

**Minutes – Clinton County Board of Health
Public Meeting held
October 16th, 2025 – 7:30 a.m.
Clinton County Satellite Office, large conference room and Via ZOOM**

<u>Board Members</u>	Dr. Mary Malcom	Present
	Jean Morgan, RN, BSN, MSED	Present
	Don Thiltgen	Absent
	Chelsea Sullens, DPT	Present
	Jenna Lovaas	Present

Staff Present Shane McClintock, Director to the Board of Health
Kelli Eggers, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health

Others Present Michele Cullen, Public Health/MercyOne Genesis VNA
Kristin Huisenga, CSAC
Carolyn Weets, CSAC
Cynthia Kaczinski, Hillcrest Family Services/WIC
Jim Irwin, Board of Supervisors
Renee Snyder, Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center
Jenn Kutsch
Jasona Rondeau
Neil Lyon, Next Era
Don White, Next Era
Justin Harland, Next Era
David Osterberg, retired (University of Iowa – Mt. Vernon)
Dean Giampola, NEER
Ryan Drew, IVOE Local 150
Olivia Regenwether, ASAC
Dr. Chris Ollson, OEHM
Amber Smith, CSAC

Malcom called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. The hybrid meeting was held with the option of teleconference participation. Roll call first showed 2 members present. 2 members were in the meeting room, and 1 later presented in person and 1 later joined via ZOOM due to unforeseen circumstances. It was **moved** by **Morgan**, seconded by **Lovaas**, to **APPROVE** the August 21st, 2025 minutes as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

AGENDA ITEM III – BOARD OF HEALTH

None.

AGENDA ITEM IV – COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Finance** – No updates.
- B. **Personnel** – No updates.
- C. **Total Quality Management** – No updates.

AGENDA ITEM V – DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. **Environmental Services- McClintock** was present with no updates.
- B. **MercyOne Genesis VNA & Hospice–Cullen** requested approval for Public Health amendments. The state gave over \$700,000 initially in grant funding then took 30% away. They then returned it. It was **moved** by **Morgan**, seconded by **Lovaas**, to **APPROVE** the amendments as submitted. Motion carried 4-0. A handout was submitted. They have car seats available for any new moms needing them and are working with CHC on referrals for those in need. They are wrapping up donation gardening for the season. They had apple bins in both DeWitt and Clinton this year. The Storybook Walk is up but they would like to have an Eagle Scout add more cases. **Lovaas** inquired about flu clinics. **Eggers** posts them to the county website. **Morgan** inquired about measles cases in Iowa. **Cullen** replied that we haven't had any for a few months.
- C. **Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH)- Not in attendance.**
- D. **Early Childhood Iowa/DECAT- Wirth** stated they also have car seat availability. They also are partaking in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library where each child can sign up to receive an age-appropriate book in the mail once per month. They also have a grant with Women's Health and Family Services for those families in need of assistance. They can help with items such as formula, diapers, and wipes.
- E. **Women's Health and Family Services– Montgomery** could not be in attendance but had requested approval for the 2nd quarter Rapid HIV Testing claim and 2nd quarter Teen Success claim. It was **moved** by **Lovaas**, seconded by **Morgan**, to **APPROVE** said claims. Motion carried 4-0.
- F. **Community Health Care, Inc- Eacker** was unable to be in attendance. **Kaczinski** read a statement from the state WIC director regarding the government shut down. "Due to the impact of a federal government shutdown, the state of Iowa has taken extraordinary measures to continue funding the WIC program in the immediate timeframe. Funding for the WIC program is provided annually through the Congressional Appropriations process. Until the appropriations process is complete, federal funds are not available to maintain operations. No further action is required, and program operations will continue at this time. However, we will regularly assess our ability to continue funding during the shutdown and provide updates and decisions that are made in real time."
- G. **Clinton Substance Abuse Council (GIC & CDC)- Weets** reminded the board that she works on two grants focusing on prescription drugs. The bi-annual takeback day is going

to be Saturday, October 25th at the Sheriff's Department from 10 am until 2 pm. Any unused medicine or vapes can be dropped off. **Smith** and **Schwandt** recently held a team awareness training at Clinton National Bank with about 100 employees. They also did saturation patrols with the Clinton Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. **Huisenga** reported on behalf of Clinton CRUSH. They did a community readiness survey last month on opioids in the city of Clinton. Clinton scored 3.81 overall which is equivalent to vague awareness. They did receive a lot of feedback, however, and will use that in the future to create goals moving forward. There are misconceptions about addiction, treatment, and medication-assisted recovery. There is a lack of understanding of the link between mental health and substance use and that hinders support. Many residents do not know how to get involved. Community advocacy could drive more attention. Expanding education, amplifying recovery voices, and demonstrating successful initiatives could increase engagement and support for meaningful change.

H. Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)/New Directions- **Regenwether** stated they are still distributing Narcan with their state opioid response grants. They are still providing trainings as well. They are also distributing the medication disposal bags. They recently worked with Delwood schools and Calamus-Wheatland schools on curriculum-based support groups, social and emotional skills, etc. They are beginning to coordinate the suicide awareness event for the end of February. The tobacco-free policies with local businesses and organizations are still in the works.

I. Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center- **Snyder** stated they will be changing their scheduling system. As of January 1st, they will utilize a program called Just in Time. This will have the patient leave with a reminder card to call the office within a certain time frame, generally within 8 days of when they should be scheduled. Thus, when they make that call, they will be scheduled within 5 days. This will create a shorter turnaround and result in fewer no-shows. **Snyder** sent some fliers regarding the BHIS program for children ages 4 to 18 on Medicaid. Most Clinton County schools will allow a BHIS member to come in. A lot of children want in-school therapy, but it is not always an option, so BHIS is great.

AGENDA ITEM VI – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Irwin reiterated that the county is struggling a little bit with the change of regions going to districts. They have had a couple of instances where they had to push back on the state to get some resources, especially regarding the jail. Oakdale does mental health evaluations in jails. They have not done any evaluations since prior to September. So, they are 90 days in the rear of doing any evaluations to get individuals out of jails and into centers to get help. This is a huge dilemma for our county. The Sheriff, the Jail Administrator, and Assistant Jail Administrator are working to hire a private nurse practitioner as a county employee to get better services. Once an inmate is in jail over 72 hours, private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare will no longer cover their services. This leaves it to fall on taxpayers. It is projected that this will save at least \$50,000 the first year and more thereafter. Recently **Irwin** reached out to a connection from the Robert Young Center regarding an inmate that had been

incarcerated three times this year. They were able to expedite his evaluation and move him to Independence. **Snyder** stated as of Monday, they will be loaning a few employees of DAP (Disability access Point) office space near their lobby area. There is still a hotline number available that connects you to Foundation 2, and they help direct your call. **Morgan** expressed concern whether they are working with what is left of the emergency room. **Snyder** said the Robert Young Center will be in the basement of the old Medical Associates building. They will be the starting entity of filtering those patients. Many times, patients that need treatment end up in the Quad Cities due to lack of places in our county. The walk-in clinic is still open, however they do encourage calling ahead if you are able to avoid long wait times.

AGENDA ITEM VII – PUBLIC COMMENT

Malcom noted that on October 30th, she has been asked to give a talk on public health at the DeWitt Library. She stated there is also a suicide prevention workshop coming up on November 22nd from 10 am until noon in DeWitt at the First Congregational Church of Christ across from the high school. It is geared toward parents, however teens are welcome. A post has been shared on the Facebook page. ~~Jenn Kutsch opened with the discussion regarding county wind turbines and ultimately requested a letter of support from the board to present to the Board of Supervisors.~~ **Dr. Ron Boesch** was scheduled to speak but has been recently appointed to the Board of Adjustments and felt it was better to recuse himself from the discussion due to conflicts of interest. **Kutsch** reminded the board of the previous information forwarded to them by email. She stated that the body hears with more than just the ears. Every cell senses a physical force through mechanosensors called piezo channels. She stated the wind turbines can emit low frequency and infrasonic pulses that travel for miles, and those can bounce within homes acting like a cavity causing sound to bounce back and forth. Mecha transduction is the link and when these repetitive waves hit the body, they can disturb laminar blood flow and endothelial balance. The effects are dizziness, tinnitus, pressure, fatigue, and headaches. Chronic exposure can now lead to vascular inflammation, hypertension, and increased cardiac risk. She states that it is not just humans but also affects animals. New evidence supports setbacks of several miles, over 6 miles at least. **Jasona Rondeau** stated that she works as a stakeholder engagement consultant in Alberta, Canada. She requested allowance to share her screen showing slides of where different parts of the body have mechanosensors. She showed several folders with different articles of information. She shared information on two new YouTube video links. **Dr. Chris Ollson** reviewed his credentials and experience for the board once again. He reminded the board of the document that he presented to them last winter. Specifically, there was a German study done which showed that sometimes the larger turbines have less sound than the smaller ones. He said they do emit infrasound, just at low levels. **Ollson** stated there are over 6000 turbines currently in Iowa. He encouraged the board to talk with other medical officers and other board members regarding experience with turbines. He stated that fibro acoustic disease has been debunked many times in several states over the years. There are over 350,000 turbines around the world. There are millions living within 10 kilometers of them. **Kutsch** stated that much of this information is new from the last five to ten years. She feels the evidence is sufficient to warrant official recognition of health risks and to require that wind energy development be regulated with due caution and protection of human health. She is happy to forward more information. She requested the board review the

proposed letter and consider approving and signing it. **David Osterberg** is a retired professor from the University of Iowa Public Health. He provided a 6-page handout for the board to review. He stated two critical reviews have taken place. One at MIT and the other at the Council of Canadian Academies. The MIT study found no evidence that people residing close to wind turbines experience disease outcomes. He stated both reviews discussed the nocebo effect. This says if you keep looking at things that make you feel you may have symptoms; you might have symptoms. **Rondeau** shared her screen again with a graphic that she stated showed causing of chronic disease. She discussed pathways and indirect pathways and how they affect sleep problems, communication difficulties, cognitive and emotional responses, etc. **Ryan Drew** introduced himself as a business representative with Operating Engineers. They train their members to work on these types of renewable energy projects. They take training very seriously, some of their members work inside nuclear plants. They have invested \$64 million dollars in a state-of-the-art training site to make sure these people go home safely to their families. **Kutsch** spoke again of the shadow flicker, ice throw, blade throw, and more issues that can come from the turbines. **Cullen** noted the duty of the board is to help the residents of the county. She noted that increased information keeps coming out regarding the turbines. ~~She stated there was a lot to consider, and it can be confusing, but to stop and think~~ of the long-term health effects of the residents of the county. **Malcom** stated that her opinion was that the board made their position on this several months ago. The supervisors have been engaged in information gathering far more than the Board of Health at this point. She saw no reason to reiterate their position. No action was taken regarding the letter.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – OLD BUSINESS

None.

AGENDA ITEM IX – NEW BUSINESS

None.

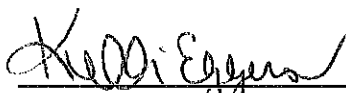
AGENDA ITEM X – NEXT MEETING DATE

December 11th, 2025 and February 5th, 2026 at 7:30 am at the Clinton County Satellite Building, large conference room. Meeting also available via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEM XI – ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Lovaas**, seconded by **Morgan**, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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.