

**Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2021**

**Board of Health Members Attending**  
Brian Klostermann, MD, Chairperson  
Terry Linton, SLP, Secretary  
Robert Hyten III, DMD-Treasurer  
Cynthia Kues, NP  
Stacy Albers, RN  
Deanna Ducomb, MD  
James White- Voting County Board Member  
Deb Wesselmann- Ex Officio  
Mike Strleker- Ex Officio

**Others In Attendance:**

Chris Leidel, CCHD  
Bryan Hunt, Breese Journal  
Brad Knolhoff  
Jennifer Steinkamp, CCHD

**Call to Order**

The April 6, 2021 meeting of the Clinton County Board of Health was called to order by Dr. Brian Klostermann at the Clinton County Meeting room at 6:00 PM. This meeting was also conducted via Zoom.

**Hearing from the Public**

There was no one who wished to address the board.

**Minutes of March 2, 2021 BOH Meeting**

The minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting were presented. Cindy Kues made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Ducomb. Motion passed unanimously.

**Administrative / Financial Reports**

Chris Leidel reported a monthly surplus of \$63,000 for the month of February. There is more money coming in from grants and more expenditures within those grants to be expected in the next 3 months. We have administered a total of 7,396 vaccines to Clinton County citizens. The upcoming clinics are open to all citizens over the age of 18, so these numbers are expected to rise substantially in the near future. Citizens can sign up through EMtracks, calling the vaccine phone number, or online through the website. The clinic dates are announced on Facebook and it contains the link for EMTracks. The staff is willing to do Saturday clinics if there is a need for that. We now have Johnson and Johnson vaccines, which we administered yesterday. As of today, Clinton County is at 1.5% positivity rate.

The plan creation has begun. This is a requirement of the Health Department every 5 years for recertification. The major concerns identified by the advisory board are mental health, food insecurity, health behaviors such as obesity, substance abuse and chronic conditions.

James White asked how the priorities are decided. Chris Leidel noted a survey was completed by the advisory committee members along with the statistics for Clinton County reviewed.

Dr. Klostermann asked if the total number of vaccinated citizens included those Clinton County residents vaccinated in other areas, and Chris Leidel stated that yes, those numbers are sent back to our county to be included in our count. Chris Leidel noted that everyone over 18 is now eligible for the shot, and we do not deny shots as long as we have the vaccines. Rob Hyten asked how Clinton County is doing in terms of our percentage of vaccinated citizens-- we are at a higher rate than the average for the state. About 31% of our citizens have had at least the first vaccine. Dr. Klostermann asked about walk in clinics-- are we planning to do this? Chris Leidel stated the clinic yesterday was supposed to be 300, and we had 285 show up. Most of our clinics are full to capacity, but if there is a walk in and we have the shots, we will give them. Pfizer vaccines may soon be available for 16-18 year olds. Dr. Ducomb warned that citizens who have had Covid should not have a false sense of security, but should get the vaccines. Dr. Klostermann stated the presence of antibodies does not necessarily mean a person is safe from getting Covid. He feels the Covid vaccine may be a yearly shot similar to the flu shot. Terry Linton asked if we could do a radio ad to announce the availability of the shot to all 18 and up. Chris Leidel stated he would look into this as some citizens in the county do not have Internet access.

## **New Business**

### **a. Health Department Independents**

Dr. Klostermann discussed the tax levy situation for the Health Department. The finance committee of the County Board met with Dr. Ducomb, Dr. Klostermann and Paulette Evans to discuss this issue. We need to make decisions as to who will pay for the building and subsequent expenses of the building. Chris Leidel did some research about this issue. He checked with other health departments. The Clinton County Health Department is a part of the local county government. Some counties pay for benefits for health department employees. Counties in which the health department was supported through the county were typically better managed. The health department now pays for salaries of the employees. The average monthly utility bill is \$1150. He stated the total cost of FICA, IMRF, Health, utilities and Ameren along with all salaries was \$698,246. The county expends around \$180,000 yearly- to pay FICA, IMRF, utilities and Ameren. (These numbers were from 2020 records.) The County is self-insured now, so the cost is less due to the number of employees covered in the group plan.

Chris Leidel noted that he is not aware of any health department that is completely independent from their county. Chris noted that some of the employees have stated that they would need to seek other employment if they lost county health coverage. Deb

Wesselmann noted that many county employees come to the health department for labs, which saves them money. Dr. Klostermann stated he believes labs are free for County Employees at the Health Department. James White noted the conversations between the County Board and the Health Department are productive, and they are seeking to make the decisions which make the most sense for the county. Chris Leidel noted that our current agreement with the County Board seems to be working. These discussions will continue between the Health Department and the County. Mike Strleker stated Larry Johnson is working hard to make the relationship between the county and the Health department conducive to progress.

## Old Business

### a. Building Committee Update

Dr. Ducomb stated that the committee had discussed the option of the County owning the new building and could lease it to the Board of Health. Dennis Middendorff noted we cannot have a tenancy in common, but could do a legal and formalized lease agreement. We could also lease with an option to buy. We could also raise bond money and fund it independently. The survey is the next step in the process.

James White noted the approval of the survey monies was only with the County finance committee, but it still needs to be approved by the county board as a whole. He will try to get that issue on the next meeting agenda.

The building committee has drawn up a very rough rendering of the spaces needed for the health department. Chris Leidel also received input from the health department employees and this information was given to Mr. Karasek. We have plans for a basement and a first floor, but there is still a question as to whether we need a 2nd floor. A second floor could be used as a conference / meeting center for staff. This area could also be useful for mental health needs as it would be more private.

James White noted we need plans and then we can see the costs and know where cuts may need to be made. Mr. Karasek feels the building would look better with a second floor. Chris Leidel noted we need to make sure we have enough parking space- both for citizens and for employees.

James White notes the county owns the parking lot next to the building site.

Dr. Ducomb suggested that the old building area could be made into a parking lot if it were demolished, but that will be up to the County as they own the building.

Mike Strleker asked if the Building committee has visited other health departments- Dr.

Ducomb noted they have visited Washington County as well as Bond County. These are both smaller populated counties than Clinton County.

Dr. Hyten asked if the physical representation of the mock building reflects the needs stated by the health department employees? Dr. Ducomb noted they do not. The drawings are very preliminary. Chris Leidel stated the current plans are a good start, but will change through the process. Dr. Hyten stated he feels the preliminary drawings are not good. James White noted the current drawing is not Mr. Karasek's work. It was a rough mock up drawing that he was given to express areas of need for the Health Department. Mr. Karasek will take the rough drawing and draw a more detailed rendering based on the needs that have been stated.

James White noted the meeting with Mr. Karasek was simply to help him get more input as to what employees of the health department needs.

James White made a motion to go into executive session at 7:30 PM, seconded by Stacy Albers. Motion passed unanimously. James White made a motion to return to open session at 7:45, seconded by Cindy Kues. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is May 4, 2021 at 6:00.