



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Telephone: (718) 264-7895
Fax: (718) 264-7910
Qn08@cb.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/queenscb8



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Human Services Committee Meeting

DATE: November 25, 2024

Committee Members Present: Wendy Phaff-Gennaro, Chair
Frances Peterson and Rabbi Mayer Waxman

Committee Members Absent: Joshua Glikman, Neeta Jain, Jennifer Martin, Simon Pelman and
Jacob Weinberg

Others in attendance: Dr. Penny Stern

Committee Chairperson Wendy Gennaro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson introduced herself and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro

Thank you for coming, both of you. I did call everyone on our committee to try and get them out tonight but, for various reasons some couldn't make it and that's okay. Apparently, this has been a committee that hasn't had much of a reason to meet over the years. It seems it's more of a reactive thing where if someone comes to the board and needs to present to us then the committee will meet. I'd like to do a little bit more of a proactive kind of thing. I like the idea of being proactive because I'm in this field. I'd like to let the community know what's out there. I feel a lot of times they just don't know. That was my impetus in working with the committee and finding ways where we can do meaningful things and help people. That is what the field is about in its various forms.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro invited Frances Petersen to share a little bit about herself. She stated she only sees her once a month at our CB8 meeting but hasn't had the chance to really talk and get to know her.

Frances Petersen

Let me start by saying I'm not as young as I look. I've been around for a long time. She shared these special times in her life with us.

- Professor at CUNY for 38 years. She taught Sociology and Human Services.
- Transitioned from being a college professor to someone who at heart is a teacher, and just want to help the younger generation.
- Run a foundation that gives grant money for tuition, and she is also a mentor.
- She is a representative of the International Peace Association with the United Nations (IPA)
- Exposing the younger generation to a global society. Took them on UN Trips and used her contacts to help get them into college and grad school.

- She was born and raised in North Carolina. Now residing in Queens. She is the president of her co-op board. She mentioned working with Fred Trump many years ago, where she rented her apartment from him in Jamaica Estates, to being converted into a co-op building.
- She was appointed to CB8 in the 90's.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro invited Rabbi Mayer Waxman to share a little bit about himself.

Rabbi Mayer Waxman

I have been on CB8 for two years. I am the Executive Director of the Queens Jewish Community Council which is an umbrella organization for Jewish organizations. We receive funding from the Department of Cultural Affairs to do Jewish things together with open events. We also have a Kosher food pantry. They have case workers on hand to help out with housing and insurance. Once a week we have someone come in and help with SNAP benefits and just general social services. Our new building is opening in Council Member Gennaro's district. Our current building is in Council Member Schulman's district. We've been renting there for more than 30 years, from my understanding. We have an open position now for someone to help people get special aide for Medicare programs, elderly programs etc. I don't have the list of everything it entails. We haven't filled the position yet but it's a subcontractor.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro thanked Dr. Stern for being present even though she is not on the committee.

Dr. Penny Stern

I have been a member of CB8 for 5 years. I came on because of Rory Lancman (former council member), who has been in state government, called me up one day and said I think you should be on the community board. That's how it all started.

She is the Chief of Preventative and Lifestyle Medicine at Northwell. She listed all her positions/accomplishments and how she operates within them.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro

I am the Director of Development at the Queens Centers for Progress. I was appointed to be on the board in 2019 by Council Member Rory Lancman to be a voice for people with any disability but specifically for our population. QCP, which I'll talk about (my co-worker was coming to do a presentation but couldn't) provides services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We're going to be 75 years old next year. It's our big Anniversary Year, which I'm so excited about.

I was coming to meetings already just to talk about what QCP is all about and what we do. I work with another group called Achilles (International), a runner's group for people with disabilities. I don't do so much for them anymore because I don't run like I used to. I started the Queens chapter in 2016 and brought that program to Queens. I've stepped back and now they have full-time, paid staff running it.

I am happy to be on the board; to be able to talk about what it is we do; get the information out into the community and let them know what's available to them. We've been talking about this committee which I've been on since I got here and this is the first meeting I've attended. What I love about our committees is that you can have people join who are not on the board. That is what I'd like to do. It can be other organizations in order to bring more people into what we want to do. I'm not sure, yet, so let's talk about it.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro

Reach out to the community and get their thoughts on the following:

- Substance Abuse
- Veteran's Services
- Mental Health
- Services for people with disabilities
- Food Insufficiency

Dr. Stern

What is the mandate? Maybe it can be health and human services combined. Given how hard it is to get people to come.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro

I do know there are other boards who combine their committees.

Mandate/Goals

Get recommendations from the board on which groups they would like us to reach out to.

- Resource Fair
- Work with city agencies HRA and DFTA
- 2 Annual Events – Join the June Health Fair and create a Fall/Winter Resource Fair for the community. Possibly work with Council Members Jim Gennaro and Linda Lee.
- Jewish Board of Family and Children
- Medicare Services
- Invite organizations to come to CB8 and present information to the board.

Rabbi Waxman

We can compile a guide of the services we offer.

Chairperson Wendy Gennaro

We can look at another meeting day in April or early Spring 2025. I'll look at the calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
November 29, 2024