

Concern for Quaker Living (CQL) Update

October 2020 report to NYQM M&C and NYQM

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CQL has been meeting weekly since March 2020, primarily to check in with each other and, more recently, to resume our conversations about mutual accountability in times of need and related housing and support issues, particularly as we grow older.

We have been exploring a relationship with University Settlement, a well-established, NYC settlement house with program locations throughout lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. A meeting with them resulted in several possible next steps for providing services to our elders (currently being referred to specific meetings) and offering workshops of interest to us.

From an article Joan Malin contributed to Spark, Larry Spears, a Quaker Universalist from Detroit, contacted her, sharing a comprehensive services checklist and a request to collaborate. We are exploring ways to engage with him.

Beginning mid-summer, we have added discernment around racial justice issues to our worship and work. Our social work intern/needs assessment project to identify and meet the needs of our meetings as members age is moving forward beautifully. As reported earlier, we have established the project's advisory committee, constituted with the following friends –Scott Blumenthal, Mary Doty, Pat Donahue, Joe Gosler, Callie Janoff, Joan Malin, Michael Phillips, Charlene Ray, and Carol Wilkinson. We have created a scope of work document with objectives, and timeline (see below). We interviewed several social work intern candidates from the Columbia School of Social Work and selected Daniel DeBrucker to start October 19 and to work through Spring 2021. Callie Janoff will serve as Task Supervisor. This fall, we anticipate engaging monthly meetings in our needs assessments. We continue to look at existing NYC elder care resources with whom we might collaborate.

Work Plan

Working with each monthly meeting in the NY Quarter, we invite each meeting to participate as it can. CQL plans to meet with M&C/Pastoral Care committees of each Meeting to identify older members who are now receiving pastoral care or others who have program ideas or interest. We anticipate reviewing membership lists, engaging ARCH volunteers and pastoral care committees. Upon achieving active engagement of monthly meetings, a series of planning sessions, likely organized around geography rather than meeting, are anticipated to identify program interests and needs and, importantly, raise awareness of both issues and resources. These sessions will be facilitated by our student social work intern under the care of the Task Supervisor and the Advisory Committee. From these sessions we hope that care models, along with a vetted list of elder care providers (organizations, individuals, websites) will emerge. The work plan is attached to this report and comments/concerns/suggestions from our Quaker Friends are welcome (and may be addressed to Charlene Ray (charleneceis@gmail.com))

Framework

The framework for our planning is threefold:

- 1) a successful program must engage those we seek to serve so we will need to identify and recruit participants from each Meeting.
- 2) Finding ways to meet the needs of the older members of our community by making the best use of existing resources, and developing new ones as needed.

3) Utilizing the volunteer network that exists in our meetings, especially the ARCH program and pastoral care committees

Background

By way of background, the working worship group began with an appreciation that our whole community is enhanced and even dependent on our oldest Friends. We asked if ways could be found to enable those older Friends who want to remain in NYC to do so, rather than having to relocate elsewhere when 'assisted living care' is desirable. Exploring how NYQM Quakers might help provide for the care, well-being and housing concerns of our oldest community members, we came to understand that people of other ages face many of the same issues and so have continued to focus on our older Friends, but have come to do so in a multigenerational context.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Baily, Mary Doty, Elizabeth Gilmore, Patricia Glynn, Joe Gosler, Nancy Hadley-Jaffe, Callie Janoff, Michael Hanson, Miguel Herrera, Joan Malin, John Maynard, Steve M Smith, Carol Summar, Andy Von Salis, Benjamin Warnke

October 7, 2020

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CQL INTERN ACTION PLAN & SCOPE OF WORK - approved 10/5/2020

Goal

- We appreciate that our intergenerational community is enhanced and even dependent on continuing relationships with our oldest Friends. We seek to enable older Friends who want to remain in NYC to do so, rather than having to relocate elsewhere.

Objectives

- Explore how we might help provide for the care, well-being and housing concerns of older Friends
- Identify and provide connection to resources that can meet individual needs
- Collaborate with existing community resources
- Provide greater opportunities for intergenerational fellowship through group activities throughout NYQM

Pre Prep Phase: (Task supervisor) September-October 2020

- Develop a "written description of the agency"
- Develop and interview schedule for interviews with possible interns
- Develop an Intern schedule including nights and weekends
- Space for meetings/Zoom access
- Workspace
- Supervision schedule
- Identify numbers of members and attenders at each meeting

Prep Phase (Intern) October-November 2020

- Meet with each meeting's M&C committee and present announcement at each meeting
- Seek local volunteers (pastoral care committees) to help develop projects
- Collect reading on focus group work and services and needs

- Anything on conducting focus groups by computer
- Conduct survey with attention to who answers and how

Action steps

- Conduct focus groups (Projected total of 175 people) - 3 months November 2020-March 2021
 - Plan: How constituted (Meetings, Ages, Levels of ability) (three groups: community group, older people, people in relationship with older people) (Beginning with Meeting groups, possibly broadening)
 - Plan: How does this differ from previous focus groups
 - Plan: How to get a member contact list (each meeting has their own)
 - Implement: Contact possible participants
 - Implement: Set days and contact method. (Who does not have necessary access)
 - Plan: Recording and transcription issues
 - Development of a focus group format. (Current questions are not for a focus group)
 - Conduct and record groups 1-7
 - Analyze transcripts
 - Develop report including what if any groups need to be developed.
 - Identify needed resources and why they have not already been accessed.
 - Identify missing people and reach out for individual interviews
- Create tentative programs to address identified needs. (possible issues) March-May 2021
 - Create community: Community organizing effort.
 - Remaining in place population
 - How to access resources
 - Financial issues
 - Extended family support
 - Medical issues
 - Mental health issues
 - Defining what can be meet by community and what by formal resources.
- 3. Develop database of resources October-May 2021
 - Format data base
 - Identify possible resources throughout NYC
 - Interview each resource
 - Create Standard format for reporting
 - Create easily resource book/internet site

Outcomes

- Three community resource providers are identified and partnership opportunities are explored
- All the meetings of NYQM: 15th Street, Brooklyn, Flushing, Manhattan, Morningside, Staten Island are engaged
- Older Friends feel supported by their Meeting
- Report of learnings from focus groups shared with NYQM and constituent meetings

October 2020