

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

Meeting 14-07

**Held at the New Lenox Village Hall / Community Room
1 Veteran's Parkway New Lenox, IL 60451
Wednesday August 27, 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, Emily Johnson/New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, Erin Hunter/New Lenox Public Library, Gary Cheney/ShareFest, Holly Pierson/Lincoln-Way West High School, Joe Enzenberger/Dryer Vent Wizard, John Harper/Providence Catholic High School, Kathie Johnson/New Lenox Township, Lisa Kline/SBT Bank, Liz Schwenke/Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Marisa Schrieber/New Lenox Fire Protection District, Mary Jo Button/St. Jude Parish, Michele Batara/Crisis Line of Will-Grundy County, Noe Santiago/Pinnacle Physical Therapy, and Tracy Simons/Silver Cross Hospital.

Also in attendance were the following:

- Cindy Staskiewicz, Chair of the Workplace Safety Task Group
- Al Murry, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Task Group
- Patricia Steinkamp, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group
- Analiese Moyer/ with the American Red Cross
- Phil Pfeifer with Sports Brain
- Roy Kessel with Sports Brain

Approval of the July 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 30, 2014 meeting were sent to members via email prior to the meeting. Arnie Pilmonas made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Kathie Johnson. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker

Dan Martin introduced Phil Pfeifer from Sports Brain, who introduced his colleague Roy Kessel, also from Sports Brain. Phil and Roy provided those in attendance with some alarming statistics regarding sports-related concussions (estimated 4 million in the U.S. every year); every three minutes a child is seen in an emergency department for a sports-related concussion; and doctors look at 22 potential side effects when evaluating a concussion.

Phil and Roy utilized a PowerPoint for their discussion, pointing out the dangers of concussions, including causes, symptoms and treatment for young athletes. Phil and Roy stressed that proper testing will ensure that when an athlete suffers a concussion, the baseline test results can be used for several important purposes (also from their brochure that was provided to those in attendance:

- Helping identify diminished performance in the areas of cognitive function, vision, balance or reaction time;
- Providing the athlete's medical provider with objective, quantitative data that can be used to guide the athlete's recovery; and
- Ensuring that the athlete does not return to play before they are fully recovered which places the athlete at much greater risk for subsequent injury (ie. Second-Impact Syndrome).

Phil and Roy handled questions throughout the presentation, which concluded at approximately 3:10pm.

New Business

Dan Martin advised that the next meeting (September 24, 2014) would be "Bring Your Boss" (CEO, Administrators, etc...). Dan advised that Tess Benham from the National Safety Council would be the guest speaker and she will be speaking about prescription drug use in the workplace. Dan added that Tess would be bringing employer toolkits, which will be available to each of the organizations in attendance.

Old Business

Task Group Reports

Youth Sports, Health and Safety

No report.

Workplace Safety

Cindy Staskiewicz provided a synopsis of the August 21, 2014 Task Group Meeting which included two Action Plans the group was working on:

- Development of a model Emergency Action Plan for local businesses that addresses natural and man-made hazards.
 - Jenny Zimmerman from New Lenox School District #122 participated in the conference call and advised that she would provide a copy of the District's Emergency Action Plan as an example.
- A survey for local businesses to obtain baseline injury statistics and determine where to focus injury prevention efforts.
 - Emily Johnson, through the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, launched the survey, which was completed by approximately 30 individuals representing various size businesses and sectors. Although the sampling was relatively small, the results will provide some direction for the Task Group.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Dan Martin advised that the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group, in partnership with Sertoma Centre, will host another QPR Class on November 6, 2014 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Additionally in partnership with Sertoma Centre, an 8-hour Mental Health First Aid Class will be offered on November 18, 2014 (tentative date). Additional details for the Mental Health First Aid Class, such as Continuing Education Units (CEUs), still need to be worked out.

Patricia Steinkamp advised that she has been researching Suicide Survivor's Groups. Pat explained that she is searching for a local group that offers services but if no local groups provide services to survivors, she would be interested in starting a group. Patricia advised that she would continue her research and brief the group as to her findings at the next meeting.

Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

Arnie Pilmonas advised that the prescription drug overdose event planned for Wednesday September 24th is still a go. Arnie advised that he has been promoting the event with his clients and at various events, which he attends. Arnie advised that Rachel Ridge from Rosecrance came up with “Coming to Light – the Dark Side of Prescription Medications” as the official name for the event. The format will include a presentation from Rachel Ridge (including a video), a presentation from a doctor who specializes in the physiological effects of prescription medications and an individual who is currently in recovery from prescription medications.

In addition to discussing the “Coming to Light – the Dark Side of Prescription Medications” event, Arnie provided those in attendance with posters addressing prescription drugs, from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

Marisa Schrieber provided everyone in attendance with a synopsis of the Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety Task Group’s August 21st conference call, which included the following:

- Time will not permit the Task Group to hold a Child Safety Seat Check on Saturday September 20th. Marisa will be looking into the best way to distribute the remaining child safety seats from the April 22nd event.
- The week of September 14th (thru the 20th) is Child Passenger Safety Week. Marisa will be placing a safety message on the marquees at the NLFPD Stations. Information will also be sent to the Safe Communities Coalition so members can promote this week within their own organizations via social media and other methods.
- Marisa will be participating in Road to Reality at LWCHS on September 16th and at LWWHS on September 17th. Marisa will take photos and provide a report on the event at our September meeting.
- Dan Martin advised he would speak to Tom Donegan about Operation Lifesaver as well as Grade Crossing Safety with the hope of getting some presentations and / or blitzes scheduled for this Fall.
- Lastly, the Task Group discussed the feasibility of purchasing or borrowing a distracted driving simulator - something that would demonstrate how texting or drunk/drugged driving can impair a driver. Marisa will advise everyone the Task Group’s findings at a future meeting.

Older Adults Falls Prevention

Noe Santiago advised that the Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group met at the Presence Healing Arts Pavilion on August 20, 2014 at 2:30pm. During the meeting, the group discussed an event to promote National Falls Prevention Awareness Day on September 23, 2014, which will be held at the Presence Healing Arts Pavilion thanks to Liz Schwenke. The event will include the following:

- Informational tables including Matter of Balance
- Health screenings (blood pressure, balance screenings, etc...)
- Presentations by geriatric doctors

Noe advised that if the event goes well, he would like to make this an Annual event to promote National Falls Prevention Awareness Day.

Noe also advised that MOB Classes #8, started at the Cottages of New Lenox On August 19th and will conclude on October 7th. Additional MOB Classes will be held as follows:

- Starting September 8th (Mondays) thru October 27th, 9:30am – 11:30am at New Lenox VFW Post 9545, 323 Old Hickory Road, New Lenox, IL 60451.
- Starting September 24th (Wednesdays) thru November 12th, 9:30am to 11:30am at the United Methodist Church, 339 New Lenox Road (Haven Avenue), New Lenox, IL 60451.
- Starting October 9th (Thursdays) thru December 4th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the New Lenox Public Library, 120 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox, IL 60451.

Emergency Preparedness

Al Murry provide those in attendance with a report on the Emergency Preparedness Task Group and its planned activities. Al advised that New Lenox CERT, in partnership with the American Red Cross, are planning a National Preparedness Month event at the New Lenox Public Library the week of September 15th. Al advised that volunteers will be staffing an informational table from 10:00am to 8:00pm Monday thru Thursday and 10:00am to 6:00pm on Friday. The table will include literature from Ready.gov, information on severe weather, as well as information on New Lenox CERT. The week will conclude with an Emergency / Disaster Preparedness presentation Saturday September 20, 2014 at 10:30am. Al noted that the hours will be covered by New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers and perhaps volunteers from the American Red Cross.

Al advised that he will provide visitors with emergency whistles and hoped that he would be able to get 10 backpacks (for 72-hour kits), 10 first aid kits and 10 NOAA weather radios donated. Al advised that he will utilize these items as raffle prizes for those in attendance at Saturday's presentation. Analiese Moyer from the American Red Cross advised that she would work toward securing the NOAA weather radios while Tracy Simons from Silver Cross Hospital advised that she would supply the first aid kits. Both were thanked for their contributions.

Dan Martin added that a 20-Hour Basic CERT Class would be starting on September 11, 2014 at 6:30pm at the New Lenox Police Department. The class will be held on Thursday evenings thru October 23rd and graduation will be on Saturday October 25th.

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 September 24, 2014 / 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50pm.