

**Minutes – Clinton County Board of Health  
Public Meeting held  
March 4th, 2021 – 7:30 a.m.  
Via Webex**

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<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	Dr. Mary Malcom	Present
	Dr. O. Daniel Osaro	Present
	Jean Morgan, RN, BSN, MSED	Present
	Don Thiltgen	Present
	Chelsea Sullens, DPT	Present

**Staff Present**

Shane McClintock, Director to the Board of Health  
Kelli Eggers, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health  
Michele Cullen, Genesis VNA/Public Health  
Nancy Burns, Emergency Management  
Kristin Huisenga, CSAC  
Cynthia Kaczinski, Hillcrest Family Services/WIC  
Lauren Schwandt  
Jocelyn Meyer, Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center  
Heather Montgomery, Women’s Health and Family Services  
Laura Norris, MercyOne  
Malissa Sprenger, MercyOne  
Jim Irwin, Board of Supervisors  
Susan Green  
Angie Eacker, Community Health Care

**Others Present**

Malcom called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting is being held via Webex due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. Roll call showed members 4 present. It was **moved** by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Osaro**, to **APPROVE** the January 7th, 2021 minutes as submitted. Motion carried 4-0.

**AGENDA ITEM III – BOARD OF HEALTH**

No updates.

**AGENDA ITEM IV – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **Finance** – No updates.
- B. **Personnel** – **Thiltgen** noted he completed the Sanitarian’ review. It is available upon request. **Thiltgen** motioned to **APPROVE** the review, seconded by **Osaro**. Motion carried

5-0.

C. **Total Quality Management** – No updates.

## **AGENDA ITEM V – DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- A. Environmental Services- McClintock** noted that a public hearing was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to solicit comments regarding the proposed drawings and specifications for the Elvira Wastewater Project. No comments were heard. The Board of Supervisors has also approved the documents. A notice to bidders has been sent out and bids will be opened on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Supervisors will approve the winning bid at their meeting on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Morgan** questioned if he had the support of the residents of Elvira. **McClintock** replied that 12 of the 14 homes have signed their agreements. One wishes to use their own contractor, and one is extremely low income. **McClintock** noted that our office has sent information to that person from the USDA regarding grants and loans for home repair.
- B. Genesis VNA & Hospice– Cullen** noted that regarding the Community Health Needs Assessment, MercyOne has been instrumental in helping gather data. **Andrea Barnett** has been helping. They are making decisions and in the fall they will piggy back on what they have done and create the County Health Needs Assessment and the County Health Improvement Plan. Right now they are continuing with the Move More, Eat Well, and Feel Better groups. Most meetings have been virtual. Some initiatives have been put on the back burner during the Pandemic, however another \$5000 for 5-2-1-0 Grant was received again. Community gardens, outdoor garden spaces and the CATCH program are all included. This is a healthy afterschool program to teach healthy eating habits and being active. The Region 5 Emergency Preparedness funding continues within Public Health. This is for preparedness, but we are in response right now. Long term home visitation programs with Nurse Family Partnership continues with telehealth visits. If any referral is needed such as a young mother or first time mother, they will call Parent Pals. Bright Beginnings in Clinton County is full and that is for the 0-5 aged children. Covid numbers for the state of Iowa are at 364,996 positive cases. 5003 are in Clinton County with 35 new cases in the last week. Numbers are down quite a bit. Hospitalizations are also down significantly in the region. 43 are currently hospitalized. Genesis has 14 and Mercy has one or two currently. The 14 day positivity rate is currently 8% and no new deaths to report. Regarding the vaccine, 5294 first time doses have been administered with 1702 fully completed. This is a rate at just under 4% and is consistent with Eastern Iowa. Tier 1 in Phase 1B has been finished and they are now focusing on 65 and older. 2 large clinics will be held for those in that group in both Clinton and DeWitt with 220 doses for each clinic. Tier 2 will include manufacturers like ADM, Nestle, Clysar and Lyondell. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is starting to come into the state. They have already gone to some of the meat packing plants in the state this week. Tier 2 will include individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. They have 6 hours to administer the vaccine once the vial is open. The rest of that tier should go quickly. The final guidance on Phase 1C has not yet been announced. **Cullen** expressed

her thanks for **Kness** and **Burns** in helping with the phone lines for the two public clinics. Many people struggle with online sign up, and this really helped those. **Irwin** gave his thanks of appreciation for everyone doing a great job. He mentioned using Facebook and the County website to help get the word out. The social media post had many shares. **Eggers** and **McClintock** found that just sharing the verbiage, people may not read thru the entire post. Sometimes the shorter posts or those with color may attract more clicks and shares. **Cullen** stated it is a learning curve and she appreciates feedback on how to make things better. Federal allocations are coming into the county now. Hyvee receives a regular allocation now and Scott Drug has received one. CHC will discuss their news today as well.

- C. **Hillcrest Family Services/WIC**– **Kaczinski** noted a request for approval of an updated Memorandum of Understanding as presented. It was **moved** by **Osaro**, seconded by **Thiltgen**, to **APPROVE** the Memorandum submitted. Motion carried 5-0. **Kaczinski** stated their services are still being offered virtually. They have had 2 audits. One was a clinic visit to see if their policies were in place and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was an office visit for administrative policies. No results have been returned, but the consultant stated things looked good.
- D. **Early Childhood Iowa/DECAT**– Not in attendance.
- E. **Clinton Substance Abuse Council (GIC & CDC)**- **Huisenga** requested the approval of a Letter of Support for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery (CARA), Local Drug Crises Grants. This grant is to work on reducing youth opioid, meth, and prescription drug misuse for those 12-18 years of age. This would be a grant for \$50,000 a year for five years and is not competitive. We are a former drug free community, so we are eligible to apply. It was **moved** by **Morgan**, seconded by **Thiltgen**, to **APPROVE** the Letter of Support as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.
- F. **Women’s Health and Family Services**– **Montgomery** said their office continues to be open. Mid-February, they had an issue with their Covid testing due to the bad weather in the south. They are now shifting to offering rapid tests. **Alycia Cheek** has been able to get into more schools in person for education. DeWitt has asked for several different grade levels to be taught. HIV rapid tests are being done at a rate of several per week. **Morgan** questioned if there are a lot of positives. **Montgomery** said no new positives. They do have one patient that is positive and comes in for tests regularly.
- G. **Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)/New Directions**- Not in attendance.
- H. **Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center**– **Meyer** noted that 25% of visits are still on phone therapy with no current end date. There is a bill in the preliminary phase to make the phone session option a permanent one that would be covered by insurance. Some clients use that option not only because of Covid, but in general, it lessens their anxiety. One program, the Integrated Health Home, works with people that have severe mental illness. This has a peer support component which has not been offered in several months due to Covid. Many are suffering with self- isolation. Bridgeview is going to open twice this month with a sign up spot being mandatory. They use a fogging machine

to spray down after clients have left. Many of them have been requesting peer support, so this will be great. The school based services have not resumed yet for DeWitt. Clinton has been doing it since the beginning of the school year. The therapist for Camanche, North East, and Cal-Wheat districts chooses to do virtual meetings for his own health reasons. **Meyer** also noted they have been in their new building for about a year now and it is going great.

- I. **Center for Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc. (CADS)**- Not in attendance.
- J. **Emergency Management**– **Malcom** noted she has prepared the 2020 Clinton County Death Report. **Eggers** has sent a copy to everyone. Covid numbers were not reported as they are different than those of Public Health. In 2019, 437 people died in the county. In 2020, 523 people died. The percentages of manner of death remain about the same. 92% were due to natural causes, 4% from accidents, 2 1/2 % from suicide, and in less than 1% the cause of death could not be determined. Violent deaths, homicides, and deaths due to firearms totaled to 20. There were 30 in 2019. The number of suicides in the county in 2019 was 7 and in 2020 it was 14 with 5 of them being prior to the onset of the Pandemic. Last year was also the first in which the federal prison in Thomson, Illinois was operational. Any inmate who is found down at the prison is taken to MercyOne in Clinton. Once they are there, their death is counted as a Clinton County death. **Burns** said that **Kness** has a letter in to FEMA requesting the ability to do non congregate sheltering. Because of Covid, having several homeless people in one shelter is not ideal. There are options to receive reimbursement from FEMA for hotel stays. The Board of Health put out a non-congregate sheltering order which was sent in with the letter to obtain preapproval from FEMA. Once preapproval is obtained, they will work with the Board of Supervisors to see how the funding will work. There could be an option of the county doing the upfront payment and receiving the reimbursement later. They continue to work with the YWCA with rapid rehousing. EMA is working with the city of Clinton on flood evacuation routes in the event that the levy would break. These routes could also be used for other emergency evacuations. They have also been busy with Ragbrai planning meetings. There will be two days in the county this year. Flood preparedness meetings with National Weather Service and Homeland Security have also taken place. As of right now, the Mississippi does not appear that it will have major flooding. The Wapsi has a small threat but does not look to be major. During the very cold weather, **Burns** noted they worked with Information, Referral, and Assistance on getting hotel vouchers to the Clinton Police Department in case they came upon individuals who needed sheltering. EMA has been involved with Public Health in the vaccine planning. They were able to receive some supply from the state and get some PPE supplies for the jail. The state now delivers to Linn County and then they will travel there to pick it up and bring it back. They started planning for the vaccine call center in mid-February. They trained with volunteers and identified some problems and had IT work on those issues. **Burns** was able to create user guides for the scheduling website. A former 911 dispatcher looked over the script and gave helpful hints as well. The flier was released on Friday. **Eggers** was sent the flier to get the push out. On Monday, **Burns** asked **Eggers** to push again. She also sent it out to radio stations

to try and reach those who don't have internet access. In 4 hours, the volunteers set 407 appointments. On Tuesday, **Eggers** pushed again and had them call the EMA office and the slots were then filled. Procedures are now in place for future clinics. **Burns** wanted to let the Board know that there are multiple county departments collaborating to help the citizens of our county. Other EMA departments have said they are having issues within their county. She noted ours has been communicating all along and it has been working great. **Burns** thanked **Cullen**, **Eggers**, **McClintock**, and the County IT Department for their assistance in working together to get things done. **Morgan** noted she is still having several people asking how they can get on a list. **Burns** noted a lot of it is online, so that is why they had the call center. **Governor Reynolds** said yesterday that as of March 9<sup>th</sup>, those over 65 can call 211 for assistance from vaccine navigators that will help set up appointments at local Hyvee stores. It is also on the county and Health Department websites. **Burns** hopes that as more doses come in, they can do call centers again. With limited doses right now, it makes it harder. Jackson County reached out yesterday. Osterhaus Pharmacy got a federal allotment and they are having a clinic Friday in Maquoketa. We have put a flier out for those who need it to call the numbers to get scheduled. **Burns** noted if you have ideas to push this, reach out. **Morgan** asked which website to use. **Burns** said it is scheduled by each provider. A list of those is on the Clinton County website. From there, they must click on the different providers. **Irwin** said he has had conversations with **Cullen** on this issue as they have had several complaints about this as well. The biggest issue is because there are so many different ways of distribution. Some are coming from the federal level and some from the state. The clinic in Maquoketa is open to anyone over 65 from any county. There is no central list to get on for vaccines. It is on the county and Health Department website. **Eggers** and **Burns** have been sharing it on their respective Facebook pages. **Irwin** asked that everyone on this call to like those two pages and to share the notices when they go out. It will most likely come down to family members signing up those who are over 65. Scott Drug currently only has a few hundred doses coming in per week and at one point had a list of over 600 people. **Montgomery** noted that many places weren't taking a list, and that you had to get online over and over again to try and schedule an appointment. **Irwin** agreed that it is very difficult for many people. **McClintock** noted people can call the Maquoketa Library for help signing up for the Jackson County clinic. **Malcom** noted that many people get nervous when they hear that the government is collecting private information. This is a big concern when discussing keeping a list for vaccinations. She stated we usually will not know until about a week ahead of time on how many allocations are coming in. **Burns** noted soon things should stabilize and that will help with planning. **Morgan** said Iowa was 47<sup>th</sup> out of 50 and we are now 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding dose allocations. She also stated she is capable of assisting anyone in need. **Burns** noted they have PPE stored that they are in need of disposing. If anyone attending the meeting has a need, reach out to them. They have face shields, sanitizer, and washable gowns (etc). **Morgan** noted the importance of retaining a supply.

- K. **Community Health Care, Inc- Eacker** was happy to announce that they have received federal allocations of the vaccine. On March 13<sup>th</sup> they will be having a clinic following Phase 1B guidelines. The first clinic will be of 160 doses. They have been promised that

many or more with each week to follow. You can call or use [chcqa.org](http://chcqa.org). Click “sign up for the vaccine”. You may call 563-500-1005 for an appointment as well. This will be for the Moderna shot. They will also reach out to their own patients to schedule them. **Eacker** noted they are still seeing patients in person and virtually.

L. **EveryStep/MCAH**- Not in attendance.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Irwin** thanked the group for the good conversation today. He said **Burns’** comment regarding the PPE supply stemmed from previous conversations about the CCJCC being organized. It is a new group with conversations from multiple agencies including a representative, **Greg**, from 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial. They are planning a pilot for drug and mental health. Now that courts are starting to open up, they are trying to move **Greg** into that old EMA office space. When people are released from jail, they can go down and get back on some of the services offered. This could help in finding a place to stay and get back on their feet and get into society in general. A meeting last week with about 20 different organizations was held with a lot of great ideas. After that, a better way was seen for community partners to work together to consolidate resources and follow people closer to see who is using the services. **Irwin** took a tour in Johnson County a few years ago and it found that they had 24 high users and 4 of those used about 2.1 million dollars in provided services for emergency room visits, etc. **Irwin** welcomed emails regarding these conversations.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII – PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Malissa Sprenger** of MercyOne presented information regarding the Mobile Health Clinic. This is a mobile medical unit. The unit will have two exam rooms, a triage area, and a waiting area. It is ADA compliant. It is anticipated to be ready by late May of this year. This is designed for those who are poor and underserved. The last survey cycle of our area showed that access to healthcare was a top priority in addition to poverty. In the first phase, the unit would help develop relationships and trust for those without a PCP or even transportation. They would focus on healthy eating, asthma, diabetes, etc. This unit could absolutely be a vehicle that delivers vaccine as well. It will deliver nutrition boxes. There will be no cost for an exam, or wound care on the unit. It can travel to Dubuque, across the river etc. Phase 2 is for primary care with appointments and medications. Phase 3 is for specialty care including substance abuse disorder. **Sprenger** welcomes an advisory team regarding the unit; please let her know if interested. **Irwin** thanked her for putting this conception together. It will be great for Clinton and Jackson Counties. **Morgan** felt they may need several of the units, and not just one. **Osaro** mentioned his excitement that this is finally being realized that the need for something like this is great. A central place for the vaccine would be great.

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII – OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **AGENDA ITEM IX – NEW BUSINESS**

**Thiltgen** questioned when the Board could resume in person meetings. **Malcom** noted that we will decide for the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting about mid-April. **Morgan** questioned **Eggers** having a list for places to call for vaccines. **Eggers** noted that we do have that list at our office and it is also on the Covid hotline. **Burns** reminded the group that as of March 9<sup>th</sup>, they can call 211 for a vaccine navigator that will help in making an appointment.


**AGENDA ITEM X – NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 6th, 2021 and July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 am at the Clinton County Administration Building, Conference Room “B”. Meeting is subject to change via Webex.

**AGENDA ITEM XI – ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Osaro**, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Kelli Eggers, Administrative Assistant to  
the Board of Health

Approved   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Malcom, Chairperson, Board of Health

Attachments can be viewed by contacting the Board of Health at the Clinton County Satellite offices.