

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the Clinton County Satellite Office in DeWitt, IA. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

5:00 P.M. Public Hearing

Chairman Irwin called a public hearing to order to solicit comments on the use of funds awarded to the County as a result of its participation in lawsuits against various opioid manufacturers and distributors as said funds are to be used to fight opioid addiction and address other damages caused by opioid addiction.

Present were the Board of Supervisors, County Auditor, media and public.

Proof of publication was presented, accepted and returned for filing.

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker opened with a review of the funds the County expects to receive from the settlements which is more than \$2 million during the next 15 years. He said that amount could increase when interest is added to it.

Kristen Huizenga, Clinton Area Substance Abuse Council Director, reviewed a handout that highlighted the impacts of opioid addictions in Clinton County. Huizenga then presented on behalf of CSAC. She handed out a flyer with information about CSAC and reviewed the services her organization provides. She offered the organization's assistance in any planning and programming that the opioid funds may be spent. She said there was a lot of great talk last week about recovery, but she doesn't want prevention to get overlooked.

Candace Seitz, Area Substance Abuse Council Director of Prevention, read a prepared statement. She said she does what she does because of family reasons. She said she lost her brother due to an opioid overdose. She said there was no discussion in her house growing up about prevention and now promotes more proactive action. She asked what a whole service program could look like. She wondered if that could include whole family help including childcare and a space for people to join together. She recalled a story of a family who recently needed help, but they couldn't meet where they were. She said a mobile unit would be able to assist more families in rural communities at the time they need the help. She said ASAC will provide its services for ideas, guidance and programming.

Irwin said last week we heard many personal stories and it was eye opening what opioids have done in our own backyards. He said he knows there was a lot of talk about recovery, but realizes prevention is just as important.

Steve Cundiff, retired sheriff's deputy, said in 1994 he was assigned to a drug task force and the fight back then was putting people behind bars, but he said that was a revolving door. He said he knew then they weren't going to arrest their way out of the problem. He said back then it was just marijuana and cocaine but today there are several more drugs out the streets. He said every dollar spent on prevention saves several more dollars. He said kids are being targeted these days with various marijuana products. He said marijuana is still the gateway drug. Cundiff said he supports recovery, but prevention will save thousands of dollars before someone has to go to treatment and recovery. He said getting into the schools and talking with the kids is very important today.

Huizenga said most kids are not doing drugs, but they want to encourage the kids to continue to make good choices.

Irwin reviewed a handout that was shared last week by Dominic Capella with the Rediscover Recovery Community Center. Irwin said this was to all-encompassing services working together including prevention and recovery.

Supervisor George said an important part of a recovery center would include 24-hour access, childcare and a safe place for people to meet.

Dean Ottens, Clinton Police Department Sergeant and DART Team Leader, thanked the County for the approach they are taking by asking people who know more about the issue. He said Irwin made a good point about all the agencies out there providing services. He said it is a good idea to put all those providers together to see who is doing what and how they can work together. He said this would be a good start to know what we are doing and what grant funds are currently supporting. Irwin reviewed the small committee that has been reviewing these ideas and they will get back together with more ideas and more people to plan for these funds.

Michelle Cullen, County Public Health, said substance abuse is one of the top health concerns in the County. She said she is supportive of everything that has been presented from prevention to treatment to recovery.

Supervisor Srp said DARE should be considered in the programs being discussed. He asked if there were any timelines on spending the funds. Van Lancker said there is not so the County could in theory support a program that could last 20-25 years.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to adjourn the public hearing.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes.
6:00 p.m.

Motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton County Administration Building, Clinton, IA.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson