

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

MEETING 15-10  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

**Call to Order**

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

**In Attendance**

Daniel Martin / New Lenox Police Department, Allison Anderson / Will County Emergency Management Agency, Holly Pierson / Lincoln-Way West High School, Lauren Lotz / New Lenox Community Park District, Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District, Mary Jo Button / St. Jude's Parish, Mary Kate Burns / Trinity Services, Inc., Richard Hazel / American Red Cross,

**Also in Attendance:**

Linda Forst / University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health  
Alanah Raykovich University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health  
Laura Regis / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group (Chair)  
Norma Cason / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group  
Karen Malone / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group  
Lisa Arp / NAMI of Will-Grundy County  
Deb Engler / Olivet University  
Nick Hindman / Will County Emergency Management Agency (Intern)

**Approval of the October 28, 2015 Minutes**

The minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting were sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. Lauren Lotz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Allison Anderson. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 Citizen Corps Council meeting by Marissa Schrieber and seconded by Holly Pierson. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Presentation / Guest Speaker – Linda Forst, MD, MPH, University of Illinois at Chicago**

Dr. Forst explained that as a part of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, one of their primary focus areas is workplace safety. Their goal is to optimize the health and well-being of employed people in the State of Illinois – considering both their overall health, and considering their safety and health in the workplace. By gathering “health indicators” data, they are able to do research and to also provide community level projects which help them achieve their goal. Dr. Forst explained that accumulated data can also be used to further focus on general injury prevention.

During her presentation, Dr. Forst reported that many at-risk working populations tend to work in small businesses or for sub-contractors that place them in large companies and that these employment scenarios have a higher incidence of work-related injuries. In addition, it has been found that these employers are often unable to provide health promotion programs that might benefit their work forces.

Dr. Forst reported that the New Lenox Safe Communities of America Coalition would be a natural partner for them to assist with the Coalition's effort to address occupational health and ultimately injury prevention at the community level. Collaborative work ideas were presented and discussed regarding survey development, data accumulation, existing data base access, etc. In addition, meeting attendees shared their thoughts and ideas regarding the possible collaborative effort between the Will County Health Department's Workplace Wellness Program and the UIC Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Program.

### **New Business**

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

### **Old Business**

Dan Martin reported on his progress with the Safe Communities America re-accreditation process for 2016 and the painstaking data accumulation required to ensure the validity of the findings. Many New Lenox agencies are involved in the statistical data which has been acquired over the past five (5) years which will show the positive impact of preventive programs that have been implemented. Dan anticipated that the re-accreditation application would be completed in early 2016.

### **Task Group Reports**

#### **Older Adults Fall Prevention**

Laura Regis reported that the Older Adults Fall Prevention Task Force Group Meetings will reconvene in January 2016. The 18<sup>th</sup> Matter of Balance Class graduated on November 2, 2015 with a total of 225 older adults having graduated the program since its inception. The Fit & Strong Program graduated Class #2 on November 6, 2015 with a total of 45 older adults having participated in the program to date. Matter of Balance and Fit & Strong Classes will continue throughout 2016 with the ultimate goal of reducing falls and injuries in the older adult population.

#### **Suicide Prevention and Awareness**

The month of November marked the one year anniversary of the Healing Hearts – Survivors of Suicide Support Group. The group's mission is to provide a safe place where family and friends who have lost loved ones can share their stories and experiences while they work through their grief. The next scheduled meeting of Healing Hearts is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015 where the video documentary entitled *The Journey* will be shown.

It was reported that Patricia Steinkamp and her family will attend the upcoming Faces of Suicide International Conference.

#### **Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose**

Dan Martin advised that there would not be a formal report for this Task Group but it has been determined that approximately 100 pounds of expired/no-longer-needed prescription drugs are being turned in each month (or 1,200 pounds per year) to the New Lenox Police Department for final disposition. This program's ultimate goal is to prevent prescription drug overdose but to also prevent possible experimentation with prescription medications easily accessible in the home.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Allison Anderson of the Will County Emergency Management Agency advised that the month of November has been dedicated to winter weather preparedness and each attendee was given a brochure for review. Allison advised that the next scheduled CERT Train-the-Trainer Class will begin on

December 28, 2015 and Dan Martin noted that with the recent completion of CERT Class #10, 300 residents have successfully received emergency response training.

It is Allison's plan to attend the Whole Communities Conference scheduled for December 2-3, 2015 which is a FEMA-based program that came about following national dialogue between many emergency management partners at all levels. The foundation for the Whole Communities concept is well explained on the Ready.gov website.

Richard Hazel from the Red Cross organization spoke briefly about the Pillow Case Project for 7-11 year old children and the eight-hour training course necessary for the volunteers. Richard noted that he will work with Lauren Lotz to facilitate the implementation of this program through the Park District.

#### Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

Marissa Schrieber did not have a formal report from this Task Group.

#### Announcements / Organization Updates

Some attendees shared current news and events relevant to their organizations. In particular, Mary Jo Button provided a flier which detailed the November 29, 2015 free Christmas Cantata which will be performed at St. Jude Catholic Church in New Lenox.

Lauren Lotz of the New Lenox Community Park District advised that the Winter/Spring 2016 New Lenox Park District Directories were being distributed in *The Patriot Newspaper* the week of November 16, 2016 and that the new programs would also be available for review on their website beginning Friday, November 20, 2015.

In addition, Lauren noted that the New Lenox Park District will be holding a mascot naming contest which will be conducted on their Facebook Page. Name suggestions will be accepted December 6, 2015 through February 2, 2016 with the top six (6) names voted upon by the park district Facebook fans.

#### Next Meeting Date

The New Lenox Safe Communities America and Citizen Corps Council will not meet in December. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 27, 2016 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 3:35 pm.