

Press Release

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JFCS “Aging with Pride” LGBT Group for Older Adults to Launch

January 2018 – Cherry Hill, NJ - JFCS of Southern New Jersey in Cherry Hill will be launching a group for older adults who identify as LGBT. The group is slated to begin this spring.

“We will explore topics that are both relevant to all older adults, as well as those unique to LGBT people such as: staying independent; financial, legal and health security; social isolation; relationships with family and friends; discrimination and prejudice; access to services; and caregiver issues. Our goal is to help LGBT older adults successfully age,” says Reva Farenback-Brateman, MSW, CDP, Geriatric Case Manager at JFCS.

There are over 1.5 million adults over the age of 65 in the United States who identify as LGBT. By 2030, it is expected that 3 to 4 million adults will identify as LGBT. The vast majority of LGBT seniors have lived through discrimination, social stigma, and the effects of prejudice. They are more likely to live and age alone, have financial concerns, avoid seeking health care, and have a higher degree of alienation and isolation than their heterosexual counterparts.

“We as service providers need to reach out to them and let them know that we at JFCS are here to provide a space where they can bring their whole selves, in a welcoming, culturally sensitive and confidential environment. In creating a discussion group for LGBT seniors, we hope to create a space where they can share common experiences, share LGBT friendly community resources, and build community.

For more information, please contact Reva Farenback-Brateman, MSW, CDP, Geriatric Case Manager at JFCS at 856-424-1333, Ext. 1184 or email rbrateman@jfedsnj.org.