

Clinton County Board of Health Meeting
November 17, 2020 (Via Zoom)

Board of Health Members Attending:
Brian Klostermann, MD- Chairperson
Paulette Evans, RN- Vice Chairperson
Terry Linton, SLP- Secretary
Rob Hyten III, DMD- Treasurer
Cynthia Kues, NP
Stacy Albers, RN
Kim Hugo, RN
Deanna Ducomb, MD
Deb Wesselmann- Ex Officio
Bob Netemeyer- Ex Officio

Also Attending:
Sean Elfert, Clinton County Health Administrator
Stephanie Wuebbles, CCHD
Louise McMinn, CCHD
Michelle Hawes, CCHD
Bryan Hunt, Breese Journal
Matt Wilson, Union Banner
Jim Delen, Citizen
Chris Tebbe, CCHD
Marian Voss, CCHD

Call To Order

The November 17th meeting of the Clinton County Board of Health was called to order by Dr. Klostermann via zoom at 5:30 PM.

Hearing From the Public

There was no one who wished to address the board.

Minutes- October 20, 2020 meeting

There was one amendment to the minutes, Cindy Kues approved the minutes as amended, Brian Klostermann seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Administrative / Financial Report

Sean Elfert reported for the month of October, we realized a surplus of more than \$12,000. He reported we started rapid testing this morning, and it went quickly with no traffic back ups. He stated that in Bond County they advertised the rapid testing and it drew people from all over the

state, so they did not advertise the testing in Clinton County, and it worked well at the fairgrounds. Approximately 81 tests were done, with 19 positive results. Not all the positives were from Clinton County. Louise gave the newest numbers: current positivity rate is 17.6% with 104 new positives today. We currently have 596 on isolation, with 49 deaths. From November 10-17, we have had 4 additional deaths. Our area hospitals are now reaching capacity due to a lack of staff availability, and they are having to make decisions as to who to admit. There is currently a significant strain on our local hospitals.

Our contact tracing budget has been revised and approved and we are ready to expend the total amount allotted to us.

Dr. Ducomb asked if we still have as much overtime as we were or has it been lessened due to the increased number of hires? Marian stated that it hasn't been too bad, usually the contact tracers finish by 5:30.

Dr. Klostermann noted that most of our positive tests received in their clinic were community spread, not from working in the clinic- they have had positive people in their homes. Kim Hugo noted the lack of staff is the problem in hospitals, it is not the lack of beds. (Staff are getting sick through community spread.) The ICU at Centralia hospital is full and they are sending patients to Deaconess.

Dr. Klostermann noted this is not just affecting Covid patients- it is affecting others with medical life or death issues who may die in the E.R. because there is nowhere for them to be served. We have lost our 'safety net' of regional hospitals- they are all overwhelmed. The total bed availability in region 4 is 22%, and if it goes under that, all elective procedures will be cancelled, which will put a strain on the hospital budgets.

Kim Hugo noted that in Centralia Hospital, there are patients with no place to go. The higher level of care hospitals are at capacity. The patients that are coming in recently are sicker. Dr. Klostermann noted that the stay is longer for patients, for one reason that nursing homes will not take patients until they test negative for Covid, and also younger patients survive Covid but may be hospitalized for weeks. Kim Hugo states the mental health services are also being overwhelmed. Sean Elfert stated we should applaud the staff as they are putting themselves on the line daily by testing people. Dr. Klostermann spoke to the County Board last night and the health department and St. Joseph's Hospital will issue an official press release asking for more social distancing through the holidays.

Sean stated the 708 Board funding has been cut, and he is concerned with the funding. The County has a levy for mental health (708) funding, and that board makes decisions as to allocation of those funds. Historically, the health department has administered those funds, accepting the allocations. The County Board changed this policy, and to reduce the funding for the next fiscal year. The County Board chose to reduce the tax levy asking for mental health.

Dr. Klostermann notes the Health Department doesn't offer mental health services- those monies are set aside. The most recent budget ask is for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This budget is approved in November, for the next fiscal year and the money goes to not just the health department, but also CRC (Community Resource Center) and Community Link.

Dr. Ducomb noted the Falting Goat owner was on the front page of the Breeze Journal. She feels they should not give credence to people who may be super spreaders of the Corona Virus, and she hopes that the statement that the County Board and St. Joseph's Hospital presents will be given equal consideration. Dr. Klostermann stated their statement will be on St. Joseph's

facebook, local radio stations, local newspapers, city facebook pages, etc. He feels the message must come from more than just the Health Department.
Cindy Kues noted the public associates the Health Department with the Governor, and we need to address the spread over the holidays.

Old Business:

Building Committee Update

There is no update from the building committee. Brad had noted they would like to include the new administrator to have some input in the building plans. Cindy Kues asked if our hired consultant has started working? Dr. Ducomb stated he is making site visits and gathering information. Marlan Voss states they received a bill from him, but she has not received an invoice and will need that. Dr. Ducomb will discuss this with him and have him send it.

Executive Session

Cindy Kues and Stacy Albers made a motion to move into executive session, motion passed. The board went into executive session at 6:14 PM. The Board returned to open session at 8:34.

Dr. Ducomb asked if we will meet in December. Dr. Klostermann noted we will likely need to, due to the hiring need. Marlan will email the agenda when we have someone to hire.

Dr. Klostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terry Linton, meeting was adjourned at 8:36.