

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD NOVEMBER 20, 2007  
AT THE METHODIST HOME FOR THE AGED  
4499 MANHATTAN COLLEGE PARKWAY**

**PRESENT**

Karen Pesce  
Anthony Creaney  
Irving Ladimer  
Sheryl Benjamin  
Andrea Marais  
Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Jane Reilly, RN  
Joe Facciola

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chairperson CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Riverdale YM/YWHA  
Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale  
Assemblyman  
Park Gardens, LTHHCP  
DFTA

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz
  - a. Jeff was appointed to chair Committee on Aging, NYS Assembly, 6/07.
  - b. A significant increase of those 85 years + is anticipated in the near future and Fed, State and City need to be pro-active in anticipating needs. There will be fewer people working and paying into Social Security.
  - c. Housing needs: better fiscal management needed for older adults to stay in their homes as long as possible, including those with Alzheimer's/dementia. Prior state administration focused on long term care. Hebrew Home for Aged is changing one of its buildings from apartments to assisted living, acknowledging needs for independence. Some area residences are no longer participating in Sec. 202 for reduced rent. Kittay House is a Mitchell Lama project.
  - d. SCRIE program has raised its income eligibility approximately \$1000/yr. to current eligibility of \$29,000/yr with some income excluded; this includes programs for elderly and disabled.
  - e. Senior Centers have had decreased attendance, as noted in last month's minutes. Due to their DFTA mandate, counted participants are those 60 years +.
  - f. Transportation: transportation outside NYC is lacking.
  - g. Safety for older adults in their homes and on the street needs to be addressed. A question was raised about reimbursement for placing grab bars in homes/apartments of older adults.

- h. Hearing on elder abuse issues: 12/7 at 10AM, 250 Broadway on financial, physical, sexual, psychological abuse issues.

### 3. Agency/Individual Reports

- a. Irving Ladimer: proposed legislation would provide tax credits/write offs for those providing care to family members in need of care and relinquishing opportunity for regular employment. Training and support programs would be available.
- b. Park Gardens has been certified as a home care agency and now has 14 clients. Its mission is to enable older adults to live in their own homes for as long as possible; Medicare, Medicaid accepted. Jane is interested in doing a "career day" to encourage youth to consider going into nursing.
- c. YMHA Senior Center has received a \$5000 cultural initiatives grant. There will be 20 sessions, Jan-June, 2008, with singing, dance and developing a show for members of the Center and community.
- d. Hebrew Home has a grant to investigate abuse between abusers. It also has an overnight program, 7PM-7AM, a medical model to provide night time supervision and activities for those dementia people who have wandering tendencies at night for Medicaid or private pay.
- e. DFTA: 90% of inquiries related to affordable housing which is very limited and has waiting lists. Amber Court, formerly Judith Luna, is transitional housing allowing people to be private pay initially and then become Medicaid after spending down. Each borough is supposed to have at least one housing option for Medicaid clients. In response to the question of housing for disabled, Joe remarked that it was difficult to intermingle disabled with "elderly." Web site: NYC.govCaregiver.
- f. AARP: former NYS Controller is now treasurer for NYS AARP. The goal is to increase politicians support for aging issues.

4. Other: No December meeting. Happy holidays!

Next meeting January 22, 2008, location to be announced.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce  
Chair  
Aging Committee

KP:db