



March 2014

Welcome to the March 2014 edition of Community Connect!

The dates are confirmed for the Safe Communities America Annual Networking Conference. This year, it will be held August 13-14, 2014 at Belvidere and Country Inn and Suites in Elk Grove Village, IL, just outside of Chicago.

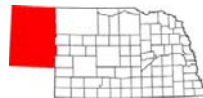
As always, there will be no registration fee and all meals are included in order to keep costs down. We encourage all to attend, even those communities who are working on their application or thinking of working on an application. Email us at scainfo@nsc.org and we'll send more conference details as they become available.

Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on current resources and opportunities.

Community Highlights

Nebraska Panhandle

Designation: 2011
International Safe Community: #254
Population: 90,000



The Nebraska Panhandle includes 11 counties in Nebraska and spans 14,180 square miles - making it the largest, by area, in the Safe Communities America Network. The Panhandle has been working collaboratively, even before designation, which made the application process in 2011 very natural.



In addition to focusing on individual behavior change, the coalition is working to build supportive environments to keep the community safe and healthy. In order to be prepared in the case of an actual emergency, the Panhandle Public Health Department (PPHD), the Scotts Bluff County Health Department and their partners through the Nebraska Panhandle Safe Communities Coalition, tested emergency plans

through specific exercises. This year, one exercise tested plans to set up a clinic and dispense medications from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The SNS is a source of medications and supplies released in an emergency to treat the public during a disease outbreak.

Over the course of three days, the group tested their plans and was measured for strengths and areas for improvement. On the first day, public health officials worked with Emergency Managers and a local county health department on activation protocols that would start the request and release of stockpiles. Over the course of the next two days, the health departments worked with the Medical Reserve Corps, a group of local health professionals and general public patrons willing to help during large-scale disasters; other county

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scainfo@nsc.org

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safecommunitiesamerica.org

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Safe Sleep Toolkit

Resources to help parents and caregivers understand how to keep babies safe while sleeping. Visit preventchildinjury.org.

Teen Safe Driving Blog

State laws help keep teens safe while driving but parents can go beyond laws and set household rules like setting curfews, limiting the number of passengers in a car

officials; and a trucking company to set up a mock clinic at a rural fire department in Bridgeport, NE. A list of emergency volunteers also helped at the mock clinic. The SNS medications were guided by the sheriff's office to the clinic. The staff and volunteers went through clinic plans to manage the flow of people through the clinic, parking, security, staff needed, and hours of operations.

Through the series of tests, major strengths were found in transportation security, clinic location, and set-up time. Areas of improvements included having more people at the site to dispense medications and strengthening parking lot security. Learn more about the Nebraska Panhandle Safe Communities Coalition goals, strategies and success stories on injury prevention at pphd.org.

News

Issue Brief on Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse

Governors throughout the United States have been working to develop comprehensive, coordinated plans to combat the public health and safety crisis of prescription drug abuse. The National Governors Association recently released an issue brief, "[Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse: Lessons Learned from an NGA Policy Academy](#)" which outlines the key strategies in reducing this epidemic. Read the [entire brief](#).

Vital Signs Report - Child Passenger Safety

The CDC released its latest Vital Signs report promoting child passenger safety. The report noted that while motor vehicle deaths for children ages 12 and younger decreased by 43 percent in the past ten years, major disparities in outcomes still exist due to a number of factors. Read the [report](#).

New Study on Causes of Suicide

A study recently released by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health suggests that more suicide prevention strategies need to be available to target individuals who may take their own life despite no signs of a serious mental health issue. The study's main finding reports that a sense of failure and rejection may lead to suicide in some individuals. [Read](#) more about this study.

Upcoming Opportunities

Funding: Making the Case for Laws That Improve Health

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking research projects of laws that improve public health. Grants of up to \$150,000 each will be awarded for studies that focus on the intersection of law and public health. [Learn more about the RFP](#).

Community-Police Partnerships Awards

The MetLife Foundation, in partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, wants to recognize, sustain and share the work of innovative partnerships between community groups and police to promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Awards between \$15,000 and \$30,000 are available. [Apply now](#).

Webinar: Using an Outcomes-Based Approach in Program Development

Monday, March 24, 2014
2 p.m. - 3 p.m. ET

Presentations focus on effective ways to build achievable plans around

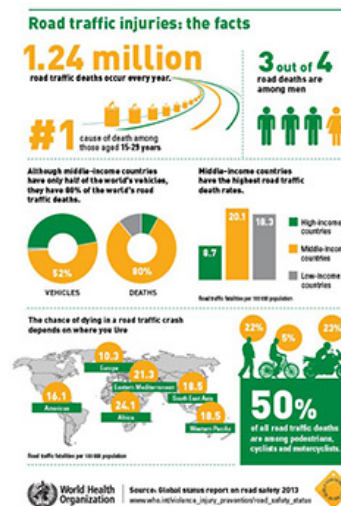
and prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. [Read more and check out a video](#) from Congressman Randy Hultgren on why he supports laws that protect teen drivers.

Drive It Home

Resources, tools and videos to help parents of newly licensed teen drivers. Drive It Home also gives parents an opportunity to connect with other parents of teen drivers. Visit driveithome.org.



World Health Organization Infographic on Road Traffic Safety



Innovative Senior Center Programs

The National Institute of Senior Centers - winners of the [2013 Programs of Excellence](#)

Do you have any upcoming events? Any pictures you would like to share with the network?

Please send them along to scainfo@nsc.org and we'll post them in an upcoming newsletter



transportation safety initiatives with examples from promising and proven teen safe driving projects. [Register now.](#)

Webinar: Heatstroke Prevention

Safe Kids Worldwide will be hosting a webinar to educate, inform and provide valuable resources on heatstroke prevention.

March 26, 2014, Wednesday
1 p.m. - 2 p.m. ET
<http://bit.ly/SKWwebinarMar26>

March 27, 2014, Thursday
1 p.m. - 2 p.m. ET
<http://bit.ly/SKWwebinarMar27>

Meetings & Conferences

National Rx Drug Abuse Summit

April 22-24, 2014
Atlanta, GA
NationalRxDrugAbuseSummit.org

Safe States Alliance Annual Meeting

May 20-22, 2014
Atlanta, GA
SafeStates.org



The 7th Asian Regional Conference on Safe Communities

May 12-15, 2014
Busan, South Korea
Busan2014acsc.kr

The 4th European Regional Safe Community Conference

June 3-5, 2014
Harstad, Norway
safecomeurope.com

Safe Communities America Annual Networking Conference

August 13-14, 2014
Elk Grove Village, IL
Contact scainfo@nsc.org for registration information.



East African Regional Safe Community Conference

November 19 - 21, 2014
Arusha, Tanzania
peercorpsglobal.org/earscc-2014

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International Corner

Safe Communities America is a member of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network. The Network includes the Australian Safe Communities Foundation, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand and Parachute Canada.

There are **119 accredited Safe Communities** in the Pan Pacific Network. Visit ppscn.org to learn more.



The National Safety Council is an International Safe Community Support Center to the [WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institutet](#).

If you like this newsletter, like us on [Facebook](#) and share your activities and events.

Contact Us

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Japan Institution for Safe Communities visits Safe Communities America

In early March, representatives from the Japan Institution for Safe Communities, an International Safe Communities Support Center, visited the United States to learn about Safe Communities America. Yoko Shiraishi, Chair, and Hisato Imai, Director, represented their center.



Their visit began with a trip to National Safety Council headquarters in Itasca, IL where they met with the Safe Communities America team. They learned about the US Safe Communities America Network, the Kentucky pilot project and the Safe Communities evaluation projects. Next, the group made their way up to Madison, Wisconsin, to attend several coalition events including:

- A tour of the city of Madison led by Cheryl Wittke, Executive Director of Safe Communities Madison-Dane County;
- A Madison Rotary Club luncheon (the 8th largest Rotary Club in the world);
- A MedDrop box installation at the Police Department on the campus of the University of Wisconsin;
- The Annual Safety Night at the Children's Museum;
- The Safe Communities Annual Breakfast where our Japan delegation was able to interact with several members of the Safe Communities Coalition in Madison-Dane County.

The group then traveled to New Lenox, Illinois.

- They were given a tour of Silver Cross Community Hospital
- Viewed an emergency alert siren installation
- They ended their visit by meeting several members of the New Lenox Safe Communities Coalition and receiving the key to the city from Mayor Tim Baldermann.



Thank you to Yoko Shiraishi and Hisato Imai for visiting Safe Communities America. And a special thanks to Cheryl Wittke (Safe Communities Madison-Dane County) and Dan Martin (New Lenox Safe Communities Coalition) for taking the time to show us your communities and making their visit memorable.

A special thanks to our national partners



...and to The Dow Chemical Company and ExxonMobil for local community coalition support.