



Aging-in-Community: Bensenville -- Workshop #1

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Today's Agenda

- **Opening Matters & Introductions** (*everybody gets introduced!*)
- **Aging-in-Community presentation**
- **Facilitated Discussion:** Supporting Aging-in-Community in Bensenville
- **Closing Matters**



Today's Workshop's Main Goals

- Provide general educational background on “Aging-in-Community”
- Help **build general support for & buy-into Aging-in-Community** as this conversation grows into an ongoing community-wide initiative



Opening Matters

- **Welcomes** – Village Manager Evan Summers & Associate Planner Kelsey Fawell
- **Introductions**
 - **Residents** -- any residents with us today: please tell us your name & how long you've lived in Bensenville
 - **Municipal/civic stakeholders** -- elected officials, village staff, etc.
 - **Community stakeholders** – community agencies, organizations, clubs, businesses, etc.
 - **Aging Network partners** – possibly including AgeGuide – the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Illinois, Addison Township Senior Services, DuPage County Senior Services, others?
 - **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus staff**



The “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) Program

- Designed to **help municipalities** throughout the metropolitan Chicago region **support community members aging in their communities**
- Led by the **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Planning/Aging**
- Supported by a grant from the **RRF Foundation for Aging**
- The **2021 Cohort of Municipalities** consists of: **Bensenville**, Calumet City, Hawthorn Woods, Mount Prospect and Park Forest

Question: **What is meant by “a changing region”?**

Answer: **One which is aging, as is ours (& almost all others in the US).**



My Brief Introduction

- A lifelong Chicagoan, I worked for several decades as a **city planning consultant** (*managing open space, strategic, downtown, community & corridor plans & projects for public & private sector clients*)
- 10 years ago, I established **Planning/Aging** to **focus on the intersection of community planning & the aging population**
- Now I consult, publish, teach & advocate/advise municipalities & organizations about **Aging-in-Community**



Aging-in-Community: General Background/Context



What is “Aging-in-Community” & how does it relate to “Aging-in-Place” & being an “Age-Friendly” Community?

- “Aging-in-Community” is a general term for an evolving set of municipal **commitments, strategies, programs, plans and projects** all intended to support older adults aging within the community
- **“Aging-in-Community”** takes a **broad community-level view**, using a broader lens than does the more dwelling unit-specific view of the term “Aging-in-Place”
- A community’s **“Age-friendliness”** can also be thought of as how well it supports **“Aging-in-Community”** – **the two phrases are compatible**



Does Bensenville Need to Become “Certified” to Support Aging-in-Community?

- National/international frameworks such as the World Health Organization/AARP’s **Age-Friendly Cities & Communities Network**, or **Dementia-Friendly America** offer communities “certification”
- Many other communities have developed **unique Aging-in-Community programs** separate from the national/international frameworks
- These programs/frameworks all use a **‘Convene > Assess > Plan > Implement > Evaluate > Modify/Continue’** process **taking ~1 – 5 years** (*+ ongoing iterations*)
- **Bensenville can support Aging-in-Community however it wishes**, whether or not it applies for & receives any specific national/international framework certification



Aging-in-Community is an Important Part of Being a Livable Community for All Ages

- How a community helps **older adults (OAs) meet their basic needs** goes a long way to answering how well it **supports Aging-in-Community**
- How well a community helps **all residents meet their basic needs** goes a long way to determining **its overall quality-of-life (or livability)**
- Therefore, **how well a community supports Aging-in-Community should be viewed as a key component of its overall quality-of-life**



What Do Older Adults Typically Want in their Communities?

- (According to a recent American Planning Association survey*) **Many of the same things that younger people typically want in theirs:**
 - **Appropriate, accessible & affordable places to live**
 - The ability to **get around easily & safely**
 - Well-located, designed & maintained **places to go & to gather**
 - Access to a range of needed **goods & services**
 - The ability **to feel & to be engaged** in what goes on in the community
 - A municipal **government that is responsive, supportive & provides good services**

*"Investing in Place for Economic Growth and Competitiveness: A Research Summary", American Planning Association, 2014



What Else Might Older Adults Need in their Communities?

- In addition, many OAs may need a range of **specific support services** – health care, companionship, caregiving, assistance, etc. – that are often provided by what is known as “the aging network”
- The **local aging network** typically includes township or municipal human services, regionally-coordinated services, not-for-profit or faith-based service providers, health care providers, local businesses or other organizations, and “informal caregivers” (often family members)
- Key **local aging network representatives** are here today to introduce themselves & share information about their **support services available to Bensenville residents**



Aging-in-Community in Bensenville



Bensenville has Recently Aged & Will Continue to do so

Age Cohort	Bensenville			DuPage County	CMAP Region
	2000	2006-2010	2015-2019	2013-2017	
19 and under	27.9%	29.4%	23.3%	25.8%	26.0%
20 to 34	26.8%	23.4%	25.7%	19.0%	21.3%
35 to 49	21.6%	22.1%	17.4%	19.9%	20.2%
50 to 64	12.4%	15.2%	19.4%	21.3%	19.3%
65 to 74	11.3%	9.9%	14.2%	8.2%	7.6%
75 to 84				3.9%	3.9%
85 and over				1.9%	1.7%
Median Age	32.2 years old	33.4 years old	36.1 years old	39.1 years old	37.0 years old

- Bensenville has significantly aged over the past 10-15 years, is aging comparably with DuPage County and the CMAP region, and is likely to continue to do so
- 1 in 3 Bensenville residents is currently over 50 years old, up ~10% from 2000



Bensenville's Guidance Documents

- Bensenville's **most recent Comprehensive Plan revision was in 2015**, and it significantly focused on linking together Bensenville's previous topical & area-specific plans, including:
 - The 2011 Transit Improvement Plan and Station Area/Corridor Study
 - The 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Study
 - The 2004 Bensenville Corridor Plan: General Development Update
 - The 2015 Homes for a Changing Region: Housing Policy Report
- It also called for a substantial revision to the Zoning Ordinance, and better implementation integration & monitoring



Previous References to Aging-in-Community in Bensenville's Guidance Documents -- I

- The 2015 Comprehensive Plan revision specifically supported “**Aging-in-Place**” and called for a **broader range of OA housing options & housing affordability assistance**
- The 2015 Comprehensive Plan revision also referenced the **Homes for a Changing Region report's recommendations to better address future OA housing needs** by:
 - Ensuring that the **zoning ordinance revisions supported the provision of housing options, including accessory dwelling units**
 - Supporting **multi-generational housing** options & a **possible home-sharing program**
 - Including OA housing within identified higher-density redevelopment opportunity corridors



Previous References to Aging-in-Community in Bensenville's Guidance Documents -- II

- The **2014 Strategic Plan** also identified a set of goals, management priorities & **projects** intended to achieve the goal of making Bensenville a “Great Place to Live” & “Great Place to do Business”
- The 2014 Strategic Plan’s goals, priorities & projects **addressed general quality-of-life improvements, but made no references to OAs beyond “Senior Citizens Luncheons”**



Focusing on Aging-in-Community in Bensenville

- While several of Bensenville's **guidance documents have touched upon or been consistent with Aging-in-Community**, none have focused upon it
- There has been **little community discussion specifically focused on Aging-in-Community** in Bensenville...
- **...until today!**



Reviewing the Internal/Stakeholder Assessments



A 360° View of How Bensenville Supports Aging-in-Community: Internal/Stakeholder & Community Input

- **Internal/Stakeholder Assessments**
 - Prior to this Workshop, invitees were asked to complete **internal assessments on how Bensenville currently supports Aging-in-Community**
- **Community Input**
 - Soliciting & gaining **Community member input** will be the main feature next week at **Workshop #2**
- We will add additional input gained from post-Workshop questionnaires & **analyze all of this input**



First the Positives from the Internal/Stakeholder Assessments

- We received & **reviewed more than a dozen Internal/Stakeholder Assessments** from a range of service providers & infrastructure entities. Here are some **key observations**:
 - There is **widespread interest & general support for Aging-in-Community** throughout the community
 - Bensenville currently has **a number of programs & services that support OAs**, and the providers are committed to scaling up as the OA need grows



Now the Negatives from the Internal/Stakeholder Assessments

- The assessments also point out a few **key concerns** that may limit the degree to which Bensenville is able to effectively support Aging-in-Community:
 - While there is generalized support for Aging-in-Community, it is rather siloed – there currently is **no “whole of enterprise” approach** to supporting it
 - Aging-in-Community appears **not well-integrated with making Bensenville a livable community for all ages**, with OA considerations focused on their needs rather than their abilities or interests
 - There are ongoing **challenges with community awareness** of available services & OA difficulties handling **on-line registrations/applications**



Let's Talk Further about the Internal/Stakeholder Assessments

- Many – but not all – of the **assessments were largely descriptive (what is) rather than evaluative (making an appraisal)**
- To that end, we distributed to all of today's attendees a list of **follow-up analytical questions** that really probe at how might Bensenville might up its Aging-in-Community efforts going forward
- Let's discuss your responses to these follow-up questions as we begin to **identify issues & opportunities** that merit specific attention in the community's ongoing Aging-in-Community efforts



Facilitated Discussion

(Additional Internal Assessment Questions)

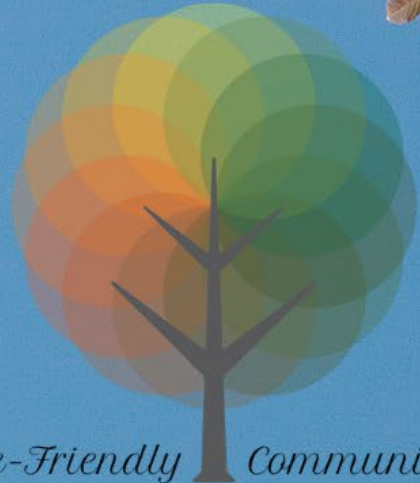


Closing Matters

- Closing Comments/Key Takeaways
- **Workshop #2 will be next week: Wednesday, Nov. 3rd from 5:30-7:00pm**
 - It will **focus on hearing community members' input** on how well they feel Bensenville is supporting Aging-in-Community
 - It will help to develop an **Aging-in-Community framework** to augment Bensenville's Comprehensive Plan
- **Thank you!** – Mary Ribando, Kelsey Fawell & everyone else who helped make these workshops possible



Aging in a Changing Region



Age-Friendly Communities
COLLABORATIVE

For more information about Aging in a Changing Region, visit:

<https://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/aging-in-community/aging-in-a-changing-region/>