COVID-19 and Intergenerational Shared Sites:
Lessons on promoting connections between young and old during a pandemic and beyond

Virtual Briefing – October 20, 2020

LINKS & RESOURCES FROM SPEAKERS

The Eisner Foundation (https://eisnerfoundation.org/)

- The learn more about ARECMA, the winner of the 2020 Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence visit https://eisnerfoundation.org/eisner-prize/2020-2/

Generations United (www.gu.org)

- All of Generations United's shared site resources can be found on this page https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-shared-sites/
- Shared Site Fact Sheet (2020) https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-shared-sites-fact-sheet/
- Fact Sheet- Intergenerational Opportunities in the Older Americans Act (2020) https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-opportunities-in-the-older-americans-act/
- Federal Funding Opportunities for Intergenerational Shared Sites (2020) https://www.gu.org/resources/federal-funding-opportunities-for-intergenerational-shared-sites/
- All In Together: Creating Places Where Young and Old Thrive (2018) https://www.gu.org/resources/all-in-together-creating-places-where-young-and-old-thrive/
- Best of Both Worlds: A Closer Look at Creating Spaces that Connect Young and Old (2019) https://www.gu.org/resources/the-best-of-both-worlds-a-closer-look-at-creating-spaces-that-connect-young-and-old/

Child Care Aware® of America (www.childcareaware.org/)

- A Better Way to Care for Young Children and Older Adults Blog by Lynette Fraga and Donna Butts https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/a-better-way-to-care-for-young-children-and-older-adults
- Picking Up the Pieces: Building a Better Child Care System Post COVID-19 (2020) https://www.childcareaware.org/picking-up-the-pieces/

Program Sites:

- **Providence Mount St. Vincent Intergenerational Learning Center** (https://washington.providence.org/services-directory/services/i/intergenerational-learning-center)
- **ONEgeneration** (www.onegeneration.org)
- **Jenks West Elementary and Grace Living Center** (https://www.jenksps.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/West%20Elementary%7CGrace%20Living%20Center)

Senator Casey, Pennsylvania

- Senator Casey's New Report - Reimagining Aging in America: A Blueprint to Create Health and Economic Security for Older Adults

RESOURCES SHARED IN CHAT

- Great list of books about aging for young ones: https://www.lindseymcdivitt.com/
- Two Projects launched in Lancaster PA during Covid: Chris Kennedy – Chris@Age2Age.com
    - ZTutors: Older adults supporting teachers, parents and students with virtual learning from the -safety of their own home with students to read via Zoom.
    - The Art of Intergenerational Conversations about Racism: White older adults in a high end retirement community partnering with HIGH SCHOOL students of color engaging in a "Creative Aging Project"
- RRF Foundation for Aging (RRF.org) funds grants in direct services, advocacy, research, and professional development focused on Social and Intergenerational connectedness: https://www.rrf.org/what-we-fund/social-and-intergenerational-connectedness/

QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Do you have chapters in different states?

- Generations United doesn't have chapters, but we do know of programs in most states. We have a [directory of intergenerational programs](#) on our website but we are also happy to help if you contact us at gu@gu.org.

Forgive me for not knowing (I am not directly involved in the field), but is there an association for Intergenerational Shared Sites? And for more casual programs such as one between a college and a senior living center? Such an inclusive association would help identify the sites & programs (to determine prevalence), support them, and conduct important research.

- Yes! Generations United is the national organization for all types of intergenerational programs. You can learn more at www.gu.org.

Is there a way to be kept informed of advocacy opportunities for promoting funding for intergenerational programs? Is there an organization that is spearheading these efforts?

- Yes! I would encourage you to [sign up for Generations United's weekly email alert](#) Generations This Week. We have policy staff that are working on these issues and we create a Public Policy Agenda for each Congress with other advocacy groups. [Learn more](#) about our Public Policy work here.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROGRAM LOGISTICS:

How do the kids deal with the passing of an older adult?

- This is an important question that many intergenerational programs deal with. Most programs have their own procedures around this which may include communicating with the child's caregivers, sharing pictures, creating art, holding a memorial service or celebration of life,
- More information available at https://www.gu.org/resources/a-practical-intergenerational-approach-to-death-and-dying/ and in https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-shared-sites-troubleshooting/

Are the children exposed to various medical life extending devices? I see this as a learning opportunity and as a way to destigmatize this time in life.

- Absolutely! Many programs prepare children and youth with orientation to the types of assistive devices they may encounter both to familiarize them with the devices but also to talk about safety for all ages. One site would regularly hold relay races with intergenerational teams with kids on tricycles and older adults using their wheelchairs!

Everything sounds wonderful; however I'm concerned real and practical challenges were not addressed in this presentation (as of yet anyway). Challenges such as: a death (as previously mentioned), dementia, physical limitations, and others. What preparation and ongoing maintenance is involved to ensure and/or facilitate appropriate levels of temperaments of the participants?

- Yes, these are all valid concerns that were not part of this webinar. The safety and well-being of all participants and staff are always paramount in these programs and programs have procedures and guidelines for programming and interaction. It is one of the reason that we encourage programs to jointly train and cross-train staff so they are well-prepared for facilitating connections.
- We have lots of information on intergenerational and shared site programs on our website, I recommend starting with:
    - https://www.gu.org/resources/connecting-generations-in-senior-housing-a-program-implementation-toolkit/
    - https://www.gu.org/resources/tried-and-true-a-guide-to-successful-intergenerational-activities-at-shared-site-programs/
    - https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-shared-sites-troubleshooting/
    - Our new toolkit coming out in early 2021 will have more detailed information on implementation.

What about funding for those of us that want to start a new shared site program?

- Funding for shared sites is often complicated. It is more typical to have a combination of private philanthropy together with federal, state, and community funding to support shared site activities. Construction of intergenerational sites have distinctly different funding sources than the ongoing operating resources necessary to maintain or expand programming. Check out these two resources for examples of how programs have pieced together different funding streams:
    - Funding Shared Sites (2019) https://www.gu.org/resources/piecing-it-together-what-we-know-about-the-funding-puzzle-for-spaces-that-connect-young-and-old/
    - Federal Funding Chart (2020) https://www.gu.org/resources/federal-funding-opportunities-for-intergenerational-shared-sites/

I work with Dementia clients primarily, so my question is what is the most important step to take to start a program in a retirement community primarily for Dementia residents? There is a huge lack in funding, employees, and space. Is there anything I could do besides speaking to elected officials or apply for grants? Only because those things are never guaranteed. This is so important, and I just wish this type of program could be easily offered and established.

- Our new toolkit coming out in early 2021 will have more detailed information on implementation.

- While focused on senior housing, this toolkit has great information on implementing intergenerational programs that are applicable to many settings https://www.gu.org/resources/connecting-generations-in-senior-housing-a-program-implementation-toolkit/

Are the programs suggested so far accommodating of ethnic and culturally diverse children and older adults? If not, what plans exist to make this possible.

- Yes, many of these programs engage diverse children and elders. ONEgeneration is one phenomenal example. You can check out their profile on page 13 of our publication All In Together https://www.gu.org/resources/all-in-together-creating-places-where-young-and-old-thrive/ and on their website at www.onegeneration.org

HOW TO GET STARTED DURING COVID:

Are there examples of Intergenerational shared sites that started during the pandemic? I see how participants have taken existing programs virtually but if an org wanted to start one from scratch now, are there guidelines/examples that could help?

- We have recently learned of at least one shared site that opened during the pandemic although we assume, they are doing limited or no intergenerational activities. The process of creating a new site takes months if not years. We encourage you to use the resources available to start planning now. The impact and value of these settings has only been highlighted when we can't bring children and older adults together in person.
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I second Kerry's question. We were in the start-up phase when Covid hit. Not sure where to go from here.

- We are happy to talk with you further or connect you with other experts, please reach out to gu@gu.org.

HOW TO ENGAGE OLDER YOUTH:

Is anyone working to connect high schoolers to assisted living residents?

- Yes! Those typically aren't shared sites although there are a few schools that share a campus with older adult programs. Hebrew Senior Life and The Rashi School is one great example – check out their profile on page 10 of All In Together https://www.gu.org/resources/all-in-together-creating-places-where-young-and-old-

thrive/ and on their website at
https://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/services/programs/intergenerational-programs

- Also check out these resources for more idea:
  - https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-programs-and-physical-distancing/ for some ideas
  - https://www.gu.org/resources/connecting-generations-in-senior-housing-a-program-implementation-toolkit/
  - https://www.gu.org/resources/because-were-stronger-together/
  - https://www.gu.org/resources/youth-led-intergenerational-toolkit/

Are there any program for older kids who are in middle school or high school?

- Yes! See above!

Does GU focus on older youth (college students) and older adults sharing their homes to help support affordable housing, isolation as well as many other shared barriers they share?

- We are exploring these types of programs. Contact us at gu@gu.org and we can share more.

HOW TO FIND SHARED SITES:

My organization has a creative aging program that we would like to expand into an intergenerational program. How can we find shared sites or partners in our area (Chicago)? Is there a comprehensive list or a website that has shared sites by region?

- Yes! We have a directory of programs on our website (https://www.gu.org/ig-program-database/) that is searchable by state but we are also happy to help if you contact us at gu@gu.org.

Are there any successful examples of shared spaces for living, child care, and/or recreations in Rural America. I am working with communities in northwest Missouri who are interested in community-centered retirement ventures.

- Yes! You can search for shared sites in our program directory listed above or contact us at gu@gu.org.

WHERE TO FIND GOOD CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

It is not an IG Shared Site but what about intergenerational children's literature, especially with young children, that can be shared with children during COVID. Literature with positive, meaningful portrayals of aging?

- Yes, there are a number of intergenerational book lists you can find on the internet. Here are just a few:

- o The Growing Up and Growing Older: Books for Young Readers© booklist is a compilation of carefully selected children's literature that contains positive, meaningful portrayals of older adults and promotes positive aging created by Dr. Sandra McGuire - https://library.lmunet.edu/booklist
- o You can find a curated list of Positive Aging picture books at https://www.lindseymcdivitt.com/books/
- o GU's intergenerational themed book list https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-themed-book-list

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT COMMUNITY WORK:

Are there any communities that have adopted the shared site idea in a big way---many different sites? What would it take for this to be the case?

- There are several great examples of how shared sites can really be the intergenerational hub for a community. A number of our Best Intergenerational Community Award winner and finalists have shared sites at the heart of their applications – including Oberlin, Ohio; Jenks, Oklahoma; Surprise, Arizona; and Plymouth, Wisconsin. At least two programs are replicating in their communities - St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care operates 2 sites in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Ebenezer in Minnesota has a number of intergenerational communities.

How can we better align intergenerational work with creating Age Friendly communities?

- We recommend checking out our Community Buidling page at https://www.gu.org/explore-our-topics/community-building/ and look at the Communities for All Ages resources developed by the Center for Intergenerational Learning:
  - o https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-community-building-resource-guide/
  - o https://www.gu.org/resources/intergenerational-community-building-lessons-learned/
  - o https://www.gu.org/resources/leadership-for-all-ages-generations-working-together-to-strengthen-communities-curriculum