

Good Stewardship: Repurposing Sims

February 4, 2025 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Topic:

Intergenerational Day Care Centers

Presenter(s):

Professor Jacqueline Angel, UT Austin

Number of Attendees:

14

Presentation Notes:

- Former Sims Elementary School campus is part of the district's repurposing process to identify future uses for underutilized sites that are responsive to community needs
 - Background information can be found on the district website >> [Site Repurposing | Austin ISD](#)
 - Community has expressed interest in keeping the existing building and finding ways to honor the history and legacy of the school
- Professor Jacqueline Angel has focused her research on intergenerational day care centers (IDC) that serve seniors and children
- Austin lacks facilities that provide adult and child care services in one location
 - Population is aging rapidly and the City will need to respond to changing needs of the community
 - Read more >> [Young Hip Austin is Getting Old: A New Experiment in Confronting the Challenge](#)
- Opportunity to optimize shared space in public places.
- Multiple benefits:
 - Social - Reduce levels of isolation and depression in seniors; combats ageism in children
 - Physical - Increase seniors' mobility and levels of empathy for both groups
 - Economic - Both age groups share space (i.e. kitchen, library, gardens, etc.) and programs that prevent competition for funding
 - Respite - Provide respite for caregivers ("sandwich generation" - estimated 2.5 million Americans) with young children and older parents
- Model encompasses childcare, wellness programs, adult day health services, transportation and service coordination

- Key features of intergenerational day care centers:
 - Multipurpose community use; open 7:30 am to 9 pm
 - Brings together all age groups and persons with and without disabilities
 - Specializes in children and adult day services in a safe, clean and intergenerational environment
 - Core values: Compassion, care and dignity
 - Voluntary IDC participation
 - Community access to conference room promotes social and productive engagement
- Several hundred centers across the country that can serve as a model

Discussion:

- *Q: Have you seen a closing of current senior centers, daycares or decrease in turnout at park district rec centers due to the introduction of IDCs? Or do they see this as a way to expand and/or collaborate with these already established entities?*
 - In general, most communities are underserved and so there is an opportunity to add IDCs to address the unmet demand
- *Comment: Opportunity to build upon the programming offered nearby at Givens Recreation Center*
 - The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of [Senior Programs and Services](#) for adults and people 50 years of age and older.
- *Q: Are there IDC's near Austin already functioning that we could visit?*
 - Texas A&M has an IDC on campus co-located with senior housing
 - Read more >> [Texas A&M University Collaborative Learning Center](#)
 - Other successful examples in Houston area
- *Q: What is the staffing structure to coordinate all these services on site?*
 - Adult day care centers are required by state to have minimum staffing levels, including on-staff nurses
 - Similar minimum staffing requirements for licensed child care centers, but higher staffing needed to be able to provide high quality care
 - Opportunities to enhance staffing through volunteers and shared learning
 - Caregiver crisis is driving the innovation of IDCs
- *Q: Is there state funding for an IDC startup?*
 - Multiple sources typically needed (federal, state, foundations, donors)
 - Foundations, such as St. David's Foundation, have been a funding source for the programming and services
 - Medicare covers a portion of the costs
 - Examples, such as in Nebraska, have state providing grants