

DELEGATION FROM SHENZHEN, CHINA, VISITS MENORAH PARK TO LEARN FIRST-HAND ABOUT U.S. HEALTH CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Twenty-three senior-level government officials from the city of Shenzhen in Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China, three interpreters, and the staff liaison with Syracuse University's Maxwell School spent the morning of October 29 at Menorah Park learning about health care and residential services for older adults in the United States and how they are administered, delivered, and financed.

Participants in a training program in public administration and public management for the Shenzhen City Government, the group spent 20 days in Syracuse with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. The program is designed to provide an in-depth view of the latest developments and reform trends in public administration and public service management in the United States. The visit to our campus came about through Syracuse University's Dr. Thomas Dennison, who sits on IMPARA's Advisory Committee.

The group met over breakfast with Board President Jeffry Berman, CEO Mary Ellen Bloodgood, and other administrative and care-providing staff. After a tour of the Jewish Health and Rehabilitation Center's skilled nursing, memory care, medical adult day and short-term rehabilitation units, they transferred in campus vans up to The Oaks, where they had an informal, mutually informative Q&A session with a group of residents, and then enjoyed lunch and a tour of The Oaks.

The Chinese visitors came away very impressed by the facilities at Menorah Park. One asked to confirm, quite sincerely, that we are one of the "top places in the US" for services to older adults. Another complimented the hosts on the obvious lack of propaganda fed through the Oaks residents to them; they appreciated the authentic and personal voices they were allowed to dialogue with. For their part, the visitors seemed to be more focused on diplomacy; when asked by Stewart Docter what they had seen of Syracuse that they *didn't* like, one of the officials elicited a general chuckle by replying, "Nothing! We love everything!"

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