



145 West Hanover Street | Trenton, NJ 08618 | www.njfoundationforaging.org
Contact: Sue Brooks, 609-421-0206 | sbrooks@njfoundationforaging.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights Explored at Free Webinar, 8/25

TRENTON, NJ (August 20, 2020) -- Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) older adults and seniors living with HIV/AIDS have concerns about residing in a long-term care facility. These two vulnerable populations will be protected by NJ's newly introduced LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights.

On **Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m.**, NJ Foundation for Aging will present a free webinar about the bill and what long-term care facilities can do to support these efforts. The webinar, sponsored by [Archer Law Office, LLC](#), will be facilitated by [Garden State Equality's](#) Health and Wellness Coordinator, Bianca Mayes (pictured, left). Discussing the implementation of this policy will be Laurie Facciarossa Brewer (center), the [NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman](#) (LTCO), and Amy Brown, Senior Policy Director for the Office of the [LTCO](#). Register for the webinar [here](#).

According to research, there are more than 3 million LGBTQ people age 55 and up living in the U.S. That number is expected to double in the next two decades as the Baby Boom generation reaches retirement age. The LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights would provide protections to Garden State LGBTQ seniors and seniors living with HIV/AIDS, establish certain minimum rights protections for LGBTQ seniors and seniors with HIV/AIDS who reside in long-term care facilities, mandate biennial training for employees of long-term care facilities and much more.

Bianca Mayes earned her Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Education from Montclair State University. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist for the health and wellness of the LGBTQ community. Prior to joining Garden State Equality in 2017, Mayes served as a Health Educator and Research Associate for the Community Education and Population Health Department, respectively, at Atlantic Health System.

Laurie Facciarossa Brewer served as the Chief of Staff of the LTCO from 2010 to 2019 before being appointed Ombudsman. She has served in several senior management positions in NJ state government, including Director of Communications for the NJ Department of the Public Advocate, Director of Public Affairs for the NJ Department of Human Services (DHS), and Deputy Project Manager for Health Care Reform in the DHS Division of Medical and Health Services.

Amy Brown earned her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law. She joined the NJ LTCO's Office as a staff attorney in 2010, specializing in such legal issues as residents' rights, improper discharges and transfers, and end-of-life ethical conflicts. She also advocates for NJ's most vulnerable nursing home residents who wish to return to community living in her role with the I Choose Home NJ program. Prior to joining the Ombudsman's Office, Brown worked as a staff attorney for the Department of the Public Advocate.

#