Emergent Themes from Gay/Bisexual Male Group

Primary Themes

- Struggles with document completion and contemplation, and conversation parameters
    - Many levels to consider
    - Need to be "intentional"
    - Need to "do some [self] work even before discussions"
    - Even easy issues haven't been discussed, let along hard issues (e.g., specifics of care provision; asking people to do "difficult things," deal with their own mortality)
    - Most conversations have been about wills—more tangible considerations
    - No real discussion with anyone (although two respondents reported having had discussions)

- Struggles with considering who to include; who will be there
    - Don't know who to include in EOL documents
    - Haven't thought through who would care for me
    - "line in the sand:" diaper-changing (for both self and what to expect of others)
    - Don't know to whom "I would turn"
    - Default is that "friend will be there"
    - No one is there; will need to hire caregivers

- The role of HIV/AIDS
    - Never expected to live this long
    - Experience in caregiving
    - Context is colored by loss and experiences with AIDS
    - Similarities in need—no anger today as there was with HIV

- Family as default care providers
    - Will rely on siblings
    - Experience with care for parents and connections with siblings ("could leverage to future caregiving")
    - Family will be there (even if "not the family we would want")
    - Unclear how to integrate biological family with chosen family around issues of care

- Ambiguous role of friends
    - Have put together "a mini-network"
    - Friends are going through "similar things"
    - Friends have their own lives; fortunate to have help from neighbor

- o Need to develop (or have developed) friendship with younger persons (who have to be educated, develop trust)

- Trust
  - o Concern about "being screwed over" by younger persons, nieces or nephews (as caregivers)

- Compartmentalization of Identity
  - o Gay men have compartmentalized lives based on disclosure issues and need for secrecy, complicating integration (of social network) and end of life planning
  - o Partly based on cohort experiences (rooted in historical experiences of this age group)

- Feeling alone/depressed
  - o Tied to AIDS: "everyone gone"
  - o Abandoned by family

- Community support
  - o Need community agencies (Qmunity)
  - o Social and health services
  - o Systemic intervention (needs to be better organized, structured)
  - o Absence of appropriate (sensitive) facilities (e.g., LGBT senior housing)
  - o Need to make existing resources safe and inclusive of LGBT persons

- Role and need for education
  - o Need broader, deeper education of LGBT issues
  - o Need to educate younger gay men about experiences of older cohort
  - o Need to politicize issues (e.g., CARP)

Secondary Themes

- Many issues not unique to LGBT persons
  - o "work of the LGBT community benefits everyone"
  - o Death-denying culture

- Right to die
  - o Plan to end their life when time arrives ("I might go down to Oregon")

- Return to closet
  - o Unwilling to do so, but see how that might be a solution for some
  - o Fear of mistreatment by service providers

Role of Technology/Internet

- For our site development:
    - Another site may not be all that useful
    - Site does not have to be LGBT-specific
    - Information needs to be credible
    - Limit the number of links so as not to be overwhelming
    - Need to bring younger LGBT people into this; transgenerational interactions

- Hesitance to use computer