

MINUTES AS TAKEN BY NORMA CASON AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW LENOX SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA COALITION

MEETING 15-08
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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, Abby Milone / Lincoln-Way School District 210, Bob Nelson, NLSD #122, Brenda Lutz / WCEMA, Gary Cheney / ShareFest, Gia Washington / Sertoma Centre, Holly Pierson / Lincoln-Way West High School, Joe Enzenberger / Dryer Vent Wizard of Will County, Katie Roley / Will County Health Department, Liz Wetmore / New Lenox Public Library, Mary Kate Burns / Trinity Services Inc., Richard Hazel / American Red Cross, Stephen Kehoe / Silver Cross Hospital and Sue Meyers / NAMI of Will-Grundy County.

Also in attendance:

Laura Regis / Older Adult Falls Prevention Task Group
Norma Cason / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group
Lisa Arp / NAMI of Will-Grundy County

Approval of the August 26, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the August 26, 2015 meeting were sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. Brenda Lutz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Stephen Kehoe. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Presentation / Guest Speakers – Sue Meyers and Teena Mackey / NAMI of Will-Grundy County

Sue Meyers explained that NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. She went on to report that NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. Sue provided brochures which detailed several free programs available in Will and Grundy Counties which have been designed to offer education, skills training and support for those living with mental illness and Lisa Arp offered some personal experience regarding her involvement with NAMI. The representatives from NAMI also indicated that they are working on a pilot program that could be available for presentation to school districts in the future.

The mission statement of NAMI Will-Grundy is to support individuals with mental illnesses and their families through advocacy, education and outreach.

New Business

There was no need for discussion of new business at this meeting.

Old Business

Task Group Reports

Older Adults Fall Prevention

Dan Martin announced Laura Regis as the new Chair of the Older Adults Fall Prevention Task Group. Laura has replaced Noe Santiago who is currently unable to chair due to new employment opportunities. It is anticipated that Noe will continue his support of the Task Group as his schedule permits.

Laura Regis reported that September has been a very busy month for the Older Adults Fall Prevention Task Group. The 18th Matter of Balance Class began on Monday, September 14th and is being held every Monday from 9:30 am until 11:30 am at the New Lenox VFW through November 6, 2015. The classes are being taught by Laura Regis, Sherry Scherdin, and Linda Paschal with Norma Cason auditing the sessions. The next Matter of Balance Class will be scheduled for the Spring of 2016.

Laura also reported on the fact that Fit and Strong Class #2 began on Monday, September 14th at the Guy Sell Senior Center. Classes are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm for 8 weeks with graduation scheduled for Friday, November 6th. Fit and Strong Class #3 is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2016.

A full day Matter of Balance Coach Training Class was held on Tuesday, September 15th where four new coaches were trained to assist with planned balance classes in 2016 and going forward. The class was taught by “Master” instructors Noe Santiago, Laura Regis and Kathie Johnson. Those receiving Matter of Balance Coach Certification were Bonnie DuCharme, Janice Pomp, Karen Malone and Norma Cason.

In addition, National Falls Prevention Awareness Day was held Wednesday, September 23rd at the Guy Sell Senior Center where attendance by seniors was somewhat improved over last year's participation but the overall turnout was disappointing. A simultaneous Fit and Strong Class was being held and many of the attendees joined in for a few of the exercises. Booths were manned by Provena - St. Joseph Medical Center personnel where balance testing was done and Walgreens Pharmacy where free flu shots were provided. Additional information and direction was provided by the New Lenox Fire Protection District, the New Lenox Community Park District, New Lenox Township, TRIAD and the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition. Laura Regis reported that planning is already underway to improve and expand the National Falls Prevention Awareness Day Program for 2016.

Dan Martin noted that the expenses involved with the Matter of Balance and the Fit and Strong Classes were being covered by a grant from the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging for which he is very grateful. Dan advised that the balance of the current grant monies was recently spent on class materials and adaptive devices for use by participants.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness

It was announced by Dan Martin that Stephen Kehoe from Silver Cross Hospital Behavioral Health will be the new chair for this Task Group and that Patricia Steinkamp would continue her involvement in Healing Hearts – Survivors of Suicide Group and will also continue to be available to assist with the Suicide and Prevention Awareness Task Group as her new work schedule permits.

Stephen Kehoe reported that the group recently held an event on September 10th in support of World Suicide Prevention Day had excellent attendance. The event was described as a panel discussion as well as a Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) Class as presented by Sertoma Centre for the last hour. Stephen thanked Gia

Washington from Sertoma Centre for their involvement and participation. Stephen Kehoe noted that the Suicide Prevention Day received positive reviews in the local press.

It was announced by Stephen Kehoe that on October 8th from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, free depression screening will be done at the Conference Center of Silver Cross Hospital. A written test and confidential meeting will be offered with a behavioral health professional to screen for clinical depression which is a common medical illness affecting more than 19 million American adults each year.

Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

Dan Martin advised that there would not be a formal report for this Task Group as both Arnie Pilmonas of AVP Counseling and DUI Services, Inc. and Rachel Ridge of Rosecrance were not available to attend.

Emergency Preparedness

Brenda Lutz from the Will County Emergency Management Agency spoke to the fact that September was National Preparedness Month (NPM). Brenda advised that the initiative to provide texting services to 9-1-1 call centers is currently being implemented in some areas but is not yet available throughout the county. Brenda advised Dan Martin that she would provide him with a flyer regarding the 9-1-1 texting program when it becomes available.

It was noted that October 4th through October 10th Fire Prevention Awareness activities are planned to promote fire safety and to provide educational information. Entertaining events for children and informative programs for adults are scheduled. Dan Martin discussed the electronic distribution of program announcements and information.

Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

Dan Martin advised that there would not be a formal report from this Task Group at this meeting.

Announcements / Organization Updates

It was explained by Dan Martin that it was necessary for the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition to apply for re-accreditation for 2015 and that he's in the process of working on the application. Dan went on to discuss the need to re-tool the task group organizational chart with the hopes of revitalizing the Workplace Safety and Youth Sports Health and Safety Task Group Groups in the future.

Attendees shared current news and events relevant to their organizations. In particular, Gary Cheney provided a 2015 ShareFest update at which time he thanked NLSA #122 for their participation and cooperation and provided very interesting statistics on the amount of hazardous waste collected as well as the vast amount of recyclable materials handled by 110 volunteers. Gary noted that 2016 will be the 10th anniversary of ShareFest in New Lenox.

Holly Pierson of Lincoln-Way West High School noted that the annual Road to Reality reenactment of the consequences of underage drinking and driving would be available during their Homecoming activities in early October. Holly agreed to provide a flyer regarding this event to Dan Martin.

Richard Hazel of the American Red Cross noted that he was a new member of the group and that he looked forward to engaging in community-related activities primarily in the area of home fire prevention and evacuation planning.

Dan Martin advised those in attendance 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 28, 2015 at 2:30 pm.** The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35pm.