

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

Meeting 14-08

**Held at the New Lenox Village Hall / Community Room
1 Veteran's Parkway New Lenox, IL 60451
Wednesday September 24, 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, Allison Anderson/Will County Health Department, Arnie Pilmonas/AVP Counseling, Bob Nelson/NLSD #122, Emily Johnson/New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, Holly Pierson/Lincoln-Way West High School, John Mitchell/American Red Cross, Lauren Lotz/New Lenox Community Park District, Leslie Newbon/Silver Cross Hospital, Liz Schwenke/Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Marisa Schreiber/New Lenox Fire Protection District, Mary Jo Button/St. Jude Parish, Michele Batara/Will County Crisis Line, Noe Santiago/Pinnacle Physical Therapy, Patricia Hensley/Senior Services of Will County, and Rachel Ridge/Rosecrance Health Network.

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, Chair of the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group
- Analiese Moyer/ with the American Red Cross
- Phil Pfeifer with Sports Brain
- Kimberly Koning with AVP Counseling
- Meredith Dobes with the New Lenox Patriot
- Gia Washington with Sertoma Centre

Approval of the August 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 27, 2014 meeting were sent to members via email prior to the meeting. Liz Schwenke made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Emily Johnson. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker

Dan Martin introduced Tess Benham, Program Manager, from the National Safety Council (NSC) who was kind enough to make the drive from NSC Headquarters in Itasca, IL for a presentation on prescription medications in the workplace. Tess began her presentation by stating that overdose is now the leading cause of unintentional death in the United States. Furthermore, prescription painkillers (opioids) are the leading cause of overdose. Opioids increase the risk of traffic crashes, falls, workplace injury and injuries within communities.

The United States contains 4.6% of the world's population but consumes 80% of the world's opioid medication. The U.S. consumes enough opioid medication to supply every citizen with 700mg of morphine every year. Not only are opioids dangerous, but they are not very good pain medications in terms of treating acute and chronic pain.

Tess provided those in attendance with statistical data (via PowerPoint slides) of opioid sales, deaths and opioid treatment admissions from 1999 to 2010. The graph showed upward trends in all three areas. Tess also provided information about effectiveness of pain medications. Interestingly, a combination of ibuprophen and acetaminophen was more effective in controlling pain than the opioid pain medications.

Tess went on to say that, the National Safety Council is currently doing the following to address this issue:

- Policy development
 - NGA
- Employer education and assistance
 - Employer toolkit
- Prescriber education
 - Practice guidelines with AAFP, ACP
- Community / public education
 - Community toolkit

Tess entertained questions throughout the presentation and provided her contact information as well as contact information for her colleague, Dr. Don Teater, Medical Advisor to the National Safety Council. Dan Martin thanked Tess for the presentation and invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting, which she did.

New Business

None

Old Business

Task Group Reports

Youth Sports, Health and Safety

No report.

Workplace Safety

No report.

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. Also in partnership with Sertoma Centre, an 8-hour Mental Health First Aid Class will be offered on November 11, 2014. 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 is moving forward with a group for those that have lost loved ones to suicide. Pat is still looking for a mental health professional(s) to help her facilitate the class as well as a class location for the monthly meetings. At the next meeting, Patricia will provide everyone with additional information.

Patricia also graciously agreed to Chair the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group. Dan Martin thanked her for agreeing to Chair the Group that previously had no Chair.

Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

Arnie Pilmonas advised that the prescription drug overdose event “Coming to Light – The Dark Side of Prescription Medications” is scheduled to begin at 7:00pm (September 24th). Rachel Ridge will be the main

speaker for the evening and will be joined by a doctor from Clinical Associates in Medicine. In addition to Rachel (who will also play a YouTube video detailing the lives of teens affected by prescription medications) and the doctor, Arnie has also asked a woman who is still in recovery from prescription medications, to speak. Arnie encouraged those in attendance to attend the event.

Dan added that New Lenox Community Television / Channel 6 would videotape the event for broadcasting via their YouTube Channel as well as on Channel 6.

Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

Marisa Schrieber provided everyone in attendance with a synopsis of the Road to Reality event, which was held at Lincoln-Way West High School on September 16th. Marisa advised the event was great and well attended. Holly Pierson concurred and added that Lincoln-Way Central High School also held a Road to Reality event.

Older Adults Falls Prevention

Noe Santiago advised that the Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group, in partnership with Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, held an event to promote National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Noe advised that the event was held at the Presence Healing Arts Pavilion (thanks to Liz Schwenke), on September 23, 2014. Noe advised that everything was in place for a great event (informational tables, health screenings and presentations) but unfortunately, there was a low turnout. Noe advised that the Task Group is looking forward to planning next year's event which will include additional marketing strategies.

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 advised that the emergency preparedness event at the New Lenox Public Library went very well. Al advised that volunteers staffed an informational table from Monday September 15th thru Thursday September 18th from 10:00am to 8:00pm. On Friday September 19th the table was staffed from 10:00am to 6:00pm. On Saturday September 20th an emergency preparedness presentation was given at 10:30am and lasted until 12:00pm due to the number of questions and discussion. Thanks to a number of individuals and organizations, those in attendance at the lecture, received backpacks (Tom Chojnacki), NOAA weather radios (Anneliese Moyer) and first aid kits (Silver Cross Hospital). Al thanked those individuals and organizations while Dan Martin thanked Al for his outstanding leadership and contributions. Dan noted that Al took a week's vacation from work to ensure that this event went well.

Dan Martin added that a 20-Hour Basic CERT Class started on September 11th and is being held on Thursday evenings at the police department. CERT Class #9 is scheduled to graduate on Saturday October 25th.

Dan also provided a brief synopsis of emergency preparedness activities (training, community events, community outreach) involving the CERT / MRC and SAR volunteers.

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 October 29, 2014 / 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department due to Early Voting at the Village Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50pm.