

## Executive Director report 4.24

Thank you all for your thoughtful and generative consideration of FFA grantmaking last month. Key points included innovation and impact, direct and indirect impact, impact on field or individuals, right-sizing, reading State Plans on Aging—seeking gaps we can fill, different standards for Quaker organizations, impact of hosting convenings, funding pilot programs. I have realized that there are some aspects of the field I know well and others where I need to learn a lot more before I feel knowledgeable to advise the Board.

**News:** The Kendal Corporation's Board of Directors announced the selection of the organization's next Chief Executive Officer. Vassar Byrd, formerly the CEO of Rose Villa Senior Living in Portland, Ore., began this new role effective January 9, 2024.

Friends Fiduciary has named a new Executive Director, Ethan Birchard.

Maria Santangelo has been appointed CEO of Barclay Friends, replacing Linda Sterthous who is retiring. Maria comes from Pine Run, a life care community in Doylestown PA, which was recently sold by Doylestown Hospital to Presbyterian Senior Living.

Robin Somers is retiring from Broadmead.

Jane Mack, FSA's President and CEO, is among the inductees for the 2024 McKnight's Women of Distinction Hall of Fame. Jane will be retiring at the end of the year.

Our auditor, Frazer-Evangelista has added a new partner, Soena Sahni CPA.

Research reported in the Journal of Palliative Medicine found that home-based palliative care delivered to people not yet eligible for hospice, reduced hospitalizations, increased length of life, and extended the continuum of care delivered at home for people with serious illness and their caregivers.

<https://thectac.org/asset/blog/home-based-palliative-care-can-increase-length-of-life-and-reduce-costs/>

Kindersmile's film "Toothache: the painful truth about oral health inequity" won top prize for home grown documentary at the Garden State Film Festival.

Friendsview Retirement was just selected to present at both the Oregon and National Leading Age conferences on their ELL program.

PYM is adding links to the Quaker Aging Resources website.

Attended:

- Tyler and I attended the CNJG Finance Committee meeting
- PEAK webinar on AI. <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OKJiuGpn1-kPic-Q8YVmHNrimRO7tBaiTNQWpALstPgr3vLUGztDf6kFshfqViq.6VOQkDKac8oOK5rH?startTime=1709147005000> Passcode: tAQ0saG.
- InnovAGING- sponsored by Rutgers highlighting several NJ programs.

- American Society on Aging conference. Visited On Loc Center in San Francisco, a huge multi-service center. Conversation with former DEI coordinator at Broadmead. Much talk about technology and AI. Age Friendly Healthcare. Workshops on food insecurity, philanthropy, unhoused, caregiver training, CA Master Plan on Aging, grantmakers, death & dying, future leaders. Connected with colleagues new and old. Came away feeling good about our processes and the projects we support, without recommendations for major changes.
- FSA Annual meeting. CEO meeting- handed out Pendle Hill and Beacon Hill materials. It sounds like census is ticking up. There was discussion about offering contracts with fewer amenities, staff benefits and retention, reducing SNF beds and increasing AL/memory care, renovations and contractors. None have increased benefits to wait list people although lists are long. Some are implementing creative scheduling at request of workforce (not like past generations). The second day I was joined by Jim, Lisa and Joan. We heard reports from Friendsview Retirement Community on their ELL program and the first AIT graduate, as well as the most recent leadership academy (96 so far) and internships (77 so far). We were inspired by the presentation by Olivia Mastry on strategic foresight, urging us to focus on foresight rather than hindsight or current trends. She went through 3 categories of transformative issues: in your face, in your space and all over the place. I noted that FHRC and FVRC are both engaging independent residents in implementing programs, giving them purpose and expanding capacity. I handed out flyers on Pendle Hill and Beacon Hill programs. Katie Smith Sloan, CEO of Leading Age talked about trends she sees: workforce, leadership, and the reduction of not for profits. She noted that the lack of trust across and within sectors has a huge impact. All day there was a thread of the unique contribution of Quaker inspired communities.

Sent information on Congressional Directed Spending grants to NJ grantee partners- Kindersmile, Habitat, ALP coalition. Made local connections for QVS in Phila, Portland and Minneapolis.

ALP Coalition meeting- focus on increasing Medicaid asset limit with lawmakers, upcoming NJAAW conference.

Jim, Emily and I met with Jane Mack, Diane Massey and Linda Sterthous about the FSA-Kendal **AIT** program. We'll discuss in the meeting.

**Quaker convening:** met on April 10 with representatives from PYM, NYYM, NEYM, FGC, BYM, Pendle Hill, Beacon Hill FC. Jim and Joan also joined (12 total). The NYYM Quaker Values and End of Life booklet has been revised and is available through the ARCH website. BYM's book "A Tender Time" is nearly ready to go to press. Beacon Hill is testing its Vocational Discernment for Joy in Retirement workbook and workshops. Pendle Hill has updated its website to include many programs there and elsewhere. There are several workshops being conducted throughout. There was evidence of collaboration between organizations and a desire to support each other. Specific questions included work with incarcerated Friends, people with disabilities, and building awareness of resources.

**Montessori communities** Only FHRC attended with Lisa and me. They have scaled back to focus on Haviland Hall, and are eager to do more intergenerational programming. It seems they are all committed to achieving gold ML sometime this year. Staffing challenges have slowed progress. Others focusing on activities. Seems that ML model has been challenging for these small communities. Meetings have been helpful, but connection can continue independently.

I have been exploring the PA and CA Master Plans on Aging. NJ is not done yet. PA priorities: unlocking access (equity), aging in community, access through transportation and mobility, caregiver support, and education & navigation. I find it interesting that food and housing are not listed as top-level priorities but are embedded lower down. I also felt that there were few innovative strategies outlined, but lots of jargon. FFA grants are very much in alignment with several of the strategies. Do we need to look at these more deeply or continue to listen to what our grantee partners want to focus on for their communities?

Turned down from submitting proposal:

1. The Legacy Project- wanting to film older adult's stories, not Quaker
2. Salvation Army Philadelphia – weekly social groups at 3 of their centers in Phila, 10-15 participants each.
3. Dancers for a variable population – denied last year, we have many proposals this year.
4. Assisted Living Inc- ALP program in Ewing NJ for garden- too late (3/14), small # participants, other options for gardeners discussed.

No proposal received (not encouraged):

1. North Penn Senior Services – senior center programming for Korean seniors
2. Cougar Techies- Caldwell University students teaching computer use—realized wasn't prepared

Visits:

- Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Friends Village Newtown lectures & fundraiser
- Snipes farm produce distribution at Trenton Housing Authority site.

Grant notes:

**All** of the proposals will have impact on aging adults' lives directly or indirectly. Some show more innovative approaches to the many chronic problems facing this population, while others are seeking to continue proven programs. Some focus on leadership while others center on spiritual growth or interpersonal (and intergenerational) connections. Some serve a large area and others a small community/building. There are proposals for art, technology, spiritual growth, hoarding, dental, food, palliative care, housing, and training, many of which could not happen without outside funding. That's a great menu of needs to be addressed in this sector, particularly in Quaker spaces, viewed through an equity and inclusion lens.

After considerable pondering, I came to the conclusion that a food program that is addressing hunger is different from one supplying the freshest organic foods. I'd like to see efforts to change the way that food gets to those who need it most.

The Hickman, Friends Village and Friends Home Kennett are all struggling. They annually request funds for programs to engage residents. What would create lasting meaningful change? Could they work together? Is there a catalyst role for FFA?

**Snipes Farm** sent a report on distributing 900 bags. I responded that their proposal said 1200; Jonathan rewrote the report but it still didn't add up. We spoke and he will send two more deliveries to the

Trenton Housing sites. I attended the distribution at French Towers on March 19 and spoke to a few of the participants. Also took photos.

**FSA** wrote the report and request before we posted the new forms. It is not clear how they break down costs, either past or future. Clearly they would prefer a multi-year block grant. If we believe in the leadership and internship programs should we consider an unrestricted grant for leadership development. Perhaps wait for new leadership?

**AIT** Jim, Emily & I met with Jane Mack (FSA), Diane Massey(Kendal Corp/Charitable) and Linda Sterthous (Barclay). They reported on the pilot year of a Quaker Administrator in Training (AIT) program which was conducted at Barclay Friends with Elijah Tapp, who was a Penn State student and is now working as a mid-level administrator at Admiral at the Lake, a former Kendal community. Current discussion on having one at Kendal at Oberlin this year. Discuss whether FFA interested in supporting.

**QVS and Pendle Hill** Pendle Hill explained that their current QVS fellow has enabled them to offer more virtual programs and to market them better. They hope to have another next year to continue the work; they have been unable to hire a program director and can not pay the QVS host fee. QVS has 3 potential aging-related placements and was hoping FFA might support multiple placements, but I said more likely to be just one, so there are choices.

**New Community** has held 3 hoarding training sessions.

Photo from **Friends House Retirement Community**- watching the eclipse in the garden. Photo of **Snipes** food distribution in Trenton.

