

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

February 26, 2025

8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

**Commissioners
Present**

Carolyn Brennan, Secretary
Deana Knutsen, Commissioner, Excused Absence
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

Rahel Schwartz, YMCA

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by President Wilson.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Wilson read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda (E:09:25)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. January 29, 2025 Board Meeting
 - b. February 18, 2025, Special Board Meeting

Public Comment

Rahel Schwartz, a Lynnwood resident and Program Executive for Health Equity at the YMCA, shared a public comment about her work in the community.

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She has been facilitating health and wellness classes at the Verdant Community Wellness Center for the past three years. These classes were designed to support community members facing barriers to accessing health and wellness resources, including chronic disease prevention programs. In Snohomish County, communities of color often lack access to wellness programs despite experiencing disproportionately high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. To address this disparity, the classes were expanded to twice a week and now include a health club component. This program teaches participants how to make simple, affordable nutritional choices. Currently, 30-35 individuals are registered and attend regularly. Beyond improving physical health, the program also supports participants' social and emotional well-being. It provides a safe space where individuals can openly discuss their health and social needs without the burden of financial barriers, ensuring equitable access to wellness opportunities for diverse populations.

**Executive
Committee Report**

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

1. 2/6/25
Strategic
Collaboration
Meeting

The Strategic Collaboration Committee met on February 6th. During the meeting, the committee reviewed Swedish's investment in the hospital. Their current project lists a little over \$5 million for basic maintenance in 2025. Commissioners were happy to report that all the elevators are operational. Verdant's updated strategic priorities were shared with Providence-Swedish and were well received. In the future, Providence-Swedish would like to figure out how to expand their adolescent mental health care services.

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:10:25).

**Superintendent
Report**

Dr. Edwards thanked the Verdant team for their support during the Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest pop-up event at the Verdant Community Wellness Center, which served over 225 individuals and families. The event received media coverage from *Lynnwood News*, *King 5*, and *KOW*. Concerns about ICE and mass deportation remain significant for residents.

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Dr. Edwards provided an update on Value Village property demolition and cleanup. KMD Architects is under contract for the design component. The contingency attorney sent a letter to the insurance company to assess Verdant’s eligibility for a claim.

Ms. Erickson and the impact team successfully completed three Community Conversation meetings, shared the refined scope of the Verdant strategic priorities.

Verdant highlighted its 2025 marketing plan along with a project tracker (E:11:25). They finalized edits on the Marketing Consultant RFP, which is set for release next week following legal review. Commissioners requested an update on the marketing presentation, and staff will prepare an update for the March board meeting.

Commissioner Wilson inquired about the use of the partner impact story, and Mr. Lee confirmed it will be featured in *My Neighborhood News* in March, with Verdant amplifying it across their platforms. Dr. Edwards emphasized the importance of leveraging external networks for greater reach.

This meeting is Nancy Budd’s last board meeting, Dr. Edwards expressed appreciation for her 10 years of service to the community.

**Program
Committee Report**

1. Community
Conversation
Themes

1. Ms. Erickson provided a high level overview of the themes of the Community Conversations that were hosted at Verdant on 2/18, 2/20, and 2/25. The goal was to come together with community partners and to listen and learn as well as share the updated 2025-2028 strategic plan. The community conversation meetings highlighted key challenges and opportunities within the local support network. Several partners highlighted the importance of bringing care directly to where people are, rather than expecting individuals to navigate complex systems to access services. This approach includes mobile dental clinics, community paramedic programs, and local resource hubs, all of which help eliminate key barriers to care such as transportation challenges, financial constraints, and lack of awareness about available services. By integrating healthcare into the community—whether through mobile units or outreach programs—individuals receive timely, accessible, and culturally appropriate care, will ultimately improve health outcomes and reducing disparities. Many families are struggling to meet basic needs, which has a significant impact on mental health. Community partners found great value in networking, exchanging information, and

2. 2025-2028
Priorities
Definitions

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building referral connections to better support residents. There was strong interest in collaboration, with Commissioner Brennan emphasizing the importance of convening and developing an action plan that includes new organizations Verdant has not previously funded. Ms. Erickson reinforced that these meetings are just the beginning, with plans to expand efforts moving forward. Additionally, decisions at the federal level are having direct effects on community partners, underscoring the need for continued coordination and advocacy.

2. Ms. Erickson showed the updated definitions for the 2025-2028 strategic plan (E:12:25). The goal is to have an application rubric that aligns with the updated plan to present in March. Commissioner Brennan hopes that the updates can stay simple so it can go out to community partners as soon as possible. Commissioner Wilson clarified that sometimes community partners want very specific black and white information, but the board cannot define that specifically or it would exclude opportunity for some organizations to apply or fall under the umbrella.

The Verdant Partner Roundtable is on March 19th at the Verdant Wellness Center with a virtual option. There are currently 38 participants registered.

Finance Report

Commissioner Distelhorst stepped in as chair for the finance committee report in Commissioner Knutsen's absence.

**1. Review
Financial
Statements &
Cash Activity**

1. Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for January 2025 (E:13:25), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods. The regular cash balance for Line 2 and Line 6 exceeds the base by \$2.9M due to pending payments for construction costs. Some balances remain unadjusted as the year-end closing process is still underway. While budget variances are typically minimal in January, adjustments were made to the amortization process. Before the audit begins, the finance team will enhance the financial presentation, as requested by the Finance Committee, to provide a clearer breakdown of program costs, including indirect costs and salaries. This will ensure a more accurate representation of total program expenses. Additionally, a correction was made to the meeting packet during the meeting, the order was disrupted after allocation. An updated version

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2. Authorization
of Warrants
and Electronic
Disbursements

will be posted online post-meeting. Lastly, Line 26 has a typo and should reflect January 2025 instead of December 2024.

2. Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrants Reference A, No. 16755 through 16775, Warrants Reference B, No. J2833 through J2849, no warrants Reference C, and warrants Reference D No. T101 through T124 for January in the amount of \$368,361.96 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$858,081.11 for total disbursements of \$1,226,443.07 (E:14:25).

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

3. City of
Lynnwood TIF
District
Presentation

3. Commissioner Distelhorst provided a summary of the City of Lynnwood TIF District presentation that was presented at the February Finance Committee meeting. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was established by the legislature in 2021 to enable cities, counties, and ports to designate specific areas for economic development by using public funds to support infrastructure improvements. The designated area must have an assessed value of less than \$200 million. Within this area, local governments can allocate increased tax revenues toward infrastructure without requiring voter approval. In Lynnwood, the City Council has the authority to establish a TIF district through a council vote. Commissioner Knutsen inquired about the potential impact on levy rates for other taxing districts. Ms. Simpson clarified that any levy assessments or increases outside of the TIF district would still require voter approval, which could present a challenge. Additionally, it is important to consider ongoing development near the property and the process of reallocating levy funds, with restoration occurring over the next 25 years. The TIF district is currently under formal review by the Department of Commerce, with final approval expected in June.

Public Comments None.

**Commissioner
Comments**

Commissioner Knowles shared that Program Committee has had good conversations around the new priorities and they are looking forward to elevating their role as conveners to find new ways to create access to care.

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Commissioner Distelhorst shared that some public health agencies have had to close their doors due to impacts of federal funding and he would like the District to remain aware of those impacts in this community.

Commissioner Brennan would like to thank the staff for their hard work for the people of the District.

Commissioner Wilson directly thanked Ms. Budd for her hard work for Verdant and congratulated Ms. Morgan on her engagement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m. by President Wilson.

ATTEST BY:

Signed by:
Karianna Wilson
A28385545A4D4A8

President

Signed by:
Cardyn Brennan
848D9866AD8A42E

Secretary