

THE “VILLAGE” MODEL: CREATING CARING COMMUNITIES?

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Developmental Model of Healthy Aging

- **Continuity** [maintenance]
 - Minimal Age Barriers
- **Compensation** [support]
 - Accommodations/Supports
 - Basic Safety and Security
- **Challenge** [stimulation]
 - New Opportunities for Fulfillment
- **Control**
 - Efficacy Opportunities
 - Consumer-Directed Care
- **Connection**
 - Social Engagement Opportunities
 - Intergenerational and Age-Cohort Activities
- **Contribution**
 - Civic Engagement
 - Meaningful Family Roles

Conceptual Underpinnings

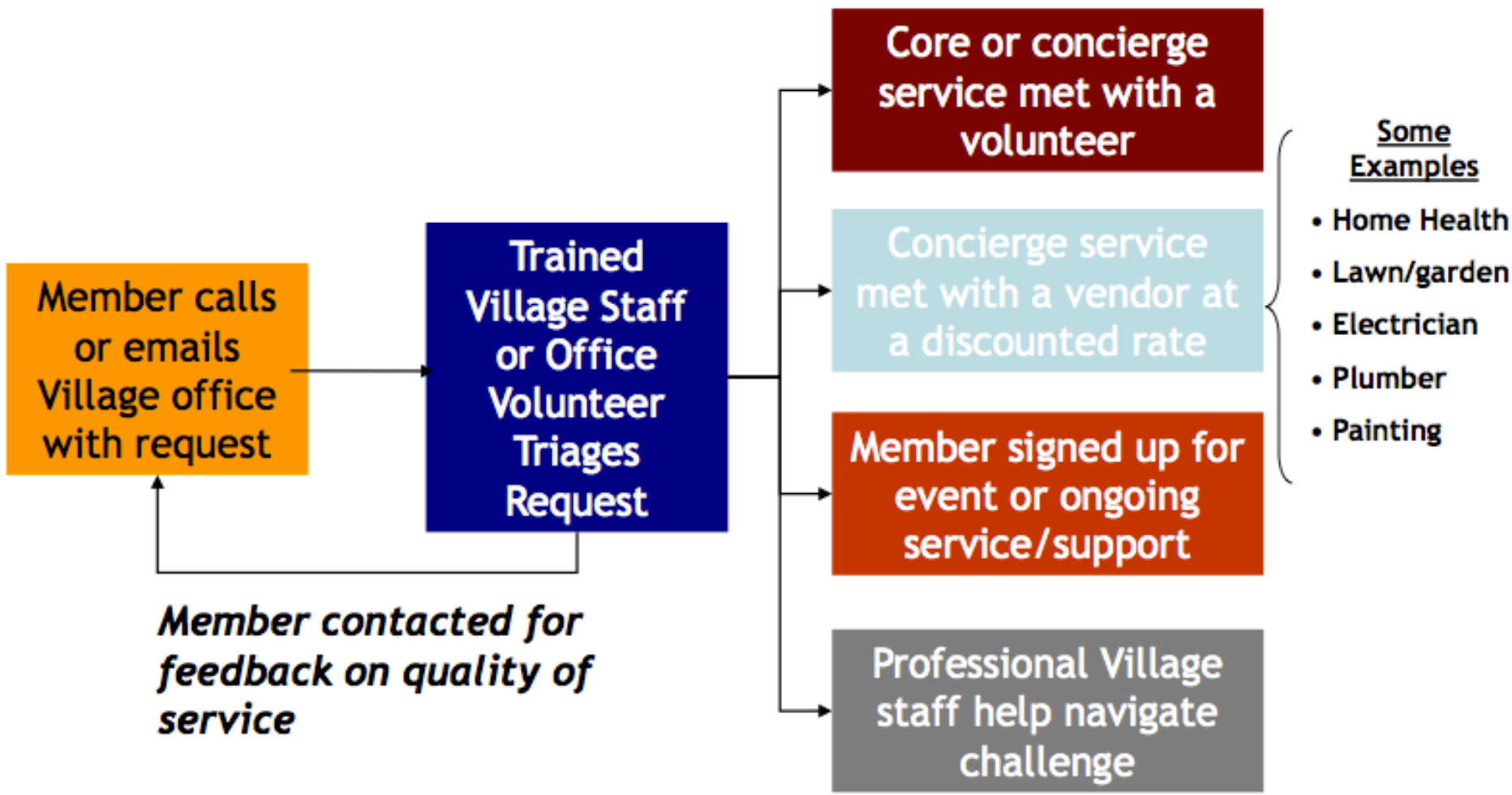
- Selective Optimization with Compensation (Baltes & Baltes)
- Proactivity Model of Successful Aging (Kahana & Kahana)
- Socioemotional Selectivity (Carstensen)

Characteristics of a “Village”

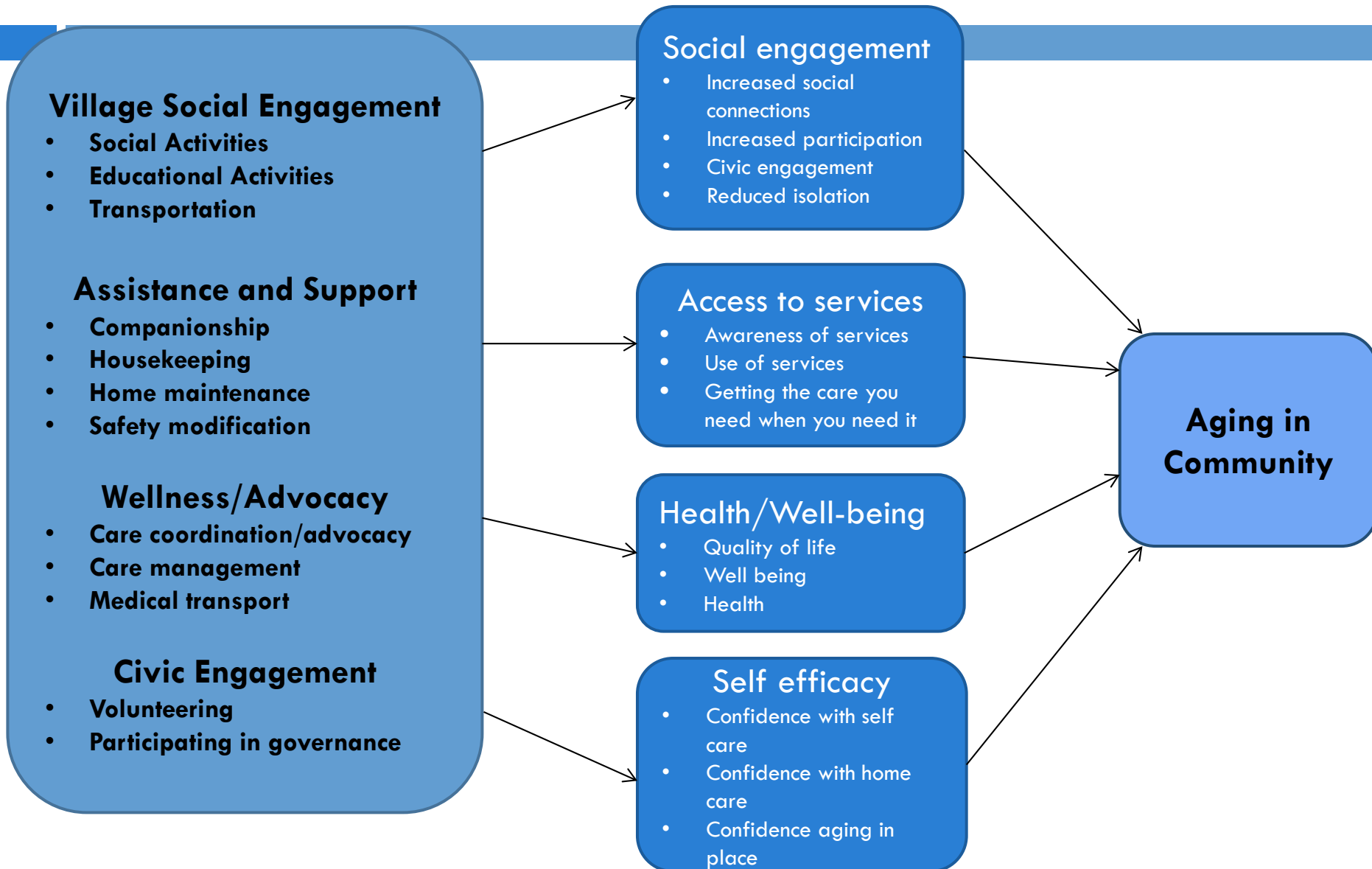
- Membership organization
- Self-governing
- Geographically-defined
- Provides or arranges services
- Social activities
- Goal = aging in place

Village program model

- **Social Activities**
- **Member Engagement**
- **Direct Services**
 - ▣ Provided by members, volunteers, or Village staff
 - ▣ Usually included as part of membership fee
- **Information and Coordination**
- **Referrals**
 - ▣ Preferred provider networks
 - ▣ Usually requires a payment to be made to an outside service provider



Potential Impacts of Village Membership



Villages and Social Capital

- **Bonding capital**
 - Social activity
 - Social support
- **Bridging Capital**
 - Participation in meaningful roles
- **Linking capital**
 - Access to needed services
 - Reduced cost of services

UC Berkeley Villages Project

Project Components

- **Village organizational development**
 - Village characteristics and types
 - Factors associated with growth and sustainability
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Challenges and best practices

- **Evaluation of Village program impacts**
 - Service use
 - Member satisfaction
 - Physical and social well-being
 - Ability to age in place

Village Studies

- 3 National Surveys of Villages
 - 2009 Survey funded by The SCAN Foundation
 - 2012 and 2013 funded by the Silberman Foundation
(with Rutgers University and University of Maryland)

- Single Site Village Evaluation (2012-2013)
 - ElderHelp Concierge Club of San Diego
 - Funded by The SCAN Foundation

- California Village Evaluation (2011 – 2015)
 - Includes 9 California Villages
 - Funded by the Archstone Foundation

- Feasibility Study of Online Data Portal and Village Registry (2014 – 2015)
 - Funded by the Retirement Research Foundation

California Village Study: Evaluation Design

- 9 Villages in California
- Organizational Development and Sustainability
- Member Outcomes
 - ▣ Retrospective member survey (N=282)
 - ▣ Pre-post test with members (N=133)
- Service Delivery (2 ½ years)
- Social Return on Investment Analysis

Characteristics of Participating Villages

- Auspices
 - ▣ Freestanding = 5 (of 9)
 - ▣ Agency-based = 4 (of 9)
- Members per village (mean) = 170
- Membership dues (mean) = \$520/yr
- Discounted memberships (mean) = 9%
- Villages using time-banking = 2 (of 9)
- Paid staff (mean) = 2.18 FTE
- Volunteering
 - ▣ Volunteers per village (mean) = 74
 - ▣ Members per volunteer (mean) = 2.1
 - ▣ Members who volunteer (mean) = 40%

Member Characteristics

- Member age (mean = 76)
 - 24% under 70
 - 40% 70 - 79
 - 37% 80 and older
- Other characteristics
 - 75% female
 - 94% white, non-Hispanic
 - 97% speak English as first language
 - 76% college graduates
 - 6% high school education or lower
 - 45% married or partnered

Member Characteristics (cont'd)

- 23% of members are struggling financially (<EESI)
(compared to 47% in CA)
- 15% are in fair or poor health
- 16% report an Activity of Daily Living impairment
(bathing, dressing, getting around inside home)
- 43% report an IADL impairment (shopping, cooking,
getting to places out of walking distance)
- 47% live alone



Programs and Services

Top 10 Internal Services		USED BY (% of all members)
Social Events/Classes		70%
Information or Referrals		51%
Companionship		29%
Transportation		26%
Technology Assistance		17%
Home Repair/Safety/Modification		16%
Health Care Advocacy/Assistance		3%
Misc		10%

Member Social Engagement

- Member roles:
 - Development of the Village
 - Governance
 - Service provision

- 49% of members volunteer for their Village
 - 29% assist other Village members
 - 17% serve on planning or governance boards
 - 9% do administrative work
 - 7% help with marketing or outreach

Evaluation Findings:

Social engagement (retrospective)

- 81% agree they know more people since joining the Village
- 63% talk to more people
- 62% feel more connected with other people
- 53% participate in activities and events more
- 40% leave their home more
- 39% say they are less lonely since joining the Village

Evaluation Findings:

Social engagement (longitudinal)

- *Have someone to call if need help with routine activities (shopping, preparing meals, etc).*
 - 73.3% agree or strongly agree at intake → 86.7% at follow up (p<.001)

No change or decline

- *How often member leaves home*
- *How often member sees friends or neighbors*
- *How often member does volunteer work*
- *How often member attends meetings*

Social impact

(Linear regression on member chars and service use)

Variables	Social Impact (β) (n=282)
Income (Above EESI)	-1.371
Lives Alone	.385
Disability	-.486*
Social Activities	1.106***
Volunteering	.640***
Companionship Svcs.	.693***
Transportation Svcs.	.435*
Technology Svcs.	.279

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001;
model $R^2 = .389$

Evaluation Findings:

Impact on unmet needs (longitudinal)

Positive impacts

- *Does your current residence need any modifications or changes to improve your ability to live there over the next 5 years?*
 - 29% said yes at intake → only 17% said yes at follow up ($p < .01$)
- *Housework*
 - 31% reported needing additional help at intake → 20% at follow up (ns)
- *Yard work*
 - 39% reported needing additional help at intake → 27% at follow up (ns)
- *Using the computer*
 - 44% reported needing additional help at intake → 31% at follow up (ns)

No change

- Personal care - showering bathing dressing, transferring, taking medications (>95% no help needed)
- Meal preparation (>85% no help needed)
- Assistance getting around inside home (>95% no help needed)

Evaluation Results:

Aging in place (Longitudinal)

- *How confident are you that you can get the help you need to live in your own home as long as you would like?*
 - ▣ 38% were very confident at intake → 56% at follow-up ($p < .001$)

- *Are you considering moving to alternative housing?*
 - ▣ 29% said yes at intake → 14% at follow up ($p < .001$)

Contact Information

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