MULTI-GENERATIONAL PLANNING

PLANNING FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE

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Multi-generational planning means...

- Communities for all of us, offering
  - Range of choices (housing, transportation, etc.) to fit residents’ needs, whether elderly or families with children
    - Note that needs may change (e.g. 65 vs 90 yr old)
  - Facilities and services for those needing additional or specific supports
    - Similar unique dependency of elderly and families with young children: physical access challenges, care needs
Advocacy issues

- Older adults are better advocates for our issues than are families with young children (due to time, resources)
- While “senior tsunami” is real and grabbing attention (‘Boomers are us’), current numbers of children are much larger per age cohort than are seniors
  - 4 million per year of age <20 yrs. versus 1 million 65+
  - And existing needs of children are not being met
- “Communities for All Ages” approach—promotes collective responsibility for well-being of all residents, addressing critical needs rather than competing for services
Family-friendly communities

Components:

- Affordable housing options
- Transportation options & walkable neighborhoods with convenient services
- Parks
- Safe neighborhoods
- Quality schools
- Child care
- And more...
Integrating child care facilities with community development

- Linking home, transportation mode, workplace for parents
  - Ideally, child care options at/near each
- Must be accessible to families, e.g. not walkable distance for healthy adult
- Mixed-use, transit-oriented (TOD) and walkable communities planning is particularly important to both young families and older adults
Affordable housing or mixed-use developments with child care centers at/near public transit (bus and/or commuter rail)
Intergenerational care facilities & services

- Collocated day and/or residential care facilities increasingly common for operational reasons and for benefits to children & elderly
- Interaction between generations found to have immediate and long-term health and social benefits for both groups

“Somehow we have to get older people back close to growing children if we are to restore a sense of community, a knowledge of the past, and a sense of the future.”

~ Margaret Mead
Collocated facilities/services for elderly and children

- Lemoore, Ca. (rural) Generations Project:
  - Adult day care program for 10 elderly/disabled adults: daily supports, rec & social activities, plus deliver meals to seniors in the community
  - Head Start preschool for 52 low-income children, plus medical, dental, immunizations, vision/hearing screenings

City-owned building renovated with redevelopment & state CDBG funds
ONEgeneration, Van Nuys, Ca. operates:

- Child & adult day care in shared site; structured joint activities daily that benefit both age groups
- Senior Enrichment Center, 4 Dining Centers, home care management/services, transportation, senior volunteers, grocery shopping & farmers market
Located on the grounds of the Riverside County Regional Medical Center in a unique public-private partnership model, Integrated Care Communities provides the citizens of Riverside County and the Inland Empire a complete continuum of care.

ICARE provides a single source for:

- **Adult Day Healthcare**
  - Wellness Center
- **Assisted Living Residences**
  - Wellness Center
- **ICARE Home Healthcare**
- **Jan Peterson Child Development Center**
- **Skilled Nursing**
Affordable senior housing with child care

Riverview Housing

Sacramento, CA Redevelopment Agency

Child care center with 2nd floor roof playground
Grandparents raising grandchildren:

Ranges from providing part-time to full-time child day care to full 24/7 responsibility

- More than 6 million children were being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives.
- 2.5 million children were in grandparent-headed households without any parents present.
- 29% of these grandparents were over the age of 60.
- 19% of these grandparents lived in poverty.

(U.S. Census data 2000)
Grandparents raising grandchildren

- Concerns about quality of life & health of older adults as well as their ability to meet children’s needs, provide quality environments (soc/emot/phys)
- Need for supports (financial to respite care)
  - Program example - Riverside Co., Ca. Office on Aging’s Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
    - Pays for full-time or respite child care (depending on work needs) for low/moderate income seniors 50 yrs+ caring for children birth-5 yrs
Roles for planners?

- Learn about implementing family-friendly strategies; 56% of planners said they were unaware of what is required to begin F-F initiatives (APA survey)
- Re-frame the needs of families, and their value to communities to:
  - Justify cost of facilities/services needed
  - Counter NIMBYism
- Increase representation of needs of parents & youth through non-traditional means
Resources

- APA & Cornell, Planning for Family Friendly Communities project and publications
  http://government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/reports/childcare/planning_ffc.asp

- Communities for All Ages www.communitesforallages.org

- Generations United www.gu.org

- AARP livable communities and grandparent projects


- Local Investment in Child Care (LINCC) www.lincc-childcare.com