

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2020  
Zoom Meeting

**Members Present**

Brian Klostermann, MD- Chairperson  
Paulette Evans, RN - Vice Chairperson  
Terry Linton, SLP- Secretary  
Robert Hyten III, DMD- Treasurer  
Cynthia Kues, NP  
Kimberly Hugo, RN  
Stacy Albers, RN  
Deanna Ducomb, MD  
Rafael Him, County Board  
Deb Wesselmann- Ex Officio  
Bob Netemeyer- Ex Officio

Also Attending: Sean Elfert, Board of Health Administrator; Marion Voss, Clinton County Health; Brian Hunt, Breese Journal Reporter; Dawn Andell, resident; Caitlyn Crain, Clinton County Health Dpt.; Matt Wilson, Union Banner Reporter; Jim Deien, resident; Karen Strotheide, Resident; Lynette Smith, Resident; Sandra Booth, Resident; Kimberly Tremmel, Resident, Frank Buckingham, Resident.

**Call to Order**

The Clinton County Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Dr. Klostermann at 5:30 PM via Zoom on April 21st, 2020.

**Hearing from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**Minutes: February 4, 2020**

The minutes of the February 4th, 2020 meeting were supplied to the members prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Cindy Kues, seconded by Dr. Deanna Ducomb, to approve the February minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Minutes: April 2, 2020 (Special Meeting)**

The minutes of the April 2nd, 2020 meeting were supplied to the members prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Terry Linton, seconded by Paulette Evans, to approve the April 2nd, 2020 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Sean Elfert presented the financial report.

Dr. Hyten asked the question: aside from extra overtime expenses, were there any unexpected expenses year-to-date? Also, are we having any difficulties receiving grants currently due to the Corona Virus?

Mr. Eifert noted we have had several staff members working overtime, who are paid time and a half. Also, we have had some purchases during the pandemic, such as laptops and two additional on-call phones to aid staff in working out in the field during the pandemic. Additional thermometers were purchased as well as two portable ventilators according to Marlon Voss. These were expenses incurred solely due to the need for them during the pandemic. In regards to the grants, the only issue Sean has seen is that grant reports have not been able to be submitted as timely as usual, due to Sean's allotted time with the Clinton County Board and the extra hours he is having to work to meet day-to-day needs of the pandemic. He also must take time to ensure grant expenditures are in line with the fiscal year. The workload has increased exponentially during the pandemic both for him and the Health Department employees.

Paulette Evans asked about the COVID grant that the Health Department will receive-- what would come out of that grant?

Sean Eifert stated there are options, and he has chosen to use his salary as part of that grant. This grant is helping to offset the additional time that Sean has had to spend on site at Clinton County.

Rob Hyten made a motion, seconded by Rafael Him, to approve the financial report. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Administrative Report**

Sean Eifert presented his administrative report.

He stated the department received a \$44,000 grant from IDPH to help cover COVID costs.

The IDPH is expediting those funds and we should have them in the next 2-3 weeks.

What we are seeing now as priorities are greatly changed since our last meeting as we have gone from 1 positive case in March to 49 positive COVID cases currently. Sean feels that until the pandemic subsides, we may need to put the building needs on the back burner. We also need to look at strategic planning in the light of the current pandemic. He would like direction as to the Board's ideas of focus and priorities in the upcoming months.

Cindy Kues made a motion, seconded by Terry Linton, to approve the administrative report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### **a. COVID 19**

Sean Eifert stated this is our number 1 concern, with a total currently of 242 tested, 49 positive, 193 negative, 14 recovered, 27 on quarantine and 8 hospitalized. The hospitalizations are current people in the hospital. The Health Department is spending 90% of their time on COVID. They are fielding many calls

from individuals and businesses. Also, there must be follow up to outbreaks at facilities in terms of reporting. The Health Dpt. is working very hard to respond to every need, but with 9 staff members, they must prioritize. Overall, he feels their response is appropriate, however, he does consider that we have 2 positions we have advertised but wonders if we need a PR part time person to get messages out daily. It may make sense to have a person to answer concerns from businesses, keeping the message consistent and clear, and to report the public concerns that may need to be addressed. Sean would envision this as a temporary position-- there may not be anyone out there who is ambitious enough to take that on, but many citizens feel passionately about being informed. Dr. Ducomb noted that the Advocate Newspaper in Greenville tends to have a front page article each week, and she wondered who the PR person is...Sean stated it is Sean Eifert. He feels they cover the Health Board diligently because they are the only paper in town for Greenville.

Cindy Kues stated the position (part time PR person) would be hard to hire, because they would have to be clearly versed in what to say.

Sean stated he could do more publicity and get some help with the grants.

Paulette Evans asked if Sean is getting complaints from the public regarding a lack of information or does he feel he needs help just because of the workload? Sean states they have received some complaints, with frustrated residents, and on facebook there have been comments that have been negative.

Deb Wesselmann stated that as a business person, she is concerned that people may not take the pandemic as seriously as they should. She is concerned with the safety of customers and business workers, and businesses need direction and would like people to wear masks. People do come into businesses without protection, and don't want to be told no, the business is closed.

Rafael Him noted he could help at this time, if he had some training with the grants.

Sean stated Dr. Dawty, board president, has taken an active role in the daily operations of Bond Co. Health Board. He will read incoming information and interpret it. He is retired, so he has the time. He has also helped with the PR with videos on facebook, so having a board member help out is not unheard of.

Dr. Ducomb noted that she is currently not busy as she is only seeing emergencies at her medical office. She is also available to help. She asks if the radio stations are having interviews?

Sean stated he did send releases to the radio stations, and did an interview with them.

Dr. Ducomb noted there is likely more radio time available as some agencies are not using their time during the pandemic.

Sean Eifert stated he is waiting to hear from the governor as to whether he will extend the stay at home order, but that the state seems to be considering a stepped / tiered response to reopening the state. Nothing has been confirmed.

He does feel the Governor will likely extend the stay at home order.

Dr. Ducomb asked: Where do our Clinton Co. patients go for hospitalization?

Sean stated most seem to be going to St. Elizabeth's in O'fallon or St. John's in Springfield.

Caitlyn Crain stated that our cases are very spread out in different hospitals.

Dr. Hyten asked, where are cases mostly coming from- are they mostly related to facilities?

Sean Eifert stated currently it's about 50% facilities / 50% community spread.

Caitlyn Crain stated we reached community spread (IDPH definition is defined as cases that are spread in the community with no source known and not due to international travel.) Once we reach community spread, it changes how we do contact monitoring and tracing.

Sean states we need to get a nurse on staff as soon as possible, and we need an administrative assistant position filled as well. He will reach out to the board members in writing as to what they have in terms of skills where they could help. He states that he has gone over the original contracted time for Clinton County Health considerably during the pandemic, out of necessity.

Several board members stated that we are accepting of more help being hired if he needs the help.

Terry Linton noted that the public should be made aware of the community spread, as our residents need to know they are not safe to stop social distancing.

Dr. Ducomb stated we need to be diligent with social distancing.

Mr. Him asked if there is any place the general public can get masks?

Sean stated that there are no businesses or facilities that have been turned away when asking for masks. The Health Department has supplied them.

Dr. Ducomb stated many people are making their own masks.

**b. Survey**

Sean stated the survey had been sent out to board members.

Rob Hyten stated he felt the agenda items regarding the survey, strategic planning and building should be taken off the agenda, so the focus can remain on the pandemic needs.

Dr. Ducomb stated she has an issue with the survey in that she feels it is too general and that anyone with an email could respond numerous times, falsifying the information. She feels people could hack the survey.

Dr. Klostermann stated in February he and Sean had considered using the survey only with people within the medical community, hospital specialists, etc.

Dr. Klostermann asked that if we remove the building, survey, and strategic plans from the agendas, when will we begin to discuss these issues again as the COVID situation is not going away, and the facility cannot wait for 2 more years.

Dr. Ducomb stated she feels the public would like to see us work on it, and at least

choose a site, and keep moving forward. Another problem she sees with the delay of the building is that during this economic downturn, we are losing money at this time, in the sense that our money may not go as far in the future.

Mr. Him stated he would think building the facility would create needed jobs in the county, but that we should continue to look at the building site.

Cindy Kues stated that we need the survey done to find out what we need to have included in the facility.

Paulette Evans noted that she would like to ask about expansion of services on the survey, in terms of services and hours and the services that are available to the general public.

Terry Linton asked if we could have an additional meeting to just decide on the building site.

Sean asked if there is a need for a committee for the building site? He feels the larger the group, the more difficulty there would be in making a decision. He feels a group of 3-4 individuals would be best to guide our decisions.

Dr. Ducomb stated that she feels the entire board should have their say in terms of the new building. She feels that leaving some members out eliminates their input. She feels everyone should be involved in the decisions regarding the building.

Dr. Klostermann stated there are no specialists currently to survey in Breese, and many of the medical staff he works with are furloughed or working from home.

Dr. Ducomb states the staff at the Board of Health should have some input as to the facility and their needs as they are the frontline workers that this would affect. That would be a good place to start.

Dr. Klostermann noted the individuals and offices that refer patients to the Health Department should also be asked what services they would like? He would like to include health providers in the area in the survey. We could try a mailed survey to professionals to begin.

Paulette Evans noted that office managers would be helpful in getting those surveys returned if they are made aware of the importance of the input.

Dr. Klostermann stated a list of professionals would need to be made. We could disperse the survey to medical staff within the county.

Dr. Ducomb stated she has a list of doctors and their mailing addresses that may be useful.

Kim Hugo noted that she doesn't want us to forget about the clinic in Centralia that she would like to have participate in the survey.

Mr. Him asked if we could have other health board applicants help us with some of these tasks.

Dr. Klostermann states he could reach out to those people.

Stacy Albers asked if there are many other people who wanted to be on the Board.

Mr. Him stated there were 3 at least.

Dr. Ducomb stated it would be nice if there was a rating on the survey to note what things were most important to the individual completing it.

Mr. Him also noted he would like a cost survey to see what programs are self sufficient, as he does not want a huge cost to the county resulting in increased taxes.

Dr. Ducomb states it is going to be a different economy in the future.

Sean stated he can tweak the survey to add the suggestions made, and transfer it to a written format, and send it out to the board for review.

Sean states when he sends it out, we can also suggest providers that we feel we want to have included.

Stacy Albers states we need to put a 'return by' date on the survey.

## Old Business

### a. Strategic Plan

Sean stated that the strategic plan draft is where we begin. Is the plan he presented what the board had in mind?

Paulette Evans stated she felt the plan was well written and comprehensive.

Dr. Ducomb feels the educational piece in the plan is much needed.

Sean stated the only thing he is concerned with is that in the one year plan we need to add a COVID goal.

Dr. Ducomb feels that should be under 'communication and education' and when testing will be more readily available, that will also be up to the BOH. She also stated that in the 5 year plan, we need to 'consider' a dental plan, not 'implement plan', as a feasibility study would need to be made going forward.

Dr. Ducomb made a motion, seconded by Rafael Him to accept the one year and 5 year strategic plans with the one change noted for the Dental plan as being 'considered' not 'implemented'. Dr. Hyten noted he would agree to this change as our resident dentist. The motion passed unanimously.

### b. Building

Terry Linton asked if we should schedule a meeting just to discuss the building?

Dr. Ducomb suggested that we identify a particular site to explore to see if it is feasible.

Dr. Ducomb made the motion to vote on a site of the new building this evening. She described the current options and stated her thoughts on benefits and drawbacks to each.

Sean stated he is very hesitant to get involved with underground storage tanks at a huge expense, which is the case with one of the properties discussed. The lots adjacent to the current building would be beneficial as it would be the same IT access.

Dr. Hyten stated he does not feel the lots provided adjacent to the building would provide enough space.

Paulette asked what the acreage comparisons are?

Dr. Hyten stated the property on the west end of town has poor drainage.  
Terry Linton stated she would prefer to have every option on paper, with acreage stated along with the pitfalls of each.

Paulette Evans asked if we want to split up the county seat services- she feels we should not.

Deb Wesselmann stated she feels Brad Knolhoff, County Board member, would have all that information and would be willing to make an informed presentation to the Board of Health.

Dr. Ducomb feels Brad is very competent and complete in his understanding of the building sites.

Terry Linton made a motion and Paulette Evans seconded to have a written report and presentation by Brad Knolhoff at the May meeting to present land options for the building. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Executive Session**

Dr. Hyten made a motion, seconded by Rafael Him, to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Paulette Evans made a motion, seconded by Rafael Him, to go out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Adjourn**

Cindy Kues made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paulette Evans. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.