

**MINUTES FROM THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 AT THE
METHODIST CHURCH HOME**

PRESENT:	AFFILIATION
Karen Pesce	Committee Chairperson CB #8
Anthony Creaney	CB #8
Carol Hendricks	CB #8
Gwen Johnson	BJCC
Sue Tozzi	BJCC
Ann Patterson	AARP
Manfred Segal	AARP
Constance Segal	AARP
Amy Paul	FRIA
Amy Setejman	Atria

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker: Amy Paul, Executive Director of Friends and Relatives of Institutionalized Adults (FRIA).
 - a) History: organized in the wake of New Hampshire scandals in the 70's with fraud and mismanagement of programs. There was identified need to have advocacy voice for family and friends to argue for better care.
 - b) Free help line, Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 AM– 5:00 PM, (212) 732-4455. Answers elder care questions; identifies differences between nursing homes in New York City, addresses end-of-life issues; helps caregiver to understand rights and offer opportunities to advocate for an institutionalized adult; helps file complaints with nursing home administrator, social worker or Department of Health.
 - c) Legislative: lobbies for related issues
 - d) Family Counsel Project: advises nursing home councils representing 15,000 residents.
 - e) Consumer Education Project: provides speakers
 - f) Ombudsman is separate program; available help includes NY legal assistance group (NYLAG).
 - g) Funding: foundations, donations; limited funding from NY State.
3. Committee Reports
 - a) AARP: Medicare Part D, drug benefit program. Medicare participants can enroll in Part D for an extra fee. Only a few other plans are approved for long-term care and others living independently must check the plan's medications to ensure that those used are among those available in the plan. Provider pharmacy needs contract with the Medicare beneficiary's insurer. Dual eligibles (Medicare/Medicaid) can switch plans every month and will be automatically enrolled with random assignment if no plan is selected. Enrollment period begins after 10/1/05. There is at least a \$250.00 deductible with catastrophic coverage after approximately \$5,000.00 in expenditures. Help line: 1-800-Medicare.

It is illegal to import medications from other countries and pharmaceutical companies are investigating senior citizen organizations' trips to determine their purpose in circumventing purchases within the United States.
 - b) Meals-on-wheels: vendor has been changed to Whitsons for Kosher meals both frozen and non-frozen. Bronx demonstration project may not be expanded until after an evaluation process.
4. Big Apple Stroller Walk: aimed at encouraging walking among older adults, organizations call 311 for details.

NO OCTOBER MEETING. Next meeting before Thanksgiving.

Submitted by
Karen Pesce, Chairperson
Aging Committee