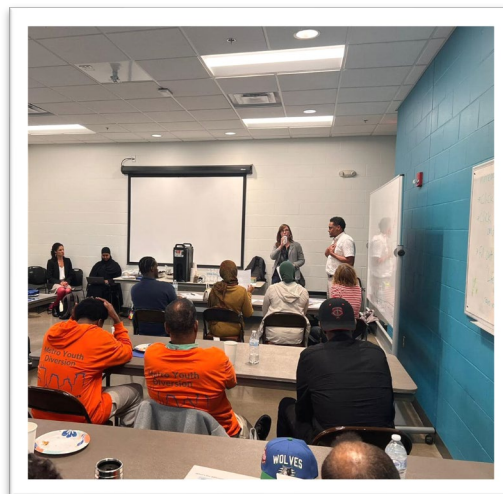




# Conversation with Somali community members – Phillips Community Center



May 21, 2024

On May 21, 2024, Office of Community Safety staff co-facilitated an event at the Phillips Community Center along with Council Member Osman. The meeting was for the Somali community. 37 people attended the event which took place primarily in English.

After a brief presentation about the concept of community safety centers, participants engaged in a conversation about what services are important in the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.

Based on the discussion, the following social service themes emerged as important to this community:

- Youth
  - Sports center
  - Youth mentoring
  - Diversion programs
  - Employ youth at the center
  - Entrepreneurship
- Unsheltered homeless resources
  - Showers, laundry services, housing resources, food security
- Addiction
  - Safe use sites
  - Addiction services
- Mental health
  - Culturally responsive family counseling
  - Youth counseling
  - Free services
- Harm reduction
  - Safe use sites
- Affordable housing

The following other resources or building uses was discussed:

- Community meeting space
- Homework hub
- Resource hub
  - Community office hours led by community for community

Other supports for the center:

- Domestic violence center and resources staffed by non-police
- Cultural liaisons
- Solar garden on the roof of the community safety center that community can subscribe to

Other topics of note:

- The County is already providing many of the services- collaboration is needed
- Fairness is needed for different cultures using the space
- A police station is wanted but must come with community policing
- Services in the center must work together
- “The disease of addiction does not discriminate against you based on race, creed, religion. It affects all of us...The police are not the enemy. And this place can help by being able to educate the community about addiction.”