

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

MEETING 16-01
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

Call to Order

Dan 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, Richard Hazel / American Red Cross, Katie Roley / Will County Health Department, John Harper / Providence Catholic High School, Allison Anderson / Will County Emergency Management Agency, Liz Wetmore / New Lenox Public Library, Bob Nelson, New Lenox School District #122, Tom Donegan, Metra, Gia Washington / Sertoma Centre, Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District, Joe Enzenberger / Dryer Vent Wizard of Will County, Liz Schwenke, Presence St. Joseph's Medical Center, and Kathy Claver / New Lenox Community Park District.

Also in Attendance

Linda Forst / University of Illinois at Chicago
Nihaya Daoud / University of Illinois at Chicago
Norma Cason / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group & NLSCAC Secretary
Laura Regis / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group Chair
Cathy Rook / Sertoma Centre
Patricia Steinkamp / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group and Healing Hearts
Ann Powers / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group and Healing Hearts

Approval of the November 18, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting were sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. Allison Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Katie Roley. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

A combined motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 Citizen Corps Council meeting minutes and 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 returned to address the New Lenox Safe Communities American Coalition Members to further explain the role 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 and 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 indicator” 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.

While focusing on injury prevention, Dr. Forst provided a comprehensive and informative presentation entitled *Injuries: An Approach To Prevention* with the main objective to introduce the area of injury

prevention from a public health standpoint and to also foster considerations of how to prevent injuries. Dr. Forst's presentation included the use of the **Haddon Matrix** which is used to help analyze injury data, which includes pre-event, event, and post-event phases. Examples were given regarding the use of this type of matrix to reduce the number of injury events before they happen, reduce the number of injuries that do occur and, finally, to reduce the severity of injury and optimize the outcome.

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 reiterated the fact 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 issues and ultimate injury prevention at the community level.

New Business

Dan Martin provided a review of 2015 which included the highlights of various task group accomplishments and the positive impact of the preventive programs that have been implemented.

The 2016 New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition Meeting Schedule was discussed at length and it was determined that a bi-monthly (every other month) meeting schedule would be more accommodating. In addition, it was suggested that an earlier meeting time might be a better fit for the majority of meeting attendees. As a result of these discussions, a motion was made by Dan Martin to change the Safe Communities Coalition Meetings to bi-monthly with a new starting time of 10:30am. The meeting change motion was seconded by Laura Regis and approved. The meetings will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of the scheduled month at the New Lenox Village Hall in the Community Room.

The strengths, goals and objectives, and leadership of the various task groups was addressed for 2016. Dan Martin noted that due to changes over time, some task members are not as available as they had been but that it is important to maintain the integrity of each task group moving forward. It is hoped that new partners can be found to assist with the revitalization process and Dan Martin asked the meeting attendees to be mindful of the continued need for new strategic partners and / or task group members.

Old Business

Dan Martin reported that the New Lenox Safe Communities America application for re-accreditation for 2016 was being reviewed by the National Safety Council. Five (5) years of statistical data from many New Lenox agencies along with meeting agendas and minutes was included in the data accumulation process that accompanied the re-accreditation application.

Task Group Reports

Older Adults Fall Prevention

Laura Regis reported that the first 2016 Older Adults Fall Prevention Task Force Meeting was held on January 20, 2016. Three Matter of Balance Classes have been scheduled for the spring of 2016 and press releases and flyers have been prepared. Matter of Balance Classes will recess for the summer and will be continued in the fall. The third Fit & Strong Class has been tentatively scheduled for summer 2016 and will be finalized once school location availability is determined. Bob Nelson (New Lenox School District #122) will work with Dan Martin to finalize the school location.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Patricia Steinkamp advised that the 2016 World Suicide Prevention Day is scheduled for September 10, 2016. Additional information regarding planned activities will be forthcoming.

The next scheduled meeting of the Healing Hearts – Survivors of Suicide Support Group is February 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm where the topic will be **“What is Normal Grief; You're Not Losing Your Mind!”**. It was noted that Gia Washington of the Sertoma Centre will be the guest speaker at the Healing Hearts March 2016 Meeting and that the ***S.A.D. Presentation*** will be offered and discussed at that time.

It was further noted that Gia Washington and her Sertoma Centre associates will continue to provide Q.P.R. (Gate Keeper Training) Classes and their Mental Health First Aid Programs throughout 2016.

Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

Dan Martin advised that there would not be a formal report for this task force 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 accidental prescription drug overdose but to also prevent possible experimentation with prescription medications easily accessible in the home.

Emergency Preparedness

Brenda Lutz was not available to attend this meeting.

Dan Martin advised that New Lenox Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) will be ongoing throughout 2016. Dan expounded on the important role that CERT volunteers provide and noted that in 2015, CERT volunteers provided an estimated 3,592 hours of service at various events and activities throughout New Lenox which included meetings, training sessions and community events.

In addition, Dan Martin advised severe weather preparedness will again be a part of the Health & Safety Expo which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at Lincoln-Way West High School.

Richard Hazel from the American 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 is working with Lauren Lotz to facilitate the implementation of this program through the Park District and that he will also work with the New Lenox Library to determine program involvement at that level.

Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

Marissa Schreiber did not have a formal report from this task group.

Announcements / Organization Updates

Some attendees shared current news and events relevant to their organizations:

Tom Donegan of Metra announced a full-day chemical train derailment and emergency response scenario which will be presented at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn on March 3, 2016.

Allison Anderson of Will County Emergency Management advised that she will be attending an Emergency Preparedness Disaster Training Session which is being sponsored by the Plainfield Fire Protection District on February 23, 2016.

Kathy Claver provided a flyer which describes the free program sponsored by the New Lenox Park District entitled *Caregiver Stress – Relief, Acceptance and Empowerment* which is organized by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Illinois Chapter. The program on Thursday, February 18, 2016 will introduce participants to the causes, signs and symptoms of stress, and will provide stress-reduction strategies.

Liz Wetmore of the New Lenox Public Library announced their new Homebound Library Delivery Service which will benefit all individuals who are unable to physically come to the library due to mobility, health, or disability issues. The delivery and pick-up of library materials will be made by library staff and volunteers. Liz provided a flyer which describes the program in detail.

Next Meeting Date

Based on the above meeting schedule changes, a February Safe Communities Meeting will not be held. The next bi-monthly meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 10:30 am**. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm.