

Meet Molly Mitley, Social Worker Eden Prairie Police Department

The Eden Prairie Police Department (EPPD) is committed to ensuring residents receive needed support, to the degree possible, as behavioral health and social services challenges continues to increase. Hennepin County received American Rescue Plan Act Funds which enabled us to expand the Police Embedded Social Work Program* into Eden Prairie Police Department.



Police officers have interactions with the senior population frequently, but do not always have the capacity or knowledge to support individuals after the crisis. I receive referrals from officers after they have responded to a call when they see someone who may benefit from additional support services relating to mental health, medical and/or social needs. Typical referrals for older adults include frequent falls, isolation, caregiver support, food insecurity, mental health, substance use, changes in behaviors/cognition.

SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS

I can see if the person is already connected with ongoing supports and getting their needs met. If someone needs further support or resources, with permission, I reach out to

Senior Community Services social worker Lee Ann Eiden, MSW, who works specifically with the senior population. Lee Ann can engage with the individual for further connection to longer term supports.

*The [Police Embedded Social Work Program](#) is part of a layered response to support individuals with mental health and substance use needs. The program continues to grow and by the end of 2Q 2023 will be in 28 police departments supporting 42 cities across Hennepin County. The program is also on track to have embedded social workers available in every city across Hennepin county by the end of 2023.