

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2020  
5:30 PM via ZOOM

Members Present:

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

The following were also in attendance:

Sean Elfert, Clinton County Health Administrator  
Marlan Voss, Clinton County Health Department  
Brad Knolhoff, Clinton County Board  
Bob Fix, Clinton County Board  
Jim Rakers, Clinton County Board  
Jim Dejen, Citizen  
Mike Kreke, Clinton County Sheriff  
Dennis Middendorff, Citizen

Dr. Brian Klostermann called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Sean Elfert stated that some counties and businesses in the area are beginning to open up. Tom Devore, Attorney from Greenville, has begun to issue notices of due process rights being revoked to the Health Department. If we do not respond within 2 business days, businesses have been told by Mr. Devore that they can open in opposition to the Governor's order. This has put the Health Department in a difficult position as we do not have the authority to act. The legal opinion we have been given is that the order from the Governor is not enforceable by the Health Department. There is a growing faction of individuals that believe that what is being put forth for the state is not appropriate for downstate counties as we have lower COVID numbers. Sean participated in a plan formulation with several Health Board Administrators in the area. He submitted a letter on May 9th to the Director of the IDPH on behalf of Bond / Clinton Health Boards to express that we have increasing concerns that as businesses open, we have no ability to enforce the stay at home order, and asked that the state give us assistance in

preventing total anarchy. He has not received a response. SIPHC is a group of Southern Illinois Health Department Administrators and there will be a meeting tomorrow which Sean will attend to discuss options and concerns. On his weekly situational call with IDPH today, the director mentioned there would be more information about what local health departments are able to do within the next 24 hours. Our goal this evening as Clinton County Health Board is to agree on our position so that it could be submitted to the County Board for their consideration.

Dr. Klostermann stated he is comfortable sharing the draft of a plan reviewed this past week with several surrounding counties (Clay, Effingham, Bond, Clinton, and others). We currently have had 150 positive cases with 41 recovered, 5 hospitalized, 13 deaths in Clinton County. A letter Sean drafted was presented which states our position as a Public Board of Health. The letter states basically that the Health Board's first responsibility is to direct and protect public health, however the Clinton County Board is prepared to follow the direction of the County Board while following IDPH guidelines. The local business owners are very much concerned with their livelihood. We are currently in the 'curve flattening stage' which lasts 28 days. The Health Department can no longer order tests, because there is a shortage. This is part of the flattening phase and we cannot meet the criterion because we cannot get the tests. Phase 4 requires a vaccine or an elimination of new cases, and there is none in sight, which makes phase 4 somewhat unrealistic. Sean believes that due to the diversity of Illinois' counties, we have some differing needs. He does not want to put the Health Department in jeopardy by stating we will not follow the Governor's order, but he also does not want the Health Dpt. to be at odds with local County Board or IDPH. He wants to make the public aware that we cannot take action, legally.

Dr. Ducomb noted that we will be ready to move into Phase III by the end of the month with the availability of testing. She herself is experiencing a loss of business during this time. She feels that the virus will take its course, and we must do the right thing for the right reasons during this time of trial. We need to make sure that the word gets out to educate our public, and we should follow the examples of other nations who are farther along in this process. She would like to vote in favor of the state directive.

Bob Netemeyer states that the document presented regarding the Madison County opening was well written, and he feels it gives the business owners leeway as to when to open.

Dr. Klostermann noted that a document sent out today from the State's Attorney of Madison County noted that the businesses opening may suffer losses of insurance coverage, etc.

Cindy Kues stated we must abide by the State guidelines.

Sean's biggest concerns for CCHD is that we are very much dependent on IDPH for funding and if we oppose the stay at home order, we could jeopardize that funding for all areas of public health and he doesn't want to do that. His frustration is that local entities have been put in a hard

spot as we don't have the authority to make decisions or enforce all directives effectively. We are trying to do the best we can, but we do not have all the tools necessary to follow the directives completely (i.e. lack of tests). We need increased guidance and resources to fully meet the requirements of IDPH.

Dr. Hyten feels the COHD is doing due diligence, and he feels some businesses have been able to open (Dentists offices are open now) but feels that in regards to enforcement, citizens' civil liberties may be taken away, but people will make choices based on information and we must continue to give them good information. He feels that if businesses are not careful when reopening they may fail due to those poor decisions. We must continue to share as much information as we can.

Paulette Evans noted concerns with the Madison County plan for reopening because it is too vague. She feels people need to make choices, but their choices may put other people at risk. We had 24 new cases today, and people are bringing those cases to the facility from the public. In the Back to Business document shared with the Board of Health this week, she feels it doesn't follow the Restore Illinois plan, and she felt it needed more details. She has concerns with letting businesses decide when and how to reopen.

Rafael Him stated we must give the people something because they cannot feed their families. We need to give them guidance and assure them we are working on this.

Paulette asked how we are getting information out to the public as to what phase we are in.

Sean stated that when we move to another phase we would release that to all media, but since that has been put into place, nothing has changed with the Governor's Executive order being extended to the end of May, which is when we will need to start informing people about the stage we are in.

Dr. Ducomb noted that as a physician, she feels people need information to help them make good decisions for their families. She feels we need to sometimes make some decisions that are going to be long term answers even if it means dealing with the short term problems. She feels that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We need to reassure people we are getting there. We also need to address the need for wearing masks.

Rafael Him stated people are very stressed being locked up at home, and not paying bills makes it worse. He feels if we have marijuana stores open, we should be able to open other businesses, and feeding their families is a first priority for citizens.

Deb Wesselmann states businesses can open for orders / curbside in phase 2 and factory workers are on unemployment, and other businesses are working from home, and asks- which citizens are pressing the issue of reopening? She sees many people without masks, and trying

to control people is very difficult.

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Rafael Him noted that many people are not getting unemployment due to delays in the unemployment office processes. He understands people may get sick if we begin to reopen, but people need to feed their families.

Dr. Hyten agrees with both the need for opening businesses but we also need to keep people safe and business owners have to ask people to do what we want them to do as business owners. He feels if we ask people to wear masks and distance from each other they will be safe and will do what we ask.

Sean states that the people being affected are the non essential businesses as well as curbside and bars, gyms, hair stylists, etc.

Rafael spoke with a restaurant owner who is trying to get another job because he cannot make money with their business during the stay at home order. He feels we could open in a safe manner. But the plan for safety keeps changing.

Terry Linton states we as a board of health should be following the IDPH guidelines so as not to risk losing funding that we rely on.

Sean feels we do not have the information needed to give other appropriate guidelines for reopening as we do not have the epidemiologists to direct us-- he is hopeful that IDPH would have that and could give us some guidance. He feels local health departments cannot go rogue and make oppositional decisions. We need a plan based on data particular to our region from IDPH and we have no access to that information currently.

Dr. Ducomb feels the CDC guidelines are good guidelines. She feels we should not follow Madison County's lead and create our own guidelines.

Sean asked the County Board members what they would like to see from the Health Board?

Bob Netemeyer feels the County Board needs to issue some statement, and he feels the Health Department needs to step up and make the decisions regarding allowing businesses to reopen. He states his constituents all want the county opened up, and our county unemployment rate is 2400.

Sean states we have 8 staff and multiple programs and do not have the resources to have any level of enforcement and are unsure as to which ones are enforceable.

Dr. Klostermann stated the letter presented at the beginning of the meeting was well written, and he feels that while it is not the Health Departments' job to open businesses, he has no problem signing a letter such as this.

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Sean asked if this letter would be a press release to the Governor on behalf of the Board of Health / County Board / Law enforcement?

Bob Netemeyer stated that we have a county board meeting on May 18th.

Sean stated that based on what he heard this evening he will revise the draft shown tonight and will submit it to the County Board to consider it. He would circulate it to the Health Board prior to the County Board meeting.

Jim Rakers asked about Sean's meeting with the other local Board of Health's administrators to see what they are doing tomorrow regarding sending a letter to the governor, and Sean will contact him after the meeting.

Paulette asked if we could reach out to our representative Charlie Meier, regarding our concerns.

Sean stated our representatives are well aware of our concerns and hold the same opinions. Senator Plummer holds scheduled conference calls and both have been very good to jump in and help out. Charlie Meier drove to Springfield to pick up test kits, and enlisted a group of women to sew PPE, and he makes calls on our behalf as well.

Bob Netemeyer asks if the Board of Health members would vote to open up the county.

Terry Linton stated that even though personally a health board member may want to open the county, as a member of the Board of Health who is supposed to be putting health needs as a first priority, she would not vote in favor of opening the county in opposition to the IDPH. She feels it could adversely affect funding as it goes against IDPH recommendations, which the Health Board needs to follow as its main priorities.

Dr. Klostermann stated he did not feel that opening the county was the Board of Health's responsibility.

Sean stated that attorney Devore posted on Facebook that businesses could open after giving notice to the Health Department of their intent, but that is simply not true. When bars in Bond County opened, they were cited by the Bar Association to cease and desist or lose their liquor licenses. He stated that many businesses are governed by state governing agencies which do have the power to revoke permits and licenses, so businesses are still subject to the actions of those agencies, and the Public Health Department cannot prevent those actions.

Jim Rakers stated he believes the Health Board should draft a letter and present it to the County Board, and after it is approved, ask citizens to send the letter to the Governor. 5 of 6

Sean asked if Dr. Klostermann needed a vote to direct him to submit a letter to the County Board.

Dr. Klostermann stated we do not need a vote, we will just look at the draft and then go to final approval.

Dr. Hyten stated none of us have the authority or the know-how to reopen the County. He feels this is not a political issue, and the Health Board needs to continue being an informational group and not take a stand on political issues. He feels people will make those decisions individually. We do not know the best thing to do as we don't have access to the research, and we should not be involved in that decision.

Rafael Hlm notes Monday is his last day on the Health Board as he has taken a government job which prohibits him from serving. He has been on the board 6 years.

A board member asked what else can we do to help Carlyle Nursing Center?

Sean stated he talks to them daily, sometimes more than once. He is strategizing with them in terms of staffing and his staff is driving tests down to Carbondale. He feels the Health Department is doing everything possible. He has also solicited input from an infection control expert from IDPH to develop a plan for management. This situation has demonstrated how contagious the virus is. People do not understand how dangerous it is.

Dr. Klostermann made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cindy Kues. Meeting was adjourned at 7:01.

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

6:30 PM via Zoom

Members Present:

Brian Klostermann, MD-Chairperson

Terry Linton, SLP - Secretary

Paulette Evan, RN -Vice Chairperson

Deanna Ducomb, MD

Cynthia Kues, RN

Stacy Albers

Brad Knolhoff, County Board

Bob Netemeyer, Ex Officio

Deb Wesselmann, Ex Officio

The following were also in attendance:

Sean Elfert, Clinton County Health Administrator

Marlon Voss, Clinton County Health Department

Matt Wilson, Union Banner

Jim Delen, Citizen

Brian Hunt, Breese Journal

Brenda Kohlbrocher, Citizen

**Call to Order**

Dr. Brian Klostermann called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

**Hearing from the Public**

There was no input from the public.

**Minutes, April 21, 2020**

Cindy Kues made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 21st, 2020 meeting, seconded by Paulette Evans, motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative and Financial Report**

Sean stated our revenue / expenses for the month, with a deficit for this month due to Health Department being partially closed, resulting in a decrease in lab revenue. Also the salary expense for the month has been higher due to extensive overtime-- several employees are working seven days a week to complete contact tracing. In addition, test transportation is an additional expense which will show up in our May financial report. We remain in a good financial position with over a million dollars in assets. The Health Department is currently rewriting grant

budgets for the current fiscal year to spend them down while writing the new grants for the upcoming fiscal year. Sean stated we should reach phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan by the end of May. The letter developed at our May 19th meeting has gone out to the media with very little feedback. We welcome Brad Knolhoff as our County Board representative to the Health Board. Sean has completed some interviews, but the nurse position has not yet been filled. We do have a nurse working for Clinton County contractually for a short term. Sean attended a meeting with Regions 4 and 5 Health administrators which was rather disheartening. The general consensus seemed to be that the administrators are tired and frustrated but the health departments continue to have expectations to meet without the authority to do so, and very little enforcement. There are many people anxious to reopen, but we are not seeing drastic behaviors in our county, and people seem to be trying to follow the executive order. Dr. Ducomb asked if the health administrators were able to meet with the state director? Sean stated there was a meeting but the director is beholden to a governor who will not turn away from his decisions.

Sean stated that Mr. Devore, a Bond County native, is continuing to direct citizens that if the citizen business give notice to the Board of Health, they can reopen if there is no legal action within 2 days by the Health Department. On Friday, the Governor implemented an emergency rule which allows for legal action against businesses who violate the executive order- local law enforcement can issue a citation and fine them. The local State's Attorney must be willing to prosecute these, and Sean isn't sure where the State's Attorney stands on the matter. The emergency rule must still go through approval through the committees. Sean feels it will pass, but it will take some time - If it passes, Sean will speak with the State's Attorney but he does not want Health Department staff to be expected to issue citations. The state Health Dpt. will also pursue enforcement through licensing bodies, and any business holding a license could put their license in jeopardy. The IDPH and State Police have been meeting regularly. There are gyms in the county opening against the order.

Dr. Ducomb stated the BND reported Mr. Devore has signed on over a thousand clients. Stacy Albers made a motion to approve the administrative report, seconded by Brad Knolhoff, motion approved unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### **Developments Regarding Executive Order and Restore Illinois**

#### **Old Business**

##### **COVID 19 Update**

We had 6 new positives today, to date: 821 tested, 168 positive total, 78 recovered, 76 on home quarantine, 6 hospitalizations, 16 deaths. The curve has been flattened, but based on current numbers we are not out of the woods yet. Sean does not know where all the new cases are located, but most are at Carlyle Health Care. Brad Knolhoff stated he was contacted by a

citizen whose parent is at CHC, and they would like more information from Carlyle Health Care or the Health Department as to whether their parent could be retested. He asked that we keep the families of residents informed.

Sean stated that initially he had issued an order for all to be tested in the facility. In the beginning he had to contact our state representative to get the number of tests needed to get all residents and personnel tested. Currently tests are limited and Health Dpt. can only order for long term facilities. The state is now visiting facilities and testing staff and residents. We have tested at Carlyle twice now, and the second time we found more residents residing on the negative floor, and he is in contact with them on a daily basis. The testing responsibility lies with the facility, but we can order more tests for facilities if it is needed. We do not have the ability to communicate directly with families of Carlyle Healthcare facility. The facility needs to communicate, but the Health Department can make the testing happen if it is needed. Brad asked if this information could be shared so that the families can understand the procedures a bit more. He feels this would ease their mind somewhat. Sean will speak in generalities to the families, but he would have no way to reach all of them unless he does a press release. He is willing to answer their questions and concerns.

#### **Building Site**

Brad Knolhoff stated it is very difficult to speak about the building sites from one year ago. We had properties offered by developers which are now off the table. We shouldn't make decisions based on year old information. He feels we should choose the building and then choose the site which best works. The building plans may change the need for the site area. He feels that we need to ascertain the services and the space we need, and then seek a site for the building.

Dr. Ducomb asked which developer has backed out?

Brad Knolhoff stated one of Mr. Nordike's offer is gone. We need to keep in mind that offers made a year ago may not be there at this time. He does not know currently what we need for a site.

There have been concerns about the size of the building lots, and Brad Knolhoff notes that we don't know how big the building needs to be. We need to know how big the building needs to be before judging whether the lots are big enough. We were ready to build at one point, but couldn't agree on the site. During stage 2 Cheryl Lee resigned, and at that point the building was tabled in order to get a new board established.

Bob Netemeyer stated we do need to consider parking as well going forward.

Brad noted that when the courthouse was originally built, the City noted there needed to be a certain number of parking spaces to comply with code. They used some of the parking behind the Health Dpt. to meet that code. There is some area at the Biddle Automotive lots that could be used for parking.

Dr. Ducomb noted at the 1st National Bank downtown- the Bank is interested in donating their parking as well.

Brad Knolhoff noted we don't want the elderly walking long distances, but he feels there are many options for parking at the County donated property locations. He still feels we need to designate services first.

Dr. Ducomb stated she feels we need to start with asking the staff what they need.

Brad Knolhoff stated he would also like input from Sean Elfert as to what pays the bills and is feasible. He also wants to build a building that will effectively serve our residents.

Dr. Klostermann noted that we have discussed getting a survey to local service providers, and the specialists serving at Breese are beginning to return and they could soon be surveyed.

Dr. Ducomb also stated SOQA can also be surveyed.

Sean stated if we are going to move forward with a survey, but he agrees the staff should have some input and we have members on the Board of Health which have extensive experience which will help make these decisions. He feels the Board should make the decisions. He would like our direction as to what to do next.

Dr. Klostermann stated we need to first have a list of what we currently offer, then interview staff as to what they need to effectively perform those duties, and then add services as we all see fit from their suggestions.

Cindy Kues asked about how many exam rooms do we currently have?

Sean stated there is nothing in the health department building that resembles an exam room.

Brad Knolhoff stated he does a lot of project planning, but he feels we need a core project planning team, not to make decisions, but to make sure things get done in a timely manner. He would like to see a group of 3-4 people on the group to get the timelines met. The last time, there was no steering committee and the administrator began to make the decisions, and that didn't work out.

Sean asked if Brad was expecting to put together a more formal plan like a Microsoft plan?

Brad stated yes, that seems to be what we need to get things moving. Brad is volunteering to do this with assistance.

Deb Wesselmann noted she would not want to put too much on Sean, because she feels he will get burned out.

Terry Linton stated that possibly Brad Knolhoff could meet with key board members with information from employees and the survey and begin the planning stage.

Brad Knolhoff stated he would like a Health Department member to be present at these meetings, to know the day to day considerations they are dealing with.

Terry Linton asked if Marlon Voss could be that person, and she stated she is willing with Sean's approval.

Marlon stated she can also talk to the employees as she is there daily.

Brad stated that this is what he needs to guide the decisions and he wants them to feel involved. He feels this is a better way to make the decisions than the board making those.

Dr. Ducomb voiced support of this plan, and Marlon Voss agreed this could work.

Brad Knolhoff asked what the goal is in terms of getting the building built?

Sean and Marlon stated it was needed yesterday, Terry Linton stated that we should break ground at least within one year from today. Brad Knolhoff agreed.

Brad asked when the fiscal year was for the Health Dept-- it follows the county fiscal year, but

also follows the state's fiscal year regarding all grants. The county writes the budget for the Health Department in September. The Health Board budget will need to be set in September and approved by the County Board. The Health Department is in a good financial position, and the building may not need to be as large as once thought, costing less.

Sean stated there was some confusion as to ownership and financial responsibility for costs regarding the new building, and we need to have those plans firmed up prior to building. How much is the overhead of the new building going to come from the Health Dpt. budget? This has long-term ramifications on our current cash reserve. This trend has occurred in other counties, and he warns we should be cautious about this. He stated programs change and payment models come and go, and reimbursements are affected which requires constant review of programs which are feasible. He warned that need today will be completely different 10 years from now, and he feels we need to be cautious and have total support of our County Board, in case in ten years they may be willing to consider a tax increase if it is necessary.

Brad Knolhoff noted that the County Board feels the same way- the building must be sustainable and we must have some flexibility in building use down the road. Brad stated that Sean's insights will be invaluable going forward.

Bob Netemeyer asked who the committee members will be?

Brad stated 4 or 5 would be sufficient.

The committee will be Brad Knolhoff, Paulette Evans, Dr. Ducomb, Marlon Voss.

Paulette stated it would be ideal if they could meet in person.

Brad recommended the County Board Room.

Dr. Klostermann stated he will work with Sean to finalize the survey, and ask Kim Hugo for medical providers from the East side of the county. He will try to get completed surveys to the committee in the next three weeks.

Dr. Ducomb asked that the emergency room staff be included in the surveys. (Yes they will)

Paulette Evans asked if we should include longterm facilities?

Sean stated up until COVID they didn't use the Health Dpt. a lot. Marlon Voss agreed. She stated they have secure plans run by the state and feels we should focus more on the local community.

Brad Knolhoff asked if the committee could meet next week to begin- the committee agreed to meet Thursday May 28th at the County Board Room at 10:30 AM.

Dr. Ducomb thanked Sean for composing the letter to the governor. She offered to be a courier for testing for the Health Dpt. if needed.

Paulette Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terry Linton. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.