



TEXAS AGING & LONGEVITY CONSORTIUM

The University of Texas at Austin

305 E. 23rd Street, RLP 2.602 • liberalarts.utexas.edu/talc

November 16, 2022

Karen L. Fingerman, Ph.D.
Director, Texas Aging and Longevity Consortium
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712

I write as Director of the Texas Aging and Longevity Consortium (TALC), a unit within U.T. Austin's College of Liberal Arts, committed to high-quality basic and applied aging research. The Consortium strives to develop evidence-based strategies for policy and practice at the individual, community, and national level. As part of our mission, we seek to educate UT researchers in the concerns of aging populations, to respond to the changing needs for community assistance, and to design important and effective research and policies.

We would like to acknowledge the important work of Professor Jacqueline Angel, a member of TALC's Executive Committee and her role as Director of Outreach for the Consortium. TALC is grateful to her students from the LBJ School of Public Affairs on City Council's Resolution #41, encompassing a review of a new model of co-located housing and care that enables low-income seniors to age in place with integrated health services and multigenerational programming. We support and appreciate the City of Austin's support of these efforts. The implementation of the project entails working with the City of Austin's Public Health Department, Public Work's Department, Parks and Recreation, Economic Department, Real Estate Office, Assistant City Manager's Office, Office of the Age-Friendly City Action Plan, Commission on Seniors as well as partners and foundations who have provided letters of commitment and support.

TALC has future collaborations on the near horizon. This project fits squarely into the expansion of the University's child development centers. We are also developing a T-32 transdisciplinary graduate training program in aging involving applied research, policy implementation, and externships in the greater Austin metropolitan area. Professor Angel has been working for the several years to vision with our community a new program serving the most vulnerable seniors and children. Probably the most important piece of the community's vision is for additional low income housing for seniors who can no longer afford the rents in East Austin linked to integrated health and an intergenerational day center. The Rebekah Baines Johnson Center for Independent Living (RBJ) for seniors 62 years and older and people with disabilities, located at 21 Waller Street, is a particularly attractive neighborhood.

TALC will work together with the City of Austin, UT Institutional officials on our educational services to bring residents of the building and neighborhood children together in shared space. TALC has been dreaming about what it will be like when the new apartment complex adjacent, consisting of 250 additional units, to the RBJ tower are built in 2021. We are excited to think about the expansion of intergenerational services and the increase in numbers of seniors engaged with young children that we will be able to assist with in our collaboration. TALC serves as a centralized resource for the broader community with regard to issues in aging is critical to the success of the initiative. But without City

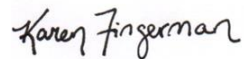
Leadership for development of the IDC Center's location for adult and child care services, the dream will not be realized.

We believe the City of Austin has a unique opportunity to establish an innovative public-private partnership for an intergenerational care center of excellence that is financially sustainable for the neediest residents. This model is based on an approach pioneered by UT Austin's Child Development Center, and has been proven to reduce loneliness and increase overall health for seniors in adult day centers. Further, the center will help low-income parents who have to care for both a child and aging parent. In total, the childcare center will require approximately 10,000 square feet of indoor space and an outdoor learning environment, and an initial cost of \$423,750 for renovation and build out.

We recognize that having affordable housing and intergenerational services all in one place has multiple benefits for all age groups. For all these reason, we look forward to working with the City and our partners on this important initiative.

I am happy to provide additional information about TALC's planned activities and can be reached by email at kfingerman@austin.utexas.edu.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Fingerman".

Karen Fingerman, PhD
Director, Texas Aging & Longevity Consortium
Professor, Human Development & Family Sciences