

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022

Board of Health Members:

Brian Klostermann, MD, Chairperson Present
Terry Linton, SLP, Secretary Present
Paulette Evans, RN, Vice Chairperson Present
Robert Hyten, III, DMD, Treasurer Present
Cynthia Kues, NP Absent
Kimberly Hugo, RN Absent
Stacy Albers, RN Present
Deanna Ducomb, MD Present
James White- Voting County Board Member Via Zoom
Deb Wesselmann, Ex Officio Present
Mke Strieker, Ex Officio Via Zoom
Bob Netemeyer, Ex Officio Present

Also Attending:

Chris Leidel, CCHD Admin.
Larry Johnson, CCB
Cindy Hoffman, resident
Marian Voss, CCHD
Tiffany Wesselmann, Resident
Ron Logsdon
Dani Huels, Zoom
Erick Baer Zoom
Josh Johnson Zoom
Lindsay Clifford
Bryan Hunt, Breese Journal
Todd Marver, Union Banner

Call To Order

The January 4, 2022, meeting of the Clinton County Health Board was called to order at 6:00 PM at the County Board Room. This meeting was also accessible via ZOOM.

Hearing From the Public

Heather Behrens, resident, addressed the board. She expressed that her son is currently being home schooled due to Covid issues. She asked for data in August from the Health department and feels the data has not been given. She would like to see more specific data. She feels other counties report this data, but Clinton County does not report the data that other counties are currently reporting. She is concerned with parents missing work due to asymptomatic children being sent home, and missed work days due to this, and feels it may lead to parents sending symptomatic children to school.

Cindy Hoffman, resident, addressed the board. She stated she has 2 children in Carlyle High School. She stated she is concerned with quarantine processes within the schools. Her daughter was quarantined due to close contact. Mrs. Hoffman noted she is concerned that the Health Department is interrupting classes to measure distances. She has concerns that her daughter did mask, and was seated near a positive case. Her daughter lost out on school time due to being 5'9" from the positive student- the distance stated by IDPH is 6'. She is also concerned that Carlyle Schools are frequently visited for measuring of distances, and other schools are not visited. She was told that Carlyle Schools are the only school that does not enforce masking. She feels that Carlyle Schools are being targeted unjustly. She feels that quarantining students has not worked for the past two years. She stated that during finals week, there was no quarantining, and would like to know why. She would like discussions regarding how to keep students in school.

Dr. Klostermann responded. He agrees we all want children in school. We are waiting for IDPH to adopt the CDC guidelines for quarantining, and as an offshoot of CDC, we must follow their guidance.

Cindy Hoffman stated that CDC guidelines are simply that-guidance, and maybe we should reconsider following those.

Dr. Klostermann stated we are trying to serve all residents of the county. He stated the numbers are as bad as we have seen in two years. He stated he gets personal phone calls asking for help getting loved ones a bed in the hospital.

Bob Netemeyer stated that schools can have funding cut if we do not follow masking guidelines.

Dr. Hyten stated there are 3 different groups we need to concern ourselves with: medically fragile people, adults, and school aged children. He states he agrees that we shouldn't treat our children this way, but the board is not here to make policy, we make suggestions, but the state make the policies. He stated that the Board of Health did not make up the quarantine rules.

Dr. Klostermann stated the Health Department was asked to come into the Carlyle school to quarantine students.

James White agrees with Dr. Hyten's comments. He asked what influence we are having in terms of CDC and IDPH guidelines? He feels contact tracing and mask wearing is not having a substantial effect. Are we (the County Health Dpt) trying to impact the policy makers?

Chris Leidel stated, 'Yes, we are giving our feedback to the IDPH.

James White asked if we are supplying the information to the public as asked. Chris stated that this would take more time when cases are high. James White asked if we (the health department) was asked to come into the Carlyle Schools? Chris Leidel stated yes, the administration did ask them to come.

Nick Gehrs stated other schools are not following masking guidelines, and he wants to know why Carlyle Schools are being 'picked on'? He feels if one school is visited, all schools should be.

Cindy Hoffman stated that the measuring policies at Carlyle Schools were not acceptable to the Health Department, and that is why the Health Department went into the school.

Chris Leidel stated that IDPH asked why there were no close contacts noted, and after that, the Health Department was asked into Carlyle schools.

Ron Peters, who reports he is a parent who was one of the ones who sued the school, and he moved here from Collinsville. The second week of school, his son was identified as a close contact and was quarantined. He feels the school should not be asking the Health Department to come into the school- the school should send parents to the Health Department for testing. He feels contact tracing should not be done for only school children as he feels it infringes on people's rights.

Dani Huels spoke via Zoom. She is a parent / teacher at the Carlyle School District. She appreciates the Health Department's work this year to protect her (an employee) from catching COVID. Her child is also high risk. She expresses that her year has been exhausting. She states that during mask breaks, the students chose to keep masks on so that they can speak to their friends. She states that Carlyle Jr. High has had to shut down twice, and she feels it is because of the non-masking positives. She feels that the Carlyle school administration has done little to protect the employees from getting sick. She feels that if everyone wants these kids educated, then they should be wearing a mask.

Cindy Hoffman stated Carlyle School Board voted to wear masks, but the litigation forced them to go to mask optional. In regards to employment, if teachers want plexiglass, they should ask for it.

Ron Peters again stated that 56 students were tested positive, but the school was not able to present evidence regarding those positive tests in a court of law, because they are not responsible for testing these students. The schools should not be contact tracing, the health department should do so.

Amanda Newkirk, via zoom, stated the Carlyle schools are not enforcing masks. She states her children mask, but tell her the other students do not mask. She states this causes school wide shutdowns which affects all students, masked or unmasked. She states everyone's choices affect everyone. She would like the school to follow the policies that IDPH has put in place. She wants her children in school.

Minutes from the November 8, 2021, meeting / Minutes from November 8, 2021, Executive Session
The minutes from the November 8, 2021, board meeting were presented. Rob Hyten made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Terry Linton, minutes were approved unanimously. The executive session minutes were presented. Paulette Evans made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Terry Linton, minutes were approved unanimously.

Administrative and Financial Report

Chris Leidel reported November revenue as \$59,195.49 and expenditures of \$78,156.54, for a loss of \$18,961.05 and cash on hand of \$1,070,821.60. He will be writing for a new COVID grant sometime this month, but the total amount is not yet known. This will give us a total of 3 COVID grants available for use this year.

As of December 29th, Clinton County's positivity rate is at 6.7%, while the region is at 11.6%. We have had 110 positives identified this week at the testing site on Monday and Tuesday. We have seen hospitalization with COVID go up in December with 111 people hospitalized on Dec. 8, 2021, and that number rose to 147 as of December 29th. Over 200 tests are performed at the testing site per day, 4 days a week from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM. Next week, Wednesday tests will be available and they will continue to add dates as demand rises.

As of December 29th, we have fully vaccinated 52.74% of the county population. Illinois is at 60.35%. Chris stated the contact tracing policies are changing, in that IDPH will be taking over contact tracing, and the local Health Departments will be doing much less. Louise McMinn noted that the IDPH is wanting to do a more centralized contact tracing, where the counties would get their information from the state. As of January 13th, surge centers will become the contact for all positive cases and will prioritize people 65 years and older, these people will be contacted within 24 hours. All others will be contacted via text message. Local Health departments will not be contacting positive cases. Information will be given via a link from the surge center as to how to treat themselves and to contact close contacts themselves and how to quarantine. The local health departments will be focusing on outbreak situations for long term health facilities. (Any congregate settings- long term care, CILA homes, and the prison). Schools will have to track positives and close contacts- this will be up to the schools. This will be up to the individual schools. The health department can still see positive cases within the counties, and will report those to the schools, but they will have no part in quarantines.

Chris Leidel notes we are currently out of tests, and they have contacted everyone they can to get more tests. Testing is cancelled on Wednesday and Thursday of this week for now. All counties are running low on tests, and we are trying to get more as soon as possible. We are going to start posting numbers daily, but with the new Surge system, there will be no way to know who is in the hospital as of January 13th, and she will try to get our numbers once a week if the hospitals can take the time to do so. The state of Illinois will report new cases every 24 hours.

Deanna Ducomb made a motion to accept Chris Leidel's report, seconded by Terry Linton, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Building committee report

Paulette Evans presented a floor plan of the proposed health department building. The building committee will present the plans to the County Board next week Wednesday (January 12, 2022) Two options will be presented: one with a basement, first floor, and the ability to add a second floor later. The other option would be a basement, first floor, and a second unfinished floor.

Rob Hyten asked if we are asking for each bidder to submit 2 bids, one without the second floor shell and one with the second floor shell. Rob Hyten asked if we can get firm commitments from the county / health department is to submit bids? His concern is that we will be accused of not following bid policies that are 'legal'.

Dr. Ducomb stated that this is why we have waited this long to ask to seek bids—the building plans are as complete as we can make it.

Rob Hyten asked where the server will be stored- Chris Leidel noted it is labeled 'tech' on the plan.

Dr Ducomb thanked the staff and the building committee for their input, which has helped immensely to ensure the building will be useful for the long-term.

James White feels that we should have a more specific proposal before letting it out for bids.

Chris Leidel asked if he wants the building committee to get a better estimate of cost.

Paulette Evans stated she would like to take the plans to the finance committee to seek their advisement.

Rob Hyten feels that we should pursue a more careful figure in terms of dollars before submitting it for bid.

After discussion, it was decided to ask Mr. Karasek to give us a ballpark figure to present along with the current plans to the finance committee.

James White noted that several people participating via zoom were unable to speak / hear via zoom this evening. Chris Leidel offered to address the individual, Donna Maddox, personally and asked Mr. White to forward his email address / phone number so that he can speak with her personally. Additionally, he will talk to tech support to see if they can help to resolve the issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1st.

Executive Session

There was no need for executive session this evening.

Adjournment

Dr. Ducomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terry Linton. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.