

## ED report 4.25

Much of my attention since the last meeting has been on the current national scene. I attach the best summary I've seen of what funders can do in response. I sent you a summary of my conversations with all of our grantee partners, which can be characterized by stunned disbelief and universal concern for those who are served. Possible loss of Medicaid funding is the highest concern, as well as cuts to SNAP food programs. Many have trickle-down funding (Older Americans Act funds that go to states then counties then providers). Few have direct federal grants, and some are grateful for earlier crunches that pushed them to broaden their funding base and create emergency funds. Some worry that individual and corporate donors will cut back. Many are engaging in advocacy.

### Notes:

Renewed Platinum status on Candid.

Joe Connor appointed CEO of Friends Life Care Partners.

Hilary Burgin stepping down as Director of QVS.

Todd Engle retiring from Friendsview.

I had a long conversation with Heather, the new ED of Sarah Ralston Foundation. We have several grantee partners in common. They ask partners who are having a sabbatical year to be on the grant committee for that year. They also set a \$5M cap on budgets. **I wonder if this would be good for FFA as well-I've noted budgets on grant worksheet.** They are doing a funders panel, DEI panel and workshops on grant writing, needs assessment, evaluation and anti-ageism for advocates.

I attended the Rutgers Aging Symposium, which featured 3 research projects in aging going on at Rutgers (ALP Aging in Place, Diabetes education for Spanish-speaking, Stressors and Health).

I joined the webinar on the State of NJ Nonprofits hosted by the NJ Center for Nonprofits. Demand for services is expected to increase while funding and workforce are expected to decrease. Advocacy is critical.

I attended a CNJG program on Making Sense of Federal Policy with Heather Howard. The impact of cutting Medicaid alone will be enormous. Recommendation: help grantee partners educate and navigate. I also attended the Trust Based Philanthropy Zoom "Meeting the Moment." Their Commitment for Trust Based Action is attached. **Should we sign on?**

I attended the FSA Annual Meeting which included a nice send-off for Jane. Lisa joined me for Day 2. The designated reps approved moving forward with the concept of merging with MHS. The values of both organizations align well, and there are clearly benefits for both in merging. with a target date of 12.31.25. I had a chance to talk to grantee partners from The Hickman, Friends Home in Kennett, Friends House and Barclay Friends, as well as David Jones and Sidney McBride (our 2015 Earlham Intern). There was an interesting presentation by Broadmead on their Future Leaders program which identifies promising entry-level employees and places them in a peer group to identify strengths and opportunities for advancement. The program has had a positive impact on staff experience and retention. The first keynote was on the use of AI in senior residential communities. Most did not apply to FFA, but I did think of possible uses for FFA: **summarize meetings (already doing), summarize proposals and reports,**

**implement a proposal assessment process to support equity in grant making, research into topics of grants.** We will also see more AI-generated proposals.

No one in the room seemed to have concerns about impact from the Federal government changes. 12 Leadership Institute graduates were recognized (with lots of appreciation to FFA) and they clearly want to continue this. The afternoon keynote was on leadership. FSA affirmed continued explicit commitment to JEDI practices.

Quaker Convening was on April 2 from 4-6 pm. Light attendance, concerns re Federal chaos. Sheila said PYM is working on QAR website. In future we can all post events. May need a grant to review and update the pamphlets. Next meeting October 15 at 4.

It feels like I have done more coaching around the grant proposals this time, in part because there were more writers without much experience and to bring you the information you seek. I did not reach out to three inquirers who I felt would not make the cut: FCS Monmouth (in home recreation/visits), Twilight Wish (fulfilling wishes at end of life), and Union Settlement (software).

#### **Data on applications:**

- 9 declined by me, 1 deferred to Fall.
- 3 told to take sabbatical year + 1 advised against applying again
- 3 new (1 Quaker)
- 10 returning (8 Quaker)
- 4 prior applicants trying again
- Usually 12-15 approved each cycle, approximately \$250,000 granted.

#### **Notes on applications:**

FHRC learned about the citizenship program at Leading Age (Goodwin community). I heard strong support from the CEO, COO and Director of Human Services, and I connected them with FVRC. I also got confirmation of my impression that they are struggling financially.

Pendle Hill- For several reasons I advocated for discontinuing support to QVS and combining an assistant program person with programs at Pendle Hill, increasing the single grant to help them pay staff.

Ujima- Unity Meeting in Frankford (Phila) will become the new home of Ujima, as membership is building. Ujima programs will move to Unity and programming will be supported by the meeting's endowment.

#### **Midyear conversations**

- Friends Homes in Greensboro reports that they raised more than the match of \$8000 with gifts continuing to come in. They feel they are well on the way to creating several staff scholarship opportunities.
- New England YM (Nikki with Nia)- Patti is focusing on her strength area, end of life group. Good signs are word-of-mouth referrals and steady attendance. Advance Planning workshop, meeting visits. Thinking about ways to use website as resource center. Do not see need to do Foundations as their model is not built on volunteers. Doing survey of meetings for what doing, what needed.

- New York YM (Nikki) – reworking Foundations to 4 2-hr sessions with workshops to follow that are more detailed.
- Bright Side Manor (Emily with Elizabeth)- There continue to be struggles with Medicaid and NJ over funding. Also continue to have challenges at Garfield site. Thinking about collaborating with Korean community. Have learned they need 25-30 enrolled to break even; not there yet. Have thought about doing a manual, but no one to dedicate time. Can't believe Federal government would cut HUD or Medicaid. Would have to discontinue service, but don't want to leave residents stranded.
- SCS (Joan with Arthur + John)- Enthusiastic about Aging at Home program, especially handyman volunteers (valued at \$7800 last year). Some people join (\$35/yr) after attending other programs, many after an initial assist; serve everyone not just members. Challenges finding care managers (competition paying more) and volunteers. Use volunteer match, churches, corporate groups. Services include transportation, tech help, referrals.
- Connectedly (with MaryPat + Lori)– Concern that two research projects with Penn may not get funded, which means Connectedly won't get a share. Get referrals from Penn and Jefferson social workers and community health workers, as well as senior centers (West Oak Lane, Southwest, Klein Life). One group laid down when several members died- others merged into other groups. Have collaborated with CiP in past, will reach out again. Staff committed to core values, have diversified board.
- Interfaith Caregivers of Mercer Co (Lisa + Lauri and Carla) 75 new recipients and 47 new volunteers. Recruiting volunteers is tough, use volunteer match. National trend- as people get anxious about food, housing basic needs, less volunteering. But maybe more church involvement. Ultimate power is not government. 25% of funding could be impacted—RSVP is part of Americorp/ National Community Service- could be target. Talked about shifting from simply adding churches to listening, building relationships and trust. Involved in several interfaith community groups including Trenton United Methodist, MakerSpace diaper bank, Westminster Presbyterian (intro to Imam), Crosswicks Meeting, Adath Isreal, Sikh, Rotary. Lori clearly sees this as a calling. Need more collaboration, shared resources. Change takes time and patience. Healthy Bones program doing very well. Focus on love, acceptance, community. See general shift away from aging funding.
- Livewell (Eric + Stefanie) Older adult depression group going well. 826 logins in 2024. Groups are led by trained peer leaders (former group members) in a 12 Step model of education, empowerment, self-help. Offer 3 trainings a year for facilitators. 2 lead each session with 15-17 attendees each week. Stefanie sits in on all. People attend from all over US and a few abroad. Very diverse. Started in 2018, recruiting largely word-of-mouth, internet searches. Now getting referrals from therapists and doctors, senior centers. Funding helped develop 4 curriculum modules so no repeats during year.
- Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity- rehabs for older adults going well, have been able to reduce wait list from 48 to 26 with hiring second crew. Average age 70, under 80% of AMI. Social worker goes on intake interview, hooks up with needed social services. Most popular-roof, bathroom ADA, windows. Work with adult vocational school, local high schools, 55+ employment program. CAPS certified. 24% of recipients made donations last year. Sent me their new Strategic Plan.

- JFS Atlantic Homeless prevention-Have a fund for emergencies (started with Superstorm Sandy grant). Case manager Kim is working holistically with individuals on their particular needs, taking longer. Not same solution for all. 36 new clients. Help with applications, recerts, etc. Creating toolkit for integrating systems/collaboration. Will continue to use language and provide services consistent with values. Doing advocacy with local congress reps, state budget. Jewish Human Services Coalition. Don't ask immigration status.
- Springpoint Senior Living- computers in subsidized senior housing. Also got a grant from Parker Homes so able to equip all buildings. Bringing Candoo into all communities for set up and support through the year; had been just in lifecare communities.
- Center for Hope Hospice- using grant to pay admin/support staff such as scheduler. Palliative care program currently has 196 active patients. Added a social worker to team. Is third largest referral source for their hospice program. Their referrals come from local medical practices and hospitals. Only program with a nurse on call who can do home visit if needed. 40-60 minute drive radius.
- Friendsview Retirement Community- You know I think this is one of the most innovative programs FFA has funded, creating a career pathway for Spanish-speaking teens, neighbors and staff. There have been challenges. They are electing at this time to wait until the Fall cycle when the Federal initiatives are clearer. They will use the funds remaining from this year toward building family caregiver support in the neighborhood.

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