

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
NEW LENOX SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA COALITION**

Meeting 14-01

Held at the New Lenox Village Hall / Community Room

1 Veteran's Parkway New Lenox, IL 60451

Wednesday January 29, 2014 / 2:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Dan Martin called the meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition to order at 2:30pm.

In Attendance

Daniel Martin/NLPD, Arnie Pilmonas/AVP Counseling, Bill Byerley/Illinois Radio League & Will County ARES, Bob Nelson/NLSD #122, Brenda Lutz/Will County Emergency Management Agency, Deb Hypke/New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, Gary Cheney/ShareFest, Jackie Mansholt/Will County Health Department, Jessica Jepsen/Chiro One Wellness, John Mitchell/American Red Cross, Joe Enzenberger/Dryer Vent Wizard of Will County, Kathie Johnson/New Lenox Township, Lauren Lotz/New Lenox Community Park District, Leslie Newbon/Silver Cross Hospital, Lisa Kline/SBT Bank, Liz Schwenke/Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Marisa Schreiber/New Lenox Fire Protection District, Marta Keane/Will County Green, Mary Jo Button/St. Jude Parish, Michele Batara/Crisis Line of Will-Grundy County, Paul Lyons/Home Helpers and Tom Donegan/Metra.

Also in attendance were the following:

- April Balzhiser/ Guardian Angel Community Services (guest speaker)
- Rickie Multon/Will County Emergency Management Agency (Intern)
- Jeannette Park/New Lenox Resident
- Colleen Waltman/New Lenox Public Library (in attendance for Erin Hunter)
- Noe Santiago/Pinnacle Physical Therapy and Chair of Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group
- Rebecca Thomas/THT (Social Worker)
- Melissa McClintock/Silver Cross Hospital (Intern)
- Kathy Claver/New Lenox Community Park District
- Rachel Ridge/Rosecrance (Community Relations Coordinator)
- Allison Anderson/Will County Health Department (Emergency Response Specialist)
- Alain Murry/New Lenox CERT and Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Task Group
- Derek Harris/Sertoma Centre and Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group Member

Recognition of NLSCAC Member Deb Hypke / New Lenox Chamber of Commerce

As many were aware, Deb Hypke was in the process of stepping down as CEO of the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce at the time of this meeting. As such, Deb would also be leaving the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition (NLSCAC) and New Lenox Citizen Corps Council (NLCCC). Dan Martin made the announcement to those in attendance and noted that Deb was one of the founding members of the NLSCAC and NLCCC. Dan thanked Deb for her contributions and introduced Mayor Tim Baldermann who was also in attendance. Mayor Baldermann, on behalf of the Village of New Lenox and its residents, also thanked Deb for her service. Mayor Baldermann wished Deb good luck with her future endeavors and presented her with a plaque recognizing her service with the NLSCAC / NLCCC. Deb then addressed the group stating that she will miss the NLSCAC / NLCCC and their members. Deb wished everyone well and reminded the group that she still resides in New Lenox and will be seeing folks around town.

Approval of the November 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Minutes for the November 20, 2013 meeting were sent via email prior to the meeting. Tom Donegan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Marisa Schrieber. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

New Membership

Dan Martin reminded those in attendance that Bill Byerley, representing the Illinois Radio League and Will County ARES had conducted a presentation on amateur radio operations at the November 20, 2013 meeting. Dan advised those in attendance that Bill had expressed an interest in becoming a collaborative member of the group and added that as a resident, business owner and community volunteer he had much to offer. At this time, Dan made a formal motion to accept the Illinois Radio League and Will County ARES, represented by Bill Byerley, to join the group. Kathie Johnson provided a second to the motion. After no further discussion, the motion carried at which time everyone congratulated Bill and welcomed him to the group.

Dan Martin then advised that Arnie Pilmonas from AVP Counseling had been attending meeting for quite some time and has always had something positive to offer. Dan added that Arnie has professional experience with alcohol and substance abuse and would clearly be an asset to the group. At this time, Dan made a formal motion to accept AVP Counseling Services, represented by Arnie Pilmonas, to join the group. Lisa Kline provided a second to the motion. After no further discussion, the motion carried at which time everyone congratulated Arnie and officially welcomed him to the group.

Presentation / Guest Speaker – April Balzhiser / Guardian Angel Community Services

Dan Martin introduced April Balzhiser from Guardian Angel Community Services to the group as the guest speaker. April did a wonderful job describing all the programs that fall under the umbrella of Guardian Angel Community Services. The programs that April described were as follows:

- Dillard Harris Educational Center
- Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse
- Foster Care
- Groundwork Domestic Violence Program
- Partner Abuse Intervention Program
- Sexual Assault Services Center

- Sue Manner Turk Transitional Living Program – Suzy’s Caring Place

April advised that Guardian Angel is located at 1550 Plainfield Road Joliet, IL. Guardian Angel’s phone number is (815) 729-0930 and their web site is www.gacsprograms.org. April also provided the Groundwork Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline Number (815) 729-1228 and the Sexual Assault Services Center 24-Hour Hotline Number (815) 730-8984. April concluded her presentation at approximately 3:00pm following a short Q & A session with those in attendance.

New Business

Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo

Dan Martin advised that plans are moving forward for this year’s Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo. The event will be held at Lincoln-Way West High School on Wednesday March 5th. The Health and Safety Expo will be from 5:00pm to 7:00pm while the Severe Weather Spotter Training will be held from 7:00pm to approximately 8:30pm. Dan advised that almost 50 organizations have already committed to the Health and Safety Expo, which will be capped at 50. In addition, there will be a Community Blood Drive held in conjunction with the event. The blood drive will be in collaboration with Heartland Blood Center and will run from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Dan requested those in attendance to assist with marketing the event by distributing flyers and posting the flyer electronically on web sites and Facebook pages.

Community Coalition Action Theory

Dan Martin advised that he had recently attended a Safe Communities America Workshop at the National Safety Council Headquarters in Itasca, IL. Frances Butterfoss, PhD, MED and President of Coalitions Work also attended the meeting. Donna Stein-Harris from the National Safety Council requested Dr. Butterfoss attend the workshop to her Community Coalition Action Theory.

Dan provided a brief overview of the model, which includes the various developmental stages of coalitions. In summary, the model flows in the following order: Community Context (input) > Lead Agency / Group Convener > Coalition Membership > Processes, Leadership / Staffing & Structures > Collaborative Synergy (Member Engagement & Pooled Resources) > Assessment & Planning / Implementation Strategies > Community Change Outcomes, including Community Capacity and Health / Social Outcomes. The model essentially moves from coalition formation, to maintenance, to institutionalization. Dan provided those in attendance with Dr. Butterfoss’ model, which explains each of the steps. Dan suggested that everyone review the model at their leisure and noted that our group (unknowingly) has followed this model since its inception.

Old Business

Task Group Reports

Emergency Preparedness – Al Murry / New Lenox CERT

Al advised that the Emergency Preparedness Task Group met on January 16, 2014 at 10:00am in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Al advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“The Emergency Preparedness Task Group will encourage citizens to take personal responsibility to be prepared through the development of programs, initiatives and strategies designed to promote safety and whole community preparedness.”** In addition, a synopsis of the meeting, Al advised that he is working on a project with Trinity Services wherein training in the area of emergency preparedness will be provided to Trinity Staff. In addition, ideas

are being discussed for AI to conduct visits of the Trinity homes (approximately 100) to ensure they are properly prepared for emergencies and disasters. So for example, AI would create a checklist to determine if each of the homes had a fire extinguisher, NOAA Weather Radio, 3-day supply of water/food, etc...

Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety – Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District

Marisa advised that the Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety Task Group met on January 16, 2014 at 10:30am in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Marisa advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To establish collaborative partnerships with organizations that utilize education, engineering and enforcement efforts to reduce deaths and injuries related to motor vehicle crashes.”** In addition to providing a synopsis of the meeting, Marisa advised that she recently submitted a grant to purchase child safety seats and included the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition as a partner. Marisa will keep the group informed as to the outcome of the grant and future event related to the car seat giveaway and installation.

Older Adults Falls Prevention – Noe Santiago / Pinnacle Physical Therapy

Noe advised that the Older Adults Fall Prevention Task Group met on January 16, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Noe advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To reduce injuries and deaths in the 65 and over population through the utilization of evidence-based and other programs designed to reduce falls and the fear of falling.”** In addition to providing a synopsis of the meeting, Noe advised that he would be teaching a Matter of Balance (8-hour) Coaches Class on February 19, 2014 at Encore Senior Living. Kathie Johnson added that over a dozen individuals have registered for the class and 10 slots are being sponsored by Encore. Noe advised that following the completion of the class, one or more Matter of Balance Classes will be scheduled locally. The ability to offer these classes to our seniors has increased because our “pool” of coaches continues to expand.

Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose – Arnie Pilmonas / AVP Counseling Services

Arnie advised that the Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose Task Group met on January 16, 2014 at 2:30pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Arnie advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To reduce injuries and deaths associated with poisoning by prescription drug overdose through the establishment of collaborative partnerships and the implementation of educational programs, strategies and initiatives.”** In addition to providing a synopsis of the meeting, Arnie advised that he would develop an Action Plan regarding the existing Unwanted Medication Disposal Program with the goal of increasing collection of medications by 10% in 2014.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness – Dan Martin / NLPD

Dan advised that the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group met on January 14, 2014 at 10:00am in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Dan advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To reduce deaths and injuries related to suicide, through the development of educational programs, initiatives and strategies that address factors which lead to the attempt or completion of suicide.”** Dan advised that the Task Group is currently looking at statistical data for New Lenox suicides and attempt suicides.

Examples of data include, male or female, age group, method and reason (if known). Dan explained that it is important to understand which groups are at risk, at least statistically, in order to provide preventative programs and initiatives. Dan also added that the group is working with Derek Harris from Sertoma Center to bring a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) class to New Lenox this Spring. Additional information such as the date, time and location will be shared as soon as it is available.

Workplace Safety – Dan Martin / NLPD

Dan advised that the Workplace Safety Task Group met on January 14, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Dan advised that Cindy Staskiewicz, a New Lenox resident, attended the meeting and is very excited to help as she has experience in this field. In addition, Cindy agreed to Chair the Task Group but could not attend today's meeting due to a conflict with her schedule. On behalf of Cindy, Dan advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To reduce injuries and deaths occurring in the workplace through the development of educational programs, strategies and initiatives.”** Dan advised that the group will be gathering additional statistical data to determine which injury prevention areas to pursue. In addition, the group will be seeking assistance from additional organizations with experience in workplace safety. Lastly, the group discussed Action Plans and how they will be beneficial to the group moving forward.

Youth Sports, Health and Safety – Jessica Jepsen / Chiro One Wellness

Jessica advised that the Youth Sports, Health and Safety Task Group met on January 14, 2014 at 2:30pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Jessica advised that the following Mission was developed for the group: **“To improve the health and safety of young athletes and reduce sports injuries through the development of educational programs, strategies and initiatives.”** Jessica advised that the group discussed various types of statistical data that could be utilized to assist with the fulfillment of the mission. Katie Christopherson from ATI was in attendance (also Co-Chair of the Task Group) and mentioned that ATI has a sports medicine database that's utilized with the Jr. Knights youth football program. This program should be able to determine which types of injuries are being sustained and possibly the reasons / causes as well. Jessica also advised that the group will be seeking additional partners (individuals and organizations) that would be willing to assist with efforts moving forward.

Announcements / Organization Updates

Those in attendance shared current news and events relevant to their organizations. Dan advised that he would be willing to forward electronic copies of materials that would be beneficial to the group.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday February 26, 2014 / 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.