

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

MEETING 16-04

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016

**Call to Order**

Dan Martin called the meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition to order at 10:30am.

**In Attendance**

Dan Martin / NLPD, Brian Kirk / H.E.R.O., Liz Wetmore / New Lenox Public Library, Barry Kolanowski / Senior Services of Will County, Lisa Kline / NuMark Credit Union, Tom Donegan / Metra PD, Katie Weber / Will County Health Department, Michele Batara / Crisis Line of Will County, Gary Cheney / ShareFest, Michele Deering / JointPro Physical Therapy, Lisa Arp / NAMI, Stephen Kehoe / Silver Cross Hospital, Mary Kate Burns / Trinity Services, Inc., Paul Lyons / Home Helpers, Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District, Gia Washington / Sertoma Centre Inc., Jan Dombrowski / H.E.R.O., Joe Enzenberger / Dryer Vent Wizard of Will County,

Also in attendance:

Patricia Edgett / Emergency Preparedness Task Group  
Norma Cason / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group  
Patricia Steinkamp / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group  
Ann Powers / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group  
Liz Schwenke / VFW Post 9545 Women's Auxiliary  
Carl Cicero / Metra PD  
Barbara Agor / Will County Health Department  
Marie Kirk / H.E.R.O.  
Susan Bergin

**Approval of the May 25, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes of the May 25, 2016 meeting were sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. Liz Schwenke 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.

A combined motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2016 Citizen Corps Council meeting and after no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Guest Speaker / Presentation – Barry Kolanowski, Executive Director, Senior Services of Will County**

Barry Kolanowski provided a thorough and informative description of the Senior Services of Will County organization which included a history of his background and his vision for change and improvement of the organization going forward. This presentation included an overview of the types of programs provided by the center since its inception in 1966-1967. Senior Services

has been working with seniors, families and caregivers to provide support, resources and programs developed to enrich the lives of older Americans. Their primary focus includes case coordination, educational programs, health screenings, social life improvement and the ability to provide information and assistance on various programs and services aimed at older adults and caregivers throughout Will County in Illinois.

It was noted that Senior Services of Will County provides services to **all** senior citizens of the county, not just those residing in Joliet. As a not-for-profit agency 501(c)(3), the organization is primarily supported by the Illinois Department on Aging, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, United Way and several other agencies, but they also raise money, receive grants, and accept donations on many levels. It was noted that Senior Services of Will County does not receive any funding from Will County and / or from the City of Joliet. Their mission statement is to enhance the quality of life for older persons, help maintain the wellness and the independence of older persons, and to help avoid or lessen isolation and loneliness for the rapidly growing population of older adults.

In closing, Barry expounded on the upcoming Senior Services of Will County Annual Senior Resource Festival that will be held August 3, 2016 at the Richland School on Caton Farm Road in Crest Hill, IL. The festival is open to the public with free admission at which more than 60 vendors will provide health screenings, door prizes, entertainment and informative workshops.

### **New Business**

#### **A. New Collaborative Partner – HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization)**

HERO representatives Brian Kirk and Jan Dombrowski were introduced to New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition members, after which a motion was made to accept the HERO organization as a collaborative partner. The motion to add HERO as stakeholder was made by Ann Powers and was seconded by Marisa Schrieber. After no further discussion, the motion carried and was approved.

Brian Kirk shared his personal experience of loss and his resolve to help the families of those who have lost a child or loved one to heroin. As a community-based, non-for-profit organization, HERO's mission is to stem the growth of the identified heroin epidemic which has affected every state in the nation. Brian provided some statistics as they apply to Will County including information from the Will County Coroner's Office which noted that the county is on track to lose over 100 lives in 2016 based on the number of fatal overdoses year-to-date.

Literature describing HERO was provided which showed that their mission is to stop the growing heroin epidemic through identified programs and also by supporting strategic pieces of legislation which will assist with their goal. HERO is dedicated to educating the public by raising awareness at all levels including parents, teachers and others in authority to the fact that heroin and other areas of substance abuse affects society as a whole. It was noted that we all bear the costs and consequences of heroin use in the form of economic and socioeconomic burdens that extend nationwide.

## B. ShareFest 2016 – Gary Cheney/ShareFest

Gary Cheney provided an update regarding the 2016 ShareFest movement and all of the upcoming activities. For additional information, Gary noted that updates are posted on the ShareFest websites ([sharefestnewlenox.com](http://sharefestnewlenox.com) or [sharefestwillcounty.com](http://sharefestwillcounty.com)). The websites detail the schedule of events planned throughout the weeks leading up to the main event in September. A Job & Resource Fair (which will incorporate a dress-for-success opportunity) will be held the second Friday of September. “Recyclepalooza” is scheduled for the second Saturday of September which is a free reuse/recycle event that allows Will County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste, electronics, Styrofoam, scrap metal and more.

The ShareFest 2016 “Main Event” is scheduled for the third Saturday in September at the Spencer School Campus which will include free legal advice from a group of attorneys, a health and safety fair which will include free screenings and also lectures from local health care providers. Some of the additional Main Event activities include an art exhibition, a blood drive, a book drive with free exchange, a collection of items for our troops, collection of items for pets in need, and a food drive to replenish our food pantry.

## **Old Business**

### A. Re-Accreditation Ceremony

Dan Martin noted that a celebratory luncheon was held on June 1, 2016 at the New Lenox VFW, which included a presentation by Debra Hersman, National Safety Council President and CEO. In addition, New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann and other village board members were in attendance to celebrate the re-accreditation of New Lenox as a proven and recognized safe community.

### B. UIC School of Public Health Collaborative Partnership

Dan Martin advised that he continues to work with Dr. Linda Forst and the UIC School of Public Health in their efforts to assist with our coalition's injury prevention efforts in the area of workplace safety. Dan provided a CDC Worksite Health Scorecard that was developed by UIC and completed by the New Lenox Village Human Resources Office as a sample of the feedback anticipated from New Lenox employers. It is planned for the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce to send a link to the CDC's health scorecard survey to New Lenox employers with 20 or more employees. The goal of the survey results is to identify areas with lower scores so that steps can be taken to improve workplace health and safety.

Dan also noted that Dr. Forst will be one of the speakers at the upcoming Safe Communities America Conference on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Chicago.

### C. Safe Communities America Annual Conference

The Annual Safe Communities America Conference is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. Currently, 8-10 New Lenox Safe Community Coalition members are scheduled to attend. In addition, Tim Baldermann, the Mayor of New Lenox has been invited to speak at the 2016 Conference on Monday, August 8, 2016.

## D. Task Group Reports

### Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Stephen Kehoe advised that September 5-11, 2016 has been designated as National Suicide Prevention Week with 2016 World Suicide Prevention Day scheduled for September 10, 2016. In support of World Suicide Prevention Day, the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition is hosting “**A Pathway to Hope and Healing**” event where community organizations involved with suicide prevention and awareness will provide information and literature to attendees. This free event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at the New Lenox Village Hall in the Community Room from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Following the panel discussion planned for 7:00pm, a Remembrance and Awareness Walk around the Village Commons will take place at 8:00pm. Mayor Tim Baldermann will provide the closing remarks. A Press Release announcing this event has been prepared and disseminated by Dan Martin and a copy of the release was provided to coalition members.

Additional Suicide Prevention and Awareness events have also been planned. The Healing Hearts Group will meet on September 15, 2016 at the New Lenox Police Department and Gia Washington of Sertoma will conduct a Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) Class on September 28, 2016 at 7:00pm at the New Lenox Village Hall. A Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) event has been scheduled for October 12, 2016 at 8:00 am at the New Lenox Village Hall.

### Older Adults Fall Prevention

Laura Regis reported that Fit & Strong Class #3 will graduate an enthusiastic class of twenty-three (23) seniors on August 5, 2016. Press Releases and flyers have been prepared and disseminated by Dan Martin to announce two (2) Matter of Balance Classes which have been slated to begin in September 2016.

Coalition members were provided with a flyer detailing The New Lenox National Falls Prevention Day Event scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the new Lenox VFW Post 9545 facility. Laura Regis and Liz Schwenke presented planning progress and noted that the event will include a senior health fair and a free pancake breakfast (sponsored by VFW Post 9545 Men's Auxiliary). In addition, approximately 15 vendors will be on hand to provide senior resource and program information availability, balance screenings, blood pressure checks, medication review and flu shot availability by professionals in attendance. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the event.

### Emergency Preparedness

Dan Martin introduced Patty Edgett as the new Task Group Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Group. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class #12 has been scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 15, 2016. This is a free course for New Lenox residents which is comprised of twenty (20) hours of basic emergency preparedness training. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT training participants who successfully complete the course receive a CERT backpack containing disaster supply kit items. Dan Martin prepared and disseminated a press release announcing the formulation of this class.

Coalition members received a copy of the July 2016 Community Emergency Response Team and Search and Rescue Team Newsletter which details the accomplishments of the CERT and SAR Groups in the Village of New Lenox and the important roles they play not only during disaster situations, but also in day-to-day activities within the community.

#### Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

A formal report from this task group was not given at this meeting.

#### Workplace Safety

As noted earlier, Dan Martin continues to work with the UIC School of Public Health to develop programs designed to help New Lenox employers identify and improve all aspects of workplace safety as needed.

#### Announcements / Organization Updates

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

Liz Wetmore advised that a Heartland Blood Drive will be held at the New Lenox Public Library from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

Tom Donegan (Motor Vehicle/Traffic Safety Task Group) announced that he will retire on November 21, 2016 after 30 years of employment with Metra. Tom introduced his replacement, Carl Cicero, to the coalition members.

Michele Batara of Crisis Line of Will County provided a flyer announcing their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Fundraising Event slated for Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the Joliet Area Historical Museum. Tickets for this event are \$30.00 per person.

Michele Deering of JointPro Physical Therapy of New Lenox announced that they will provide balance screenings at the September 22, 2016 Fall Prevention Awareness Day event that will be held at the VFW. In addition, Michelle advised that JointPro is a designated drop-off point for the ShareFest Dress-For-Success clothing collection.

Lisa Arp of NAMI of Will-Grundy County announced their twelve (12) week Family-To-Family Class which will begin September 1, 2016 and also their six (6) week NAMI Basics Class which is scheduled to begin September 13, 2016. Classes are held at NAMI on Taylor Street in Joliet. Information regarding registration is available at their website, [NAMIwillcounty.org](http://NAMIwillcounty.org).

Patricia Steinkamp announced that her new co-facilitator will be Ann Powers. Healing Hearts will continue to meet every month as scheduled.

Marisa Schrieber announced the Fire Department's Family Fun Day which is scheduled for August 13, 2013 from noon until 3:00 pm.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next bimonthly meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition will be on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 10:30am**. The meeting will be held in the Community

Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 am.