

**Jefferson County Board of Health – Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 6, 2013
Jefferson County Health Department Conference Room
1541 Annex Road Jefferson, WI. 53549**

Call to Order

E. Morse, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum established.

Board Members Present: Ed Morse, Chair; Dick Schultz, Vice-Chair; Marie Wiesmann, RN, BSN, Secretary; John McKenzie; Don Williams, M.D.

Staff Present: Gail Scott, Director; Diane Nelson, Public Health Program Manager; Sandee Schunk, Clerical/Recorder

Guests Present: Gary Petre, County Administrator; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman; Dennis Heling, Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium Executive Director; Gregg Silberg, D.O. WCOM; Janet Werner Rock River Free Clinic Board Chair; Lydia Statz, Daily Union Reporter

Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

Meeting was properly noticed.

Review of the Agenda

No changes requested.

Public Comment

None

Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine Site in Jefferson

Gregg Silberg, D.O., Executive Vice President and Dean of WCOM (Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine) gave a verbal presentation on the development of an Osteopathic College on the former St. Coletta property known as “Sanctuary Ridge”. The Jefferson area was chosen due to the location between Madison and Milwaukee; access to airports and freeways; being a rural and medically under-served area; goal to improve access to healthcare and decrease the cost of healthcare. The proposed college has received support from the City of Jefferson; the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium and Jefferson County Human Services. The college will work with local hospitals; emergency services such as EMS and Fire Departments; Public Health; will create approximately 100 jobs in the community and have an estimated \$65,000,000 economic impact directly and indirectly in Jefferson County. Questions were asked by Board of Health members regarding community partnerships; funding; history of other Osteopathic colleges nationwide; demands on local government or the private sector; possible impact on local hospitals; assistance with the Rock River Free Clinic; if County and State financial support will be required; if feasibility study completed; if a Board of Directors in place, etc. All questions were answered by the presenter.

Consider County Board resolution to support Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine in Jefferson

G. Scott passed out a proposed resolution to support the college.

J. Molinaro noted that the resolution may be amended to include the support of Jefferson County Human Services and Jefferson County Economic Development into one document.

Motion by D. Schultz to support the Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine developing a medical school in Jefferson; second by M. Weismann; Don Williams, M.D. abstained; motion carried.

Status of Rock River Free Clinic and Community Dental Clinic

G. Scott reported that the Rock River Free Clinic treated over 1,000 patients in 2012 with 3,200 visits. Patients are being booked 2 – 3 weeks out.

G. Scott reported that medication costs are high and the clinic had hoped that costs would be covered through donations, Drug Assistance Programs and fundraisers.

G. Scott reported that the Rock River Free Clinic Board recently held an emergency meeting to discuss the financial shortages and problem solve ways to decrease the cost of meds such as giving out prescriptions to patients to obtain \$4.00 meds from Wal-Mart or other pharmacies and increasing the use of the Patient Assistance Program.

J. Werner, Rock River Free Clinic Board, reported that the clinic will be \$128,000 short in 2013 if they continue to operate as in 2012. The clinic needs someone 5 days per week to complete the time consuming applications to drug companies for patient's free meds. Patients need to bring in financial paperwork so the 5 – 10 page applications can be filed.

G. Scott reported that the Health Department ended with a 2012 surplus of funds but it was not known if the Health Department could offer any more funding to the Rock River Free Clinic. The Board of Health was apprised of the financial hardships of the Free Clinic in case future discussion is needed on this issue.

D. Williams, M.D. asked that the Rock River Free Clinic Board of Directors discuss an amount that they may need and return to the Board of Health for further discussion.

D. Schultz noted that when the nurse position was filled for the Free Clinic and was to be paid out of the County funding of \$50,000 – the Board of Health was told that other funding would be in place to cover the medication costs.

J. Molinaro reported that 3 County departments ended 2012 with financial shortages and does not feel additional County funding should be considered as an option.

G. Scott reported that the Rock River Free Clinic financial assistance discussion will be tabled until the time that the Rock River Free Clinic Board meets and decides if they want to submit a financial request to the Board of Health for consideration.

Next Meeting Date/Time/Agenda Items: March 20, May 8, July 17, September 18, November 20, 2013

Adjourn:

Motion by J. McKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.; second by D. Schultz; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted;
Santee Schunk - Recorder