

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2005
AT FRANCES SCHERVIER APTS.
2995 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE**

PRESENT:	AFFILIATION
Karen Pesce	CB #8 Committee Chairperson
Irving Ladimer	CB #8
Manfred Segal	AARP
Constance Segal	AARP
Mary Merriweather	BJCC
Grace Bova	IFCG
Tom Creaney	AARP
Anne Patterson	AARP
Ceil Gordet	ARC
Andrew Hevesi	Public Advocate's Office
Philip Deans	Schervier Apts.
Susan Canyiano	Community

1. Mr. Hevesi, Director of Community Relations: Reporting on the demonstration Meals-on-Wheels program in the Bronx. He stated that the Public Advocate, Betsy Gottbaum , did a survey 11/04, visiting mid Bronx and RAIN sites which provide the meals. At that time, delivery trucks were not maintaining the proper temperature for meals, due to less frequent meal deliveries with frozen meals, there was reduced contact with recipients. To request correction of food safety, dietary needs, training of delivery staff, a letter was sent to the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Commissioner for NYC Dept. for Aging and the Executive Director of Regional Aid for Interim Needs. To date, there has been no response.

A discussion on the Meals program followed. BJCC reported there was no waiting list for participation. Mr. Hevesi stated he would pursue the initiation of a follow-up survey of satisfaction and adherence to temperature and food requirements.

2. Minutes of previous meeting approved as submitted.

3. Chairperson's report

a. Area "assisted living" facilities surveyed (Classic Residence by Hyatt, Schervier, Atria) have not applied for "assisted living" licensure. Most describe their services as "retirement communities," with additional services provided by contract with affiliates or outside vendors. Schervier Apts. don't provide the services identified with assisted living.

b. Contacts have been made with Schervier and Jewish Home and Hospital to participate in a community program discussing palliative care. Also included would be info on health care proxy, DNR, living will, etc.

Target date for the seminar is April/May.

4. Participants' Comments/Reports

a. Irving Ladimer: Assisted Living licensure requirements are effective 2/23/05. Facilities providing the identified services, even if not identifying themselves as "assisted living" must be licensed and provide information to clients on services, rates, payment procedures. Irving helped to write the legislation.

Hospice at Atria is leased space by UJA and not connected to Atria; management is separate. Assisted living facilities are not allowed to operate a hospice.

b. AARP: At this time, 25% of seniors rely on Social Security for all of their income; an additional 25% rely on SS for most of their income. Mr. Segal has concerns that privatization of SS by changing the conventional system would hasten insolvency of SS which is now said to be solvent until 2042. He proposes raising the cap on SS payments from its current level of 90,000 to 140,000/yr, reducing cost of living increases by .001 and raising SS contributions .001. SS was meant to be a system where everyone received benefits, regardless of retirement income, and also includes disability and survivor benefits.

c. BJCC: Some complaints continue re: delivered meals: salt and spice tastes, lack of fresh fruit.

d. Interfaith Caregivers: Attempting to recruit more seniors as volunteers, providing more contacts with the Hispanic population. Eight churches/synagogues are providing volunteers. Caregivers provide shopping help, escort to medical visits.

e. Schervier Apts.: Traffic concerns were voiced at CB 8's Traffic and Transportation Meeting. Benches are needed at bus stops and will be addressed by the T and T Committee.

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business: The City Council bill to make streets "as safe as possible for NYC's senior citizens" was discussed. Several participants sited hazardous locations. Unanimous vote to co-sponsor with Traffic and Transportation Committee, a resolution supporting Intro 511 and distributing petitions to area housing and senior service programs to establish "slow down areas" and "lower speed limits" that is currently in effect.

Resolution vote: Support: 10, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0

CB 8 Members

K. Pesce
I. Ladimer

Community Committee Members

M. Segal
C. Segal
M. Merriweather
G. Bova
T. Creaney
A. Patterson
C. Gordet
P. Deans

KP:db

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pesce
Chairperson

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2005. Location to be identified.