

**MINUTES OF THE BELMONT COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 6, 2006**

**Present: J. Brusch, H. Dvorak, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, J. Kantor, J. Kazarian,
B. Miranda, N. Niv-Vogel, P. Solomon,
Absent: E. Hamann, A. Lougee, J. Semuels**

Neil Hegarty (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes were corrected, accepted and unanimously approved.

Senior Citizens Concerns: None

General Announcements: Thursday, 3/9/06 at 8pm Channel 8's Belmont Focus program will present a panel on seniors in Belmont.

The Chair noted that the BEC (Belmont Elderly Citizens) board needs to schedule their annual meeting. Nominations for board members from the COA Board will be solicited. A notice will go out to the COA board members before the April meeting. The hope is that the BEC annual meeting can be scheduled in May.

Springwell Report: The Governor's budget remains unchanged. Concerns have been raised regarding the reduced mental health funding especially affecting those with lesser mental health needs.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is closing their adult day care program. This is due to not enough clients & limited funds. There are concerns that this may reflect a trend.

Reviewing Springwell's strategic plan continues. Of the 6 goals, two are currently being focused upon...Identifying Springwell's "customers" (e.g. family caretakers and older adults who are frail & have reduced incomes) and "products" (e.g. education and support services).

Belmont's Housing Authority is close to signing a contract to bring Care Connections to the senior housing residents. This would increase available social services so as to maximize independent living.

Director's Report: An overview of the FY06 level funded budget was presented. It is \$477,786 plus approximately \$29,000 of state funding, based on a formula of giving less than \$5 per elder. In addition, there is a \$40,000 revolving fund, which basically acts as a line of credit for the COA.

Nava presented the need for a new car for senior transportation to the Capital Budget Committee. A letter from the COA Board supporting this was also sent.

The Town has entered negotiations with the Archdiocese regarding the future rental of the Our Lady of Mercy building. A proposal from them is awaited.

Please refer to attached Director's report for more information.

Senior Center Building Committee: The committee continues to meet on a regular basis with the project mgr. & architect to work out any design changes and to continue to progress toward the goal of getting out construction bids this coming fall.

Friends Board & Committees: Planning of the membership drive is underway. It is hoped that the drive will begin some time in April.

Chronic Disease Self-Mgmt. Program: Joel Semuels will be unable to become a Belmont trainer for this program secondary to time constraints. Springwell is committed to the program & hopefully will be able to provide a trainer at some time in the future.

Belmont's Human Rights Committee: Hildy Dvorak, COA liaison, reported that the committee is working to create an incident report form to be used when persons feel their human rights have been denied. The committee is reviewing forms used in other communities.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4th at 7:30pm. Guest speaker will be Suzanne Hughes, of Springwell, who will speak on Elder Protective Services.

Respectfully submitted,

**Phyl Solomon
Board Alternating Recording Secretary**

