

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2 OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON
VERDANT HEALTH COMMISSION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Hybrid: In-Person at Verdant Community Wellness Center and via Zoom

January 29, 2025

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

**Commissioners
Present**

Carolyn Brennan, Secretary
Deana Knutsen, Commissioner
Jim Distelhorst, MD, Commissioner
Bob Knowles, Commissioner
Karianna Wilson, President

Staff

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent
Riene Simpson, Director of Finance
Ceil Erickson, Director of Community Impact
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker
Kyla Morgan, Executive Assistant and Office Manager
Chase Toscano, Contracts Manager
David Lee, Interim Digital Marketing & Communications
Manager
Olia Josiah, Community Engagement Specialist
Humaira Barlas, Fiscal Specialist

Visitors

Etmon Carranza, 211
Jordan Mohrenne, South County Fire
Keith Sharp, South County Fire
J Anderson, Community Resource Paramedic

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by President Wilson.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Wilson read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve all items included on the consent agenda, President Knutsen seconded. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda (E:89:25)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Amended December 4, 2024, Special Board Meeting
 - b. December 18, 2024, Board Meeting
 - c. January 21, 2025, Special Board Meeting

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Public Comment None.

Executive Committee Report The Executive Committee met to approve agenda. No action was taken at the meeting.

1. 2025 Officer Elections ***Motion was made by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Commissioner Knutsen, and passed unanimously to approve the 2025 officers as presented (E:90:25)***

2. Updated 2025 Board & Special Board Meeting Calendar ***Motion was made by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and passed unanimously to approve the 2025 Board & Special Board Meeting Calendar as presented (E:91:25).***

3. 2025-2028 Strategic Plan

President Wilson presented the draft of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, which the commissioners have been working on since September 2024 (E:92:25). The Board is focusing on child and adolescent mental health, along with access to direct healthcare services. Commissioner Distelhorst inquired if direct partner relationships should be explicitly mentioned in the plan. Commissioner Knutsen expressed strong opposition to narrowing the scope to child and adolescent mental health, advocating for a broader approach. She also emphasized the importance of highlighting areas of direct partnership and raised concerns about the potential impact of federal policy changes on community needs. She rejected the strategic plan in its current form.

The commissioners discussed whether the plan should remain open-ended or more specific, given its three-year duration. Dr. Edwards recommended keeping the document high-level to allow flexibility in funding decisions. Commissioner Brennan acknowledged the board's shift toward a more focused approach and expressed appreciation for having a strategic plan to guide them, particularly in light of the current political climate and expected community challenges. She emphasized Verdant's role as a resource and hub during these times, while staying aligned with the strategic plan.

Commissioner Knutsen pointed out that the focus on mental health was only introduced during the January 21st meeting and reiterated her disagreement with narrowing the scope, as it could exclude vulnerable populations. Commissioner Wilson assured that there is nothing preventing the district from holding a special meeting to adjust the plan if emergent needs arise over the next four years. She also clarified that the decision to eliminate direct services as outlined in the strategic plan, stemmed from community feedback indicating Verdant's

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reputation for nutrition programming, with more than \$80 million allocated to the community.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and approved by Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Knowles, and Commissioner Distelhorst to approve the Strategic plan with the amendment to add "young adult" to the definition. Commissioner Knutsen abstained.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Edwards shared the outline for upcoming speakers during the board meeting, a brief update on facilities, and upcoming events and meetings.

Verdant has received three proposals for architects and civil engineering for the demolition of the Value Village building. The Finance Committee is meeting on February 3rd to review the proposals.

The wellness center elevators and digital sign are still under repair.

The Board is meeting on February 24th to review the hospital study.

Last Thursday Verdant hosted the point in time count volunteers. The Lynnwood City Counsel used the Verdant kitchen to cook breakfast burritos for volunteers to hand out to unhoused individuals during the 2025 Point in Time Count (PIT Count).

1. Strategic Communications & Marketing Plan

Mr. Lee presented the updated strategic communications and marketing plan, highlighting the past six months, which began with a SWOT report and community survey last summer (E:93:25). The approach has involved significant community engagement, with an emphasis on high-volume content, expanded distribution channels, and more intentional messaging targeted to specific audiences, all while maintaining year-over-year consistency.

The commissioners discussed the value of conducting an audit before finalizing the website. Commissioner Knowles raised the importance of clearly communicating Verdant's connection to Swedish and its role in facilitating healthcare in the community. Dr. Edwards assured that this would be addressed in the messaging, with content sent to commissioners for review prior to launch.

Commissioner Wilson questioned the effectiveness of including general health and wellness information alongside Verdant's story in the distribution of the canopy, suggesting a more focused narrative. Commissioners also inquired about the

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necessity of producing two canopies per year, given their high cost and limited community impact. Mr. Lee clarified that while two canopies were budgeted, the decision is flexible, as only one was produced the previous year. Commissioner Knutsen emphasized the importance of sharing stories from community members, while Commissioner Wilson expressed concern over delays in marketing materials, urging staff to expedite the process and explore alternative vendors if necessary to ensure timely content delivery.

**Program
Committee Report**

1. 2025
Community
Conversations
& 2026
Convenings

Ms. Erickson has scheduled community conversations with funded partners on February 18, 20, and 25. These sessions will provide an opportunity to share information about the updated strategic plan and foster stronger relationships with funded partners. Additionally, Ms. Erickson hopes to gather insights that will inform her revisions to the funding guidelines. Commissioner Brennan requested invitations to all of the events, which will be recorded for commissioners unable to attend.

The Verdant Partner Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m. at Verdant.

Finance Report

1. Review
Financial
Statements &
Cash Activity

1. Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for December 2024 (E:94:25), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods.
2. Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrants Reference A, No. 16708 through 16754, Warrants Reference B, No. J2793 through J2832, and warrants Reference C, No. 305568 through 305570 for December in the amount of \$477,849.59 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$1,580,333.14 for total disbursements of \$2,058,182.73 (E:95:25).

2. Authorization
of Warrants
and Electronic
Disbursement
s

Motion was made by Commissioner Knutsen, seconded by Commissioner Distelhorst, and passed unanimously to approve the warrants & electronic disbursements.

3. Clinic
Remodel
Budget Status
Update

3. Ms. Ania McCleary, Project Manager Madison West presented a Langer Clinic remodel budget status update (E:96:25). The updated completion date is March 14th, 150 days over the anticipated date. The

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project approved budget was \$8,476,676.00 and the total project cost as of today is \$8,315,582.83. Liquidated damages per contract that are potentially available to Verdant are \$625,223.89. The remaining contingency will be met by the end of the project. The Finance Committee requested commissioners approve a \$500,000 increase to the budget. The other option is for commissioners to increase the budget once the contingency is \$0.00. Internally, the team feels more comfortable with the \$500,000.00 buffer authorized in advance. As of January 28th, 2025, the total claims from Axiom and rejected COPs total \$516,185.37. The claims will be negotiated once the project is completed as directed by Verdant's legal team.

Motion was made by Commissioner Knutsen, seconded by Commissioner Distelhorst, and passed unanimously to add \$500,000 to the project budget, totaling \$8,976,676.00.

Public Comments

None.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Knutsen thanked everyone for their hard work. Commissioner Wilson shared that she is excited to see what the future holds now that the strategic plan has been approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. by President Wilson.

ATTEST BY:

Signed by:

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President

Signed by:

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Secretary