

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met. 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, (Srp through Zoom), County Auditor, County Facilities Director, 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.

Dominic Capella of the Rediscover Recovery Community Center said those who get out of jail, treatment or hospital after an overdose are leaving with no recovery support. He said comprehensive addiction recovery is the most important. He said 85% of those who have support for 5 years will never use another substance. A recovery community center can accomplish those goals by building the support needed. He said what the community thinks those recovering need and what those recovering need are not the same.

William Tyson, of Jackson County and formerly of Clinton County, said he's from the area and a union iron worker. He said he would get high around the Clinton County area a lot. Tyson said the addiction sneaks up on you. He said he doesn't want to go through it again or let his family members go through it again. He said the AA, NA type meetings make you want to live. He went to rehab in California and had to relearn everything and is still learning. He said it has taken more than three years to get to this point in his recovery which included one relapse. He said Clinton needs a place like the recovery center where people can go for support from other recovering.

Sue Wolever, a Hightower Place manager, is a recovering addict for 30 plus years. She found recovery in the community and provides services to people, but she said that is just a start. She said this community does not have a long-term support for recovery. She said it would be a place for people in recovery to be proud of to go to. She said those places will provide hope to those recovering and their families. She said reading obituaries of her former clients from overdoses is difficult. These funds would help address that issue. She said a place for people to hang out and have fun without substances is what is needed.

Celeste Robbins said she supports the idea of the recovery community center. She said at one time there was the Clinton Fellowship Club which served a lot of people in recovery. She said the recovery center could take its place and it would be great for folks who need a place for somewhere to go to when they need to. She said the fellowship club provided a place for people to gather without alcohol involved. Robbins, Clinton County Resource Center manager, said a quarter of the people in the County jail are there for substance use related crimes. She said the effects of substance abuse can be seen around Clinton, Camanche, and DeWitt. She said those folks who need help are not happy with their lives. She said one reason they stay there is lack of support. She said many have tried recovery, but they need longer-term support as the recovery center could provide. She said the recovery center has a board that has been working on developing the program but does not have a building right now. She said the center would be a good candidate for the settlement funds.

Jackie Armstrong works at Hightower and is speaking at the public hearing for her family. She said she lost a sister at the hands of an addict. She said it is personal to her not just her job. She said she gets a lot of calls from people wanting treatment, but they can't go there until they get an evaluation. But she says they don't want to wait. Armstrong explained when an addict calls they need help at that moment. She said a recovery center could provide that instant service. She has a nephew struggling with alcohol but is bored and needs a place to hang out that doesn't have alcohol.

Kim Hess-Zickau said she is grateful for recovery and works with a lot of people in the room. She worked for ASAC, but when times got tough she turned to substance abuse and went to many treatment centers and found out she could not get clean in Clinton. She needed a community to go with her recovery and believes the recovery center could provide that. She had to move away to get clean and sober. She found a community there and Clinton needs that. She wants to be a part of Clinton and be active to get people clean and sober and said the recovery center could provide that here.

Bobbi Cox said she is in recovery and struggled with opioids after a back issue. She got into recover then got out and overdosed and had CPR performed on her. She still continues with ongoing treatment. She said when she got out of the hospital she went to meetings, but there is no place to go after and during treatment. She said a recovery center would allow her to go somewhere that provides peer support. She said the community could benefit from a recovery center.

Jenna said she was a graduate of Hightower and is in recovery and does a lot to assist others with recovery like hosting the women's NA meetings in the jail. She said when someone goes into jail their fear is relapsing as soon as they walk out the door and Hightower cannot take them all. A community center would benefit them and everyone in the community. She

said when she was seeking help it took her five months to get into treatment. She said she lost everything during that time including custody of her child. She stated she has since gained those back, but she does it through all the meetings she attends and hosts.

Capell was asked about a location for the recovery center. He said the old Clinton Chamber of Commerce building has been identified as a potential building. He said the owner would work with someone to get into the building. He also mentioned for former Eagles Lodge in downtown Clinton.

Irwin said the Mental Health Region has been recently informed it cannot use its funds for a recovery center. He said he will be speaking with the state legislators that funding needs to be opened up for opportunities like a recovery center. He said the Regional Mental Health Board was ready to support the center, but they were told by the State that cannot be done.

Kevin Robins with the King House and in recovery said the fellowship club provided recovery by people in recovery. He said when people leave half-way houses and they need something to do, they can't go back to the bars. This support has to be after recovery. He said many don't have cars or money.

Tyson said anyone can fall into addiction. He said it can affect anybody.

Dean Ottens, Clinton Police Department Sergeant and lead for the Drug Addictions Response Team, said there are issues in town. He said last week there were six overdoses and those are just the ones reported. He said the community is doing a good job on education, but not getting people to treatment or they don't have a place to go after treatment. He said success stories are those with a good support system so that is probably a good place to focus.

Candace Seitz, with ASAC, said recovery services are lacking and there is some treatment. However she said treatment services are lacking outside of the City of Clinton. She said this funding will help the recovery community support for Clinton County.

Greg Reckmann, prevention officer for the Seventh Judicial Courts, shared a story about a person leaving the County jail straight to treatment. However, he was let out on a Friday and could not get a ride to a treatment center. Reckmann said Capella was there to support him for a couple of days until he could get his ride to treatment. He said an actual center to provide more of those services would be beneficial.

Chelsea Howell said she is in recovery and is a Hightower graduate who struggled with a meth addiction and always struggled with where to go when she needed help immediately. She said she would go to the hospital emergency room for help. She said she has found support in Clinton, but the recovery center could help a lot more. She added the recovery community in Clinton needs this center.

MOTION by Supervisor George to adjourn the public hearing.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Absent; Irwin: Yes. Motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, September 25, 2023.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson