



Center for Home Care Policy & Research

Making Communities Aging Friendly: Trends, Models, and Opportunities

Mia Oberlink

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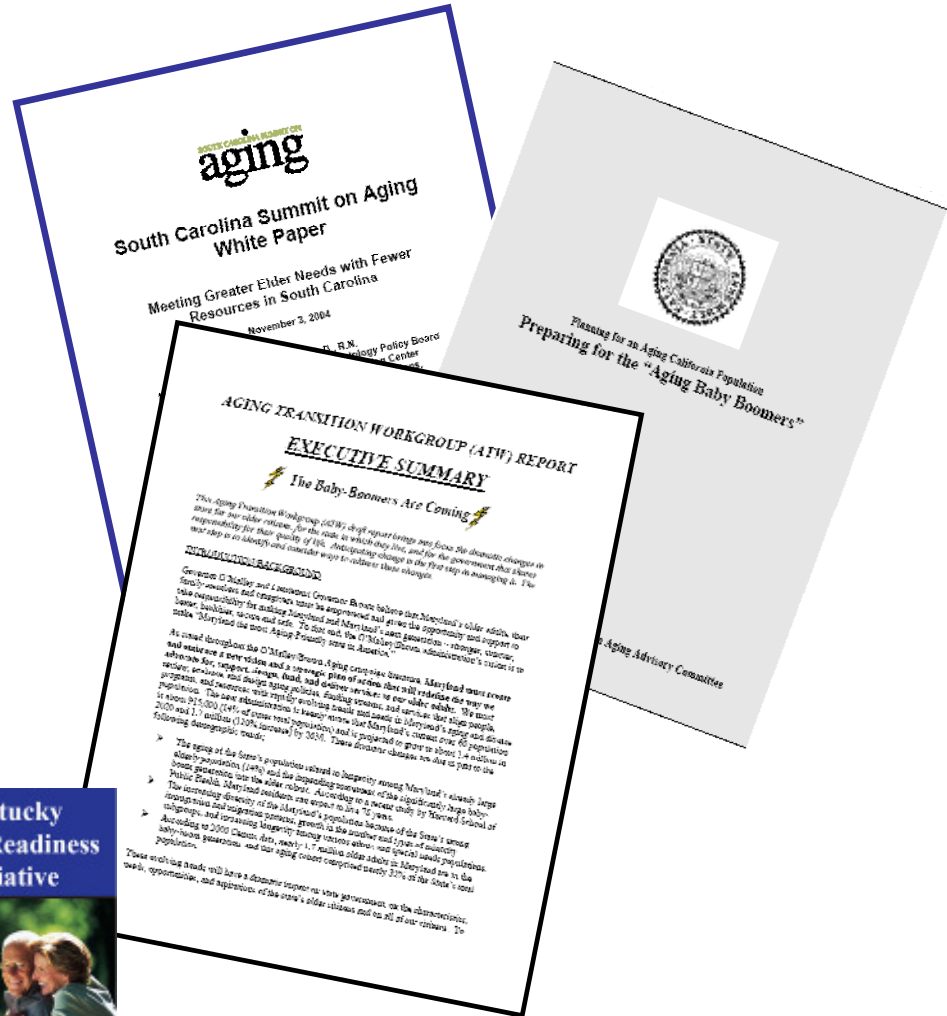
- Mia Oberlink, M.A., Senior Research Associate at the Home Care Policy and Research (CHCPR).
- The Center for Home Care Policy and Research conducts scientifically rigorous research to promote the delivery of high quality, cost-effective care in the home and community.
- Ms. Oberlink is currently managing the [AdvantAge Initiative](#), a data-driven community development project that helps communities measure their elder-friendliness and develop strategies to sustain older residents' independence and allow them to "age in place." To date, 26 communities around the U.S. have participated in the AdvantAge Initiative.
- Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Oberlink spent 13 years writing about biomedical and social issues in aging, first at the Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development at the Mount Sinai Medical Center and, more recently, at the International Longevity Center.
- Ms. Oberlink received both an undergraduate and graduate degree in French Literature from New York University. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from New York University.

Age Wave Planning



Cities & States Are Gearing Up For The Long-term

- California
- Minnesota
- Maryland
- Texas
- Indiana
- South Carolina
- Charlotte
- Boston



Trends

1. Many examples of efforts to make communities more aging friendly
2. Focus of programs/projects: small communities on one end of the spectrum to states on the other
3. Programs/projects may focus on the built environment, on population needs, or a combination of the two

Trends (cont'd)

4. Some focus on specific ages/populations (e.g. 60+, people with disabilities), others on specific issues (e.g. intergenerational relations), & others on issues common to people of all ages
5. Varied funding sources, e.g. federal, state, & local governments, foundations, service providers, & other non-profit organizations, alone or in combination
6. Varied program/project initiators:, e.g. government agencies, universities, research organizations, Area Agencies on Aging, other providers, foundations, & citizen groups

Trends (cont'd)

7. Various names:

elder-friendly communities

aging-friendly communities

communities for all ages

sustainable communities

aging-in-place initiatives

communities for a lifetime

8. Some begin & are guided by specific models, others let “1,000 flowers bloom”

Six Case Studies

City Focused Models

World Health
Organization (WHO)
Global Age-Friendly
Cities Project

Elder Friendly
Communities Program,
Calgary, Canada

Naturally Occurring
Retirement
Communities
Supportive Services
Programs
(NORC-SSPs)

State Focused Models

Project 2015:
The Future of Aging
in New York State

Communities for
a Lifetime (Florida)

AdvantAge Initiative

City-Focused Model #1

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities Project

Initiator:	WHO
Purpose:	Develop protocol for cities to utilize as they engage in comprehensive planning efforts around needs of elders
Funder:	WHO
Participants:	35 cities in 22 countries (2 U.S. cities: Portland, OR & New York City)
Products:	Checklist of Essential Features of Age-Friendly Cities Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide
Web sites:	www.who.int/ageing/age_friendly_cities/en/index.html ; www.AgeFriendlyNYC.org

City-Focused Model #2

Elder Friendly Communities Program

Calgary, Canada

- Initiators: City of Calgary, Univ. of Calgary, service agencies, etc.
- Purpose: Support seniors to connect with each other, contribute to their neighborhoods, & lead initiatives to improve their communities
- Funders: City of Calgary, United Way of Calgary, community foundations, & others
- Participants: 5 Calgary neighborhoods & 2 “cultural communities” (Cantonese, Vietnamese); replication in Adelaide, Australia
- Products: Research reports on community development & service coordination to improve elder quality of life; outcome evaluations; conference presentations
- Web site: www.elderfriendlycommunities.org

City-Focused Model #3

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities Supportive Services Programs (NORC-SSPs)

- Initiator: First NORC-SSP began in a moderate-income housing complex in New York City in 1986
- Purpose: Develop a new model of care that addresses needs of older people & allows them to age in place.
- Funders: Public/private partnerships: government agencies, philanthropies, & housing or neighborhood organizations
- Participants: 34 neighborhood programs
- Products: “NORC Blueprint: A Guide to Community Action” (www.norcblueprint.org, available early 2008)
- Web site: www.uhfnyc.org

State-Focused Model #1

Project 2015: The Future of Aging in New York State

- Initiator: New York State Office for the Aging
- Purpose: State agencies charged with considering how changing demographics will affect state govt. & asked to identify policy areas & top priorities to pursue over 5-7 years
- Funder: New York State Office for the Aging
- Participants: 36 state agencies
- Products: “Project 2015: State Agencies Prepare for the Impact of an Aging New York” (36 briefs developed by the state agencies); “Project 2015 Status Report for 2005”
- Web Site: www.aging.state.ny.us/explore/project2015/index.htm

State-Focused Model #2

Communities for a Lifetime (Florida)

- Initiator: State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- Purpose: Help communities become better places to live using a continuous process of self-assessment and improvement
- Funder: N/A (Communities reallocate existing resources to participate)
- Participants: 100 Florida communities
- Products: State-developed technical assistance materials
- Web Site: www.elderaffairs.state.fl.us

State-Focused Model #3

AdvantAge Initiative

- Initiator:** Center for Home Care Policy and Research, Visiting Nurse Service of NY
- Purpose:** Develop tools & processes to help communities assess their elder friendliness, identify issues & priorities, & plan action
- Funder:** Multiple national & local foundations
- Participants:** 26 cities and counties; 1st state: Indiana
- Products:** Elder-Friendly Community Framework, 33 indicators of elder-friendliness, the AdvantAge Initiative survey, technical assistance materials, the AdvantAge Initiative national survey
- Web site:** www.advantageinitiative.org