



Westminster Elder Magnet



On May 6, 2024, Office of Community Safety Staff co-hosted an event for older adults at the Westminster Elder Magnet located in Westminster Presbyterian Church. 16 people attended the event and mostly identified as white.

After a presentation about the concept of Community Safety Centers, participants engaged in a conversation about what social services and resources are most important in a community safety center. The group primarily focused on the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center but said the same services should be at the Lake Street Community Safety Center. Participants shared their experiences and concerns around safety.

Top rank social services:

- Substance use disorder
- Mental health
 - Walk-in services available
 - Listening ministry
 - Psychiatry services
 - Services should be free
 - County needs to step up
- Food security
 - Food shelf and other food options
- Harm reduction
- Homeless Resources
 - This includes mental health resources

Top ranked other uses and resources:

- Quiet/resting space
- Space for community meals
- Space for donations
 - Includes a food shelf
- Giving out opioid overdose medicine
 - Increase supplies
 - Should include needle drop boxes
- Community meeting space
- Legal services

What's missing:

- A central resource center for older adults to be connected to resources and services
- Community navigators to help individuals around the center
- Safety training classes
- Outdoor green space

Other topics of note:

- Lots of overlap in services with mental health, addiction, harm reduction and homelessness. Need to address all services, not just one. With mental health services, there is a better chance of success.
- Space should be comfortable, welcoming, and bright
- Police need to develop a relationship with the community they are serving
- People who really need help won't come to the center because the police are there
- Keep police and services separate
- This space is a stepping stone to build relationships with Minneapolis Police Department and the community
- There should be different hours of operation for the Lake Street and South Minneapolis Community Safety Center