



New Lenox Safe Community Coalition

Meeting 25-01

January 29, 2025 / 10:30am

Meeting held via Zoom Videoconference

Meeting Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (NOVEMBER 20, 2024 COALITION MEETING)
4. GUEST SPEAKER – MAGDALENA CAMPOS
 - A. Magdalena Campos will share her firsthand experience witnessing domestic violence between her parents as a child, being a survivor of domestic violence herself, and her aunt’s death as a result of domestic violence. Magdalena will share how all of these experiences impacted her in the past and present, and guided her to recovery.
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Remembering Laura Regis, Chair of the Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Task Group Reports
 1. Domestic Violence Prevention
 - a. *“Teen Dating Violence: What Trusted Adults Should Know”*
 - i. This event will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm via Zoom Videoconference. The speakers will be: Alicia Guerrero (mother of Briana Valle whose teenage daughter was killed in a domestic-related incident in Romeoville), Jenny Guiney, Groundwork Community Outreach Supervisor, Guardian Angel Community Services (who will lead a general discussion on teen dating violence and services offered) and Marie Goulet, LCSW and Lead Social Worker for New Lenox School District #122 (who will provide a school perspective on resources, policies, social media, etc...).
 - b. **Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month – February, 2025**
 - i. *“Teen Dating Violence: What Trusted Adults Should Know”* will be held in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.
 - c. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April, 2025**
 - d. **Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October, 2025**

2. **Substance Use Prevention**

a. **Kratom – Continued Discussion**

- i. After another lengthy discussion, it was decided that we will address Kratom by way of public education rather than regulation. Several task group members expressed an interest in providing presentations at upcoming events. In addition, Kratom may be added as a topic for this group's signature event, "*Your Light Still Shines.*"

b. **Reported Use of Most Drugs Among Adolescents Remained Low in 2024 – NIH Study**

- i. <https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2024/12/reported-use-of-most-drugs-among-adolescents-remained-low-in-2024>

c. ***“Zyn and Nicotine Pouches: What Local Tobacco Officials Need to Know”* - NACCHO Zoom Presentation**

d. **DEA Presentation**

- i. Greg Czaczkowski from the DEA will be speaking about Substance Use Disorder and will share what the DEA is doing to stop the opioid epidemic. Weather permitting, Greg will bring the Chicago Office's new "*One Pill Can Kill*" vehicle. In addition, K-9 Officer Candace Guidry, New Lenox Police Department, will also do a demonstration with her K-9 partner "Harlie." Dominica Dybas, Diversion Program Specialist, DEA Chicago Field Division, will stand-up an informational table and will bring a "swag bag" as a giveaway. Jan Dombrowski, Executive Director, HERO, will stand-up an informational table and will have items from the "*Hidden in Plain Sight*" trailer on display.

e. ***“Teen Substance Use: What's New and What's Hidden in Plain Sight”***

- i. This presentation will be held via Zoom Videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Monday, March 31, 2025. HERO will provide a panel of speakers who will *tentatively* discuss what substances are trending (including Kratom), legislative updates, fentanyl risks, overview of the HERO organization and new props / items that have been added to the "*Hidden in Plain Sight*" trailer.

f. **Narcan Training**

- i. The next Narcan training will be held via Zoom Videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Monday, February 24, 2025. Distribution of the Narcan Nasal Spray Kits for those who attended the training, will be on Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the New Lenox Village Hall.

g. ***“Your Light Still Shines”***

- i. The Task Group had a very preliminary discussion regarding "*Your Light Still Shines.*" A date, time, location and format for this event needs to be discussed. It will be a goal to establish a Planning Team by the March Task

Group Meeting so that planning for this event can proceed.

3. Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

a. *“Teen Driver? What Every Parent Should Know”*

i. This presentation was held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Our presenters were Margaret Pearson / Illinois Secretary of State’s Office, John Karales / Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Jason Helbling / Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Jim Mihalovich / Top Driver, and Rocky Dellamano / Rocky Dellamano COUNTRY Financial. Approximately 200 people registered through Eventbrite.

ii. Rules of the Road Review Course – Offered by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office

i. This course was held from 10:00am to 12:00pm on Thursday, November 21, 2024 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This was the LAST TIME this course will be offered by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office. Approximately 30 citizens, mostly older adults, attended.

4. Suicide Prevention and Awareness

a. *“safeTALK”*

i. This class was held from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Monday, November 18, 2024 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class was taught by Sertoma Star Services. Thirty-four people registered via Eventbrite and approximately 20 attended.

ii. *VA S.A.V.E. Training*

i. This class was held via Zoom videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Michelle Augoustatos, Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital provided the presentation. Seventy-eight people registered via Eventbrite and approximately 50 attended.

iii. *“The Grief Experience – How to Cope *or* The Grief Experience – How to Support Someone Who Is Grieving”*

i. Patrice Martin, Director of Grief Support, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, has offered to do one or both of these presentations. Both of these presentations can be done in person or via Zoom. A decision will be made as to which presentation to offer as well as date, time, location (or via Zoom).

iv. *“Mental Health 101: Tips and Tricks for a Healthy Mind”*

i. This class will be held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, March 20, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Marie Goulet, NLSD #122.

v. *“Question, Persuade, Refer” (QPR)*

i. This class will be held from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Thursday, April 3, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

vi. ***“RELAX: 5 Tips to Master Anxiety”***

- i. This presentation will be given from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Dr. Mike Mecozzi will be the presenter.

vii. ***“Mental Health First Aid” (MHFA) – Adult Version***

- i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

viii. ***“Applied Suicide Intervention Skills” (ASIST)***

- i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 and Thursday, June 19, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

ix. ***“Out of Darkness Walk” (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)***

- i. Marie Kress led our team last year (September 28, 2024) at the Kankakee County Walk, which was held at Riverside Healthcare in Bourbonnais, IL. No date is available for 2025 at this time, but it will likely be around the same time (September). Who is interested in being on Marie’s team this year?

x. ***“A Pathway to Hope and Healing”***

- i. World Suicide Prevention Week is September 7-13th this year. World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th. *“A Pathway to Hope and Healing”* is typically held around this time of year in support of this campaign. A date, time, format and location need to be chosen and a Planning Team will be assembled as well.

xi. ***“Mental Health First Aid” (MHFA) – Youth Version***

- i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:00pm on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

xii. **Dr. Mike Mecozzi (NEW) Presentation**

- i. This presentation will be given from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (*tentatively*) on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

xiii. ***“safeTALK”***

- i. This class will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

5. **Emergency Preparedness**

a. **New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Update.**

b. ***“Stop the Bleed”***

- i. Our *Stop the Bleed* Instructors taught a class for the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency, at their facility in Plainfield, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Approximately 20 EMA personnel were in attendance.

- c. **Severe Weather Preparedness Training / Health and Safety Expo / Touch-a-Truck**
 - i. This event will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. At the request of the National Weather Service, this year's presentation will be on Severe Weather Preparedness, rather than Severe Weather Spotter Training.

- d. ***"Stop the Bleed"***
 - i. *"Stop the Bleed"* will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. At the request of the National Weather Service, they would like this

- e. ***"Home Safety and Personal Defense" by Joe Malone***
 - i. This class will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

- f. ***"Stop the Bleed"***
 - i. *"Stop the Bleed"* will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

- g. **CERT Class #21**
 - i. CERT Class #21 will be held in September and October, 2025. The class will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The first class will be on September 9th and the last class will be on October 2nd. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 4th.

- h. ***"Stop the Bleed"***
 - i. *"Stop the Bleed"* will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

- i. ***"Surviving an Active Shooter Encounter" by Joe Malone***
 - i. This class will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

- 6. **Older Adults Falls Prevention**
 - a. ***"A Matter of Balance" Coach Refresher Training***
 - i. Our annual training for MOB Coaches will be held from 9:30am to 12:00pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 in the Community Room at the Village Hall. Linda Bunting and Gloria Bodnar will lead this training. A luncheon will immediately follow for all volunteer MOB Coaches.

 - b. ***"A Matter of Balance" NEW Coach Class***
 - i. A MOB NEW Coach Class will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 and Wednesday, February 12, 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:30pm (each day). Currently, THREE individuals have volunteered to take the training, which will be taught by Linda Bunting and Gloria Bodnar.

- c. ***“A Matter of Balance” Class #56***
 - i. The Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall has been reserved on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am in April. The first class would meet on Monday, April 7th and the last class would meet on Wednesday, April 30th. Dan Martin and Gloria Bodnar will be coaching this class.
- d. ***“A Matter of Balance” Class #57***
 - i. Dominic Ricobene from the New Lenox Public Library is checking to see if Class #57 can be held in their Community Room. The request is for a Tuesday and Thursday class, 9:30am to 11:30am, starting on April 29th and ending on May 22nd. Linda Bunting and Kathy Beaudry have offered to coach this class.
- e. ***“Fit and Strong!” Class #11***
 - i. TENTATIVELY, *“Fit and Strong!”* Class #11 will be held at the Spencer Campus in the Summer of 2025. The class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:00am. The first class would be held on Monday, June 2nd and the last class would be Friday, July 25th.
- f. ***“Seniors With Sole”***
 - i. TENTATIVELY, *“Seniors With Sole”* will be held in the New Lenox Commons in the Summer of 2025. The program will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30am to 9:30am. The first session would be held on Tuesday, June 3rd and the last session would be held on Thursday, July 24th.
- g. ***“One Fall Can Change It All”***
 - i. A date, time and location (New Lenox VFW Post 9545) need to be selected for this year’s event. Dan Martin will follow-up with Linda Paschall from the VFW to secure a date.
- h. ***“A Matter of Balance” Class #58***
 - i. The Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall has been reserved on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am in October. The first class would meet on Monday, October 6th and the last class would meet on Wednesday, October 29th.
- i. ***“A Matter of Balance” Class #59***
 - i. We are currently seeking a location for this class to be held.

7. **Announcements / Organization Updates**

8. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 / 10:30am, at Gatto’s Italian Restaurant.**

9. **Adjournment**

New Lenox Safe Community Coalition

“Through a collaborative process, the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition will improve the health, safety and quality of life for residents and visitors through injury analysis and the implementation of programs designed to increase safety and prevent injuries.”