

Age-Friendly Communities and LGBT Older Adults

Discussion Guide



Introduction: Age-Friendly Communities and LGBT Older Adults

On April 30, 2013, Pfizer and Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) presented a discussion on age-friendly communities, and how service providers, policy makers, and advocates can work together to support aging in place, particularly for vulnerable communities such as LGBT older adults. The program featured an introduction by Caroline Roan, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and President, Pfizer Foundation, and the following panelists:

- * Michael Adams, Executive Director, SAGE (moderator)
- * Ruth Finkelstein, Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning, NY Academy of Medicine
- * John Feather, President and CEO, Grant Makers in Aging
- * Mya Chamberlin, Director, Services for Seniors and Homeless Families, SAGE Metro Portland, Oregon

Presentation and Discussion Flow

- * Next up we have short videos of each presenter followed by a set of suggested discussion questions. We will watch each presenter and then have a short group discussion followed by the next presenter and more discussion and so on. The last video is the question and answer from the live event.



What does
“age-friendly community”
mean to you?

Welcome from Caroline T. Roan



Video 1 Discussion Questions

Do the statistics Caroline T. Roan mentions surprise you? Excite you? Worry you?

- * 10,000 Boomers turn 65 every day.
- * By 2015 the number of older people in American will double to more than 89 million.
- * By 2050, 1 in 5 American's will be 65 or older.
- * 1 in 3 babies born today will live to be 100 years old.

How do you want to get old?

Opening Remarks by Michael Adams



Video 2 Discussion Questions

How do we build age-friendly communities, and how do we assure that these communities are responsive to the diverse needs of elders?

How do you think the recent Supreme Court ruling will affect you?

Panel Discussion



Video 3 Discussion Questions: Part 1

Do you agree with Ruth Finkelstein's definition of an age-friendly community? Why or why not?

- * "I think the core characteristic of an age-friendly community is one that treats the expertise, and experience, and perspective of older adults as central to what it's doing."

Does our city/town work for people of all ages? Why or why not?

What resources do LGBT people offer their communities that can be applied to age-friendly communities?

How would we make our city more safe, accessible, and friendly to LGBT elders?

Video 3 Discussion Questions: Part 2

Do you agree with John Feather's statement?

- * “If we are not out and our voices are not heard, then who is going to know what the needs of LGBT seniors are?”

Can you think of an example from our city when planners have done as Ruth suggests regarding the “Age in Everything Lens”?

- * “Do whatever you do with an eye to “*how is this benefitting from*” and “*of benefit to*” older adults as it is to others in the life course.”

Do you agree with John Feather's idea that the concept of age-friendly communities provides a lens for providers, philanthropists and others to think about aging—as he says, a way to have a conversation on aging starting from where they already are?

Audience Q & A



Speaker Bios



Caroline T. Roan is Vice President of Corporate Responsibility at Pfizer Inc, headquartered in New York. She is also President of The Pfizer Foundation. Read more at [pfizer.com/responsibility](https://www.pfizer.com/responsibility).



Michael Adams is the Executive Director of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders). SAGE is the oldest and largest organization in the country dedicated to transforming the LGBT aging experience. Read more at [sageusa.org](https://www.sageusa.org).



Mya Chamberlin is Director of Services for Seniors and Homeless Families, Friendly House, where she oversees programs that work with homeless families, seniors and LGBT older adults. Read more at [friendlyhouseinc.org/programs/gay-and-grey/](https://www.friendlyhouseinc.org/programs/gay-and-grey/).



John Feather, PhD, is Chief Executive Officer of Grantmakers In Aging, the national association of grantmaking foundations and other organizations that work to improve the lives of older people. Read more at [giaging.org](https://www.giaging.org).



Ruth Finkelstein, ScD is the Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning at The New York Academy of Medicine, where she directs policy initiatives to promote healthy aging, to improve population health by preventing disease, and to reduce health disparities. Read more at [nyam.org](https://www.nyam.org).

Thank you for attending!

For more information, visit:

* sageusa.org

* GetOld.com