

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2021

Board of Health Member Attending:

Brian Klostermann, Chairperson
Terry Linton, SLP, Secretary
Paulette Evans, RN, Vice Chairperson
Robert Hyten III, DMD, Treasurer
Cynthia Kues, NP
Kimberly Hugo, RN
Stacy Albers, RN (via ZOOM)
Deanna DuComb, MD
James White- Voting County Board Member (via ZOOM)
Deb Wesselmann, Ex Officio
Bob Netemeyer, Ex Officio
Mike Strieker, Ex Officio (via ZOOM)

Also Attending:

Louise McMinn, CCHD
Marian Voss, CCHD
Brad Knolhoff, CCB
Todd Marver, Union Banner
Mr. Buckingham, citizen

Call to Order

The August 3rd, 2021, meeting of the Clinton County Board of Health was called to order by Dr. Brian Klostermann at 6:03 PM at the Clinton County Meeting Room. This meeting was also conducted via ZOOM for those wishing to attend remotely.

Hearing from the Public

Heather Behrens addressed the board to state her concerns with Clinton County school students' mask mandates. She stated Wesclin has retracted their 'no mask' mandate. She noted neighboring states where she has traveled had no masks. She stated concerns with the number of students sent home from school due to concerns with COVID concerns, and the setbacks in their education and mental health due to that. She asks what the 'end game' is? These are things she has never seen before. She stated statistics from the IDPH website in terms of the numbers of deaths in children. She noted the children need to be unmasked to improve their learning. She feels we (the county) is comparing ourselves to Cook County, rather than other counties like us.

Katie Peters, a recent move in citizen from Collinsville, addressed the board to state her agreement with Heather Behrens, noting that if her three children are expected to mask, they will not be attending public schools. She stated that last year her Sophomore age student was severely depressed and falling school due to Covid.

Dr. Frank Buckingham spoke. He feels the Board of Health and the Health Department has done a good job serving the community and trying to protect the public health. He feels the board and staff knows the best in terms of what to do to protect the communities needs. He feels vaccinations are so

important and encourages all to get vaccinated. He states we need to use masks for the protection of others. He asked all to remember that professionals on the board and in the health department are working in our best interest.

Ron Peters spoke. He states that we are not going to get an accurate 'death number' from COVID. He stated that Covid deaths are all persons who die with a current infection of Covid, regardless of whether the virus caused their death. He quoted Tom Devore's words in a Supreme Court case of 1922, regarding Typhoid quarantines. He stated in that case that no health authority has the right to enforce masks, because it does not prevent the spread of the disease.

Tiffany Wesselmann noted that she has 3 children in the Carlyle Schools. She stated there has been too much back and forth directives during Covid. She stated there are no real answers and no one knows the facts. She stated her family doctor does not advise getting the Covid vaccine. She stated her family was never tested (swabbed) for the flu by her family doctor. She stated that the Covid vaccine has not been FDA approved at this time. She stated the masks that came out of the Grade School at the end of the day were disgusting—wet, mold, dirty. Her children were quarantined several times during the school year, and missed several days of school and events that were taking place. She stated the vaccine does not prevent the virus. She feels no one has the right answers and she does not trust the Clinton County Health Department.

Dr. Klostermann addressed the group. He stated the Board of Health is not a policing body. It does not lay down mandates and it is not a governing body. We will continue to recommend guidance from IDPH, and other governing entities. We do not direct schools, and there are no reasons to go against CDC or IDPH guidance currently. As of last week, we had 86 positives, and due to that we will continue to recommend guidance of the CDC and IDPH. Dr. Klostermann reiterated that the Board of Health does not make guidelines for the schools.

Dr. Hyten noted that he feels it is not good to mask children and not allow them to go to school. He reiterated that school policies are not ours to make. We don't make healthcare policies, and neither does the health department. The health department must follow the IDPH guidelines. We have had an increase in numbers recently. Dr. Hyten noted that there are members of the board that agree that children should not be made to wear masks to school, but the health department can not make those rules. The state gives the department monies and we must follow their guidelines. We have not made local mandates regarding Covid. He is aware of some individuals that have been vaccinated who have contracted the virus afterwards.

Dr. Klostermann noted that the state has been requiring vaccinations for children for years.

Heather Behrens asked if we could have better data from our county health department so the public could see actual numbers of cases and their vaccination status to make better decisions. She stated parents feel they are having their rights taken from them.

Dr. Hyten stated the health department is here to talk about and support the services of health for all citizens.

Cynthia Kues noted we are trying to get a better facility to offer mental health services, because we see the need for mental health support.

Katie Peters stated the CDC has lost the American peoples' trust.

Dr. Hyten stated he will continue to do what the ADA say to do because his license depends on it. There are entitles he cannot go against. He must continue to do what has been recommended by his governing professional group.

Tiffany Wesselmann noted the new plan of action brought up at the School Board, where unvaccinated children may have to be vaccinated.

Chris Leidel said those are the current IDPH guidelines, and those are what we follow and state to the local schools.

Tiffany Wesselmann noted she does not understand why vaccinated children would not have to be vaccinated, since they could get the virus.

Dr. Klostermann noted the chance of getting the virus is 8X more likely if you are not vaccinated. This is the reason for the CDC stating their guidelines. He stated Governor Pritzker noted he does not have a mask mandate planned.

Louise McMinn noted that school plans state masks are recommended but are not mandated. She states that our recommendation will always align with CDC and IDPH. We do not tell schools that they need to require masks.

Heather Behrens asked about the quarantine guidelines for the upcoming school year?

Louise McMinn noted that last year, there was a seating plan and when there was a positive case, they would quarantine children seated within 6 feet of each other. There were problems last year with people not completing health assessments. She is unsure of how the schools will be functioning this year.

Dr. Klostermann noted that we do not direct the schools as to how they will plan for Covid. We do not write their Covid plan. We are available to assist the schools in keeping children in school, but we cannot tell the schools what to do, we must simply reiterate what the CDC and IDPH states. He stated that if our positivity rate was very low (1% in May), we would not have to worry, but currently our rate is increasing.

Dr. Ducomb noted that children do become ill from the virus, but we don't know what the Delta variant and other variants will do to children. This is why caution is prudent. Viruses evolve and it is not rational, so we have to learn as quickly as we can, and address it as it unfolds. She stated polio closed down everything. We also do not know if there are long term effects of this virus, so we need to practice caution.

Minutes of the June 8th, 2021 meeting

The June 8th minutes were presented. Cynthia Kues made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rob Hyten, motion passed unanimously.

Administrative and Financial Report

Chris Laidel reported cash on hand \$1,085,272.89. As of today, we have vaccinated 16,221, 43.1% of our population, Illinois has vaccinated 50.42%. We will continue to monitor numbers and add clinics if needed based on numbers. There are clinics weekly on Wednesdays. Clinton County positivity rate is now 12.1%. We have seen a sharp rise since the first of July.

Doctor Ducomb was voted off the board by the County Board. She will continue to serve until another Dr. can be found to take her seat.

The Contract Lease Authority was explained. It allows Chris to enter into grant agreements with the state, or lease properties if needed. Any major changes will be brought to the board.

As of this afternoon, there are 3 hospitalizations, one that was fully vaccinated, 2 who were not. Dr. Hyten noted that the public wants more details about the sick citizens and those who have died from it.

Louise McMinn noted we must be careful about giving information about sick citizens when our cases are very low, because people may know who they are.

Dr. Ducomb noted that she was not confirmed to continue on the board. She is not sure why. She will have to serve until she is replaced. There is a residency requirement for the Doctors who serve on the Board of Health. She stated there were county board members who contacted county doctors to ask them to serve on the board and they all declined. She feels the County Board needs to understand that the Board of Health is not to be politicized and the Board of Health and public health is to serve all citizens of the county. She wants the County Board to facilitate the Board of Health's progress, not set roadblocks for them.

Kim Hugo noted that she used to see discord in the newspaper between the County Board and the Board of Health and it was beginning to interfere with the public health of the residents of the county.

The financial report was presented by Chris Laidel. A motion was made by Paulette Evans, seconded by Dr. Ducomb, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Annual Report

Chris Laidel presented the annual report. A motion was made by Dr. Hyten, seconded by Kim Hugo, to approve the report. Motion passed unanimously.

B. IPLAN

Chris Laidel presented the Iplan in writing. It was generated based on a public survey to doctors and citizens of the county via survey monkey on the website.

A motion was made by Paulette Evans, seconded by Kim Hugo. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Hyten stated that the information included in the Iplan was interesting and asked if the public could have access. Chris responded it needs to be approved by the state, and then it can be put on the website for public view.

Old Business

A. Building Committee Update

Dr. Ducomb presented the building committee minutes of June 16, 2021. Those minutes are attached. Dr. Hyten and Paulette Evans commented that a separate entrance for mental health is a bad idea - we can manage privacy once individuals are in the building and taken to the appropriate area.

Rob Hyten noted that the size of the building should be based on meeting needs, not on cost or availability of funds. We need to make decisions based on the needs of our citizens and work with the County Board to get that done. We need to look at our expenses in furnishing and equipping the building. If the County Board owns the building and continues to pay the utilities, that is a really good deal for the health department. Dr. Hyten noted it is amazing how the staff at the health department functions in their current location.

Dr. Ducomb noted the building committee meeting was productive and they will pick another upcoming date for the next committee meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:11, a motion was made by Terry Linton, seconded by Cynthia Kues, to enter into executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 8:29 PM. Dr. Hyten made a motion to pay the legal fees for settlement of the recent lawsuit as long as there is no need for a previous amendment to the budget, which Chris Leidel will check on. Paulette Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Paulette Evans asked if Dr. Ducomb's name could be given to the County Chair again?

James White stated Dr. Ducomb was voted down 10-4. It's up to the chairman to issue names to the County Board.

Rob Hyten stated that Dr. Ducomb has asked him if he understood why she may have been voted down by the county board? He believes that an action of Dr. Ducomb's in the past caused the County Board to vote her down as a retribution. Dr. Ducomb will have to serve until a replacement has been found, and the Health Board is not the group that must seek the replacement. He feels nothing the Health Board stated in terms of our recommendation for the Health Board members was taken into consideration if there was a unanimous vote from the Health Board followed by a 10-4 nay vote from the County Board. James White feels it is not here to comment on the votes of other County Board members. His role is to represent his constituents and they do not want taxes to be raised. The Health Board has no accountability to the people in the County.

Dr. Hyten noted that he doesn't want higher taxes either, but feels the County Board could assist us in getting the building built, but to say the no vote was to protect constituents is an overblown statement. Dr. Hyten stated we have not been given a figure of the County Board financial support of the building, but he doesn't feel that discussion of funding should be a reason to vote down a member of the health board.

James White suggested that Mr. Hyten run for the elected office and be accountable to his constituents, but that his decision is based simply on the concern for his constituents.

Stacy Albers noted that the County Board should consider their actions based on the helpfulness and intent of those serving.

Kim Hugo noted that every member of the Health Board is accountable to the public.

James White noted that true accountability at the county level is through the voting process of the County Board.

Dr. Hyten noted that he wanted to share how he felt about the County Board's 'no' vote.

James White noted that in small municipalities, people frequently do not get put up for re-appointment because of poor documentation. The process of allowing a board member to remain after non approval is because the documentation may be late, and this allows the person to remain on the board.

Adjournment

Rob Hyten made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kim Hugo. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.