

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

March 22, 2023

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Commissioners
Present**

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

**Commissioners
Excused**

Bob Knowles, Commissioner (excused absence)

Staff

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent
Riene Simpson, CPA, Director of Finance
Leslie Silverman, Interim Director of Community Impact &
Grantmaking
Kaysi Caballero, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker
Kirk Mathis, Digital Marketing & Communications Manager
Sandra Huber, Community Engagement Manager
Monika Star, Wellness Center Assistant

Guests

Tom Laing	Joan Penney
Diana Morelli-Kilma	Jesus Sanchez
Jenni McCloughan	Joe Vessey
Michael Welke	David Eller
Snow Berger	Lisa Wolch

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Distelhorst read the acknowledgement.

Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda (E:22:23)

Approval of Minutes:

- a. February 21, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- b. February 22, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- c. Resolution 2023:01 Swedish Hospital Asset Disposal

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

Public Comments

Snow Berger, ChildStrive: She represents ChildStrive and wanted to let Commissioners know she would love to answer any questions they have about Childstrive.

Michael Welke, Project Access Northwest: He thanked Verdant staff and Commissioners for their continued support. Project Access NW is doing a lot of work in Snohomish County and Verdant's support is so important to the people they serve. They served 3,100 people in 2022. Their care coordination team took 13,000 calls to make appointments. They have served over 10,500 people throughout our entire time serving Snohomish County.

Tom Laing, Latino Educational Training Institute: He thanked Verdant Commissioners for their continued support to provide these programs and activities that people have come to depend on due to the pandemic.

[Name and Zip not provided]: With Edmonds School District. With Verdant money we can plan and coordinate for the expansion of the school-based health center site and provide salary for their workers.

Jeremy Thurston, (*via email*): To the Verdant Board, I want to express my gratitude for grant money Verdant has provided for the Move 60 program. My son attends Edmonds Elementary school and has attended Move 60 for the past two school years. He is a child who is happiest when moving and this program has allowed him a positive physical outlet for the unique stresses that have come with altered learning environment of these times. I am certain Move 60 has had a positive effect on his mental health. He enjoys the new games and sports he has learned and treasures the small prizes he brings home. Move 60 has also provided him an opportunity to socialize with kids he might otherwise not know and reinforce basic life lessons about following rules and conflict management. While these things may seem simple, having just coached 3rd grade basketball, I suspect that the time our kids spent physically isolated during online school has had a long term affect these important skills. They need all the help and support they can get. I urge you to continue to support Move 60 in the future. Please add this letter to the record at the next board meeting and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**Executive
Committee Report**

President Distelhorst reported that Executive Committee met on March 16th to approve the agenda for today's meeting. No action was taken at Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Edwards reported that Verdant staff has been gearing up for preparing for the Fall 2023 funding cycle. They are working on a grantwriting workshop for partners to learn tips about how to best write grant proposals. This would take place in April or May. The Verdant team has been working hard to create a 2022 Community Impact Report to share our impact for the prior year's programs. There is an open Fiscal Specialist position we are actively recruiting for. The use of the Verdant Community Wellness Center is increasing, and staff is working on how to best provide coverage for the building to support these organizations requesting to use our space. The team continues to work on finalizing contractor and design details for the Kruger Clinic. She thanked the Verdant team for their hard work over the past month.

Program Report

Conflicts of Interest None.

Next Funding Cycle

Dr. Edwards walked everyone through the Fall 2023 timeline for its next funding cycle in 2023 (E:23:23). Verdant has extended the application period by two weeks so the applicant portal will open 5/1/23 and close 6/16/23. New to our grantmaking cycle, we will offer technical assistance office hours to support organizations who may need additional technical assistance to upload their application, get setup with Fluxx, etc. We will not be providing guidance on how to write your proposal.

Healthcare Access Discussion Panel

Presenters:

Jesus Sanchez, Senior Vice President/COO of Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Joe Vessey, CEO of Community Health Center of Snohomish County

David Eller, Executive Director of Lahai Health

Lisa Wolch, Corporate and Foundation Relations Specialist of Medical Teams International

President Distelhorst explained that at 2023 board meetings, commissioners will examine the work that is underway in each of our 2023-24 strategic priority areas and engage with community partners who have been funded in this work. The intention is to deepen our understanding of the issues and challenges that they are addressing and explore collaborative and innovative efforts that are underway. Last month, we expanded our learning about the food security programs in our region and this month, we are pleased to dive into the 2nd strategic priority area: Healthcare Access. Currently, we have over \$4 million in Verdant funds reaching 34 active community organizations who are making healthcare more accessible every day to the residents of South Snohomish County. A supplement to the Board packet includes a summary of healthcare access strategies and objectives as well as a list of healthcare access grants active and recently approved in 2023. We encourage you to visit our website for information about our strategic plan and other funding priorities.

Ms. Silverman asked the panelists to go around and briefly introduce themselves and the communities they serve.

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

Jesus Sanchez, Senior Vice President/COO of Sea Mar Community Health Centers (Sea Mar): provides services as far north as Clark County. They serve apx. 350,000 population. Their program includes affordable housing and a behavioral mental health clinic. They have a radio station which they utilized to disrupt miscommunications and was highly popular. They are seeing an uptick in the demand for services in the southern portion of Snohomish County, down to King County. They see an uptick in refugees and are adding services in multiple languages.

Kristy Dillon and Lisa Wolch, Corporate and Foundation Relations Specialist of Medical Teams International (MTI): They have been in partnership with Verdant since 2012. Verdant has provided funding for dental clinics, their mobile clinic vehicle, and COVID vaccinations. They primarily serve those who have difficulty accessing care. Their Care Connect program integrates *medical* services now where they were previously just providing dental care. This program allows a nurse to facilitate medical referrals to connect people with care. They are seeing an uptick in refugees and people with English as a second language seeking services. They cannot do their work alone. The biggest part of their mobile clinics includes connecting them to their preferred provider. Referrals for diabetes and hypertension are increasing.

David Eller, Executive Director of Lahai Health (Lahai): He reported that 40% of their patients would have forgone care if they had not been connected to Lahai's clinic. In 2022, they had 324 appointments from their Lynnwood clinic. Lahai relies on 300+ volunteers, doctors, and dental hygienists. They work all the time with Project Access NW. They partner with the labs at Swedish Edmonds to provide free lab testing for their patients who would be accepted under Swedish's Charity Care financial assistance program. The University of Washington brings in dental students to Lahai's clinic to provide free services. They are seeing an increased demand from immigrants and refugees, as well as seniors looking for dental care who are affected by inflation and stuck on a fixed income. They are also seeing an increase in demand for their mobile clinic where some of their partners are requesting to host the clinic on their location. One of their goals is to update their van clinic that they got 13 years ago.

Joe Vessey, CEO of Community Health Center of Snohomish County (CHC): They operate 11 sites throughout the county from Arlington to Edmonds. They provide medical, dental, behavioral health and have pharmacies at 6 of the locations. In partnering with Verdant they have been able to bring on physical therapy to their sites. There was a \$2.1 million grant

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

that went toward a \$15 million expansion of their Edmonds clinic. They were able to add a walk-in clinic to create access for patients. They added substance use disorder counseling through a partnership with Evergreen Recovery Center.

Ms. Silverman asked the panelists to provide a glimpse of the operational side of service delivery and how you are able to support those 'behind-the-scenes' costs that are not seen when you are working in the community?

- David Eller, Lahai: At each clinic, there is one Registered Nurse (RN) and the rest of the staff are volunteers. The RN does all the follow up with each patient to assure they have what they need to complete service. They are also asking what other support patients need to be able to provide the level of care.

Ms. Silverman asked if most of their funding is restricted or not?

- Jesus Sanchez, Sea Mar answered that they are part of a 340B program which requires pharmaceutical companies participating in Medicaid to sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices to health care organizations that care for many uninsured and low-income patients. They have seen over 7,000 patients in the previous year. Their services are growing every day and expanding into cardiology and sports medicine.
- David Eller, Lahai: Grants are the most restrictive because they are provided for specific budgets and programs. They also have donations and companies supporting some of their admin costs.

Ms. Silverman asked what changes panelists are anticipating that require you and your leadership to think differently about your programs and services?

- Lisa Wolch, MTI said the need to support emergency care, refugees, multiple languages, getting people to use primary care providers versus simply coming to their clinics.
- Jesus Sanchez, Sea Mar added having affordable housing in our community since it is an added stressor for their patients.

Ms. Silverman asked Joe Vessey and Jesus Sanchez to briefly describe the model of a community health center and the school-based health centers (SBHC), and how they complement (and not duplicate) one another.

- Joe Vessey, CHC explained their patients in the SBHC get students established into healthy habits (such as dental care) at a younger age. Their medical providers are there 3 days a week and are working to expand behavioral health services. Post-pandemic, studies show there is a

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

26 day wait to establish primary care. Prior to the pandemic this waiting period was only 12 days.

- Jesus Sanchez, SeaMar: They recently opened a SBHC in Auburn, so they are just getting started in this arena of care. The opportunity to create more points of access, such as in the youth population, is a focus of theirs.

Ms. Silverman asked what innovative program or service the community-based or school-based health centers has brought to our region?

- Jesus Sanchez, Sea Mar said they haven't looked too much into innovation since they are still figuring out how SBHCs work. One thing they are thinking about is having youth speak on their radio station to connect peer to peer.
- Joe Vessey, CHC said they have a nurse practitioner at the Meadowdale SBHC who is really passionate about the work and goes above and beyond to support the SBHC to raise awareness for the kids.

Ms. Silverman asked MTI for an example of collaborations among providers and other community partners that are aiming to expand reach and quality of care?

- Kristy Dillon, MTI answered being able to collaborate with those providing the healthcare, substance abuse counseling is key. Getting patients to utilize the referrals and actually get into the medical offices.
- David the Verdant Partner Roundtable has been really helpful in making new connections. He encourages us to keep doing those meetings and to continue to send reminders of the upcoming meetings.

Ms. Silverman asked what we should keep our eye on in media, policies and regulations coming out of Olympia or D.C. that will potentially impact the work of partners who are focused on healthcare access?

- David Eller, Lahai said with COVID subsidies expiring, Apple Healthcare requires you to renew each year. This might fall off the radar for some people who miss the renewal and this gap in insurance might lead to increased emergency room visits. There was a lot of funding flowing into medical care during COVID and that money is coming to an end as well. Opportunities that were there to expand since they were needed throughout the pandemic will now no longer be available.
- Jesus Sanchez, SeaMar reiterated that the 340B program allows them to be able to provide drugs to patients at the cost they receive them and are not marked up from the pharmaceutical companies.

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

- Kristy Dillon, MTI said the Mobile Health Care Act could be worth reading, it appears it would be easier to use federal money to mobilize your clinic.
- Jesus Sanchez, Sea Mar thanked everyone for being here tonight and connecting with the other panelists to increase their strength in the communities they serve.

Commissioner Questions:

President Distelhorst asked if he was an immigrant and needed care, whose doorstep would they end up on?

- Kristy Dillon, MTI said they have an open-door policy and don't check income levels.
- David Eller, Lahai said that word of mouth gets people to the right place for their services.

Commissioner Knutsen added that we also need to think about the younger adults who are losing their jobs and how we can get them to sign up for care.

- David Eller, Lahai said they have a lot of people who come to their door who are eligible for insurance and they try to raise awareness about what services are available and how to apply for benefits they may be eligible for.

Commissioner Knutsen followed up to ask if Lahai could they put resources at the unemployment centers to target those who are losing their jobs to connect them to care. She has three sons in their 30s and 40s and people forget about this middle group. A lot of the outreach is for youth and seniors.

- David Eller, Lahai stated that yes it is complicated to get through the healthcare system.

Commissioner Brennan asked how they provide a continuation of care to keep the patient connected to services.

- Kristy Dillon, MTI said their partner sites (where they park their van) have people onsite that have strong relationships with the patients who come in to utilize the clinic on their location. These partner sites provide additional support to patients to further connect them to care.
- David Eller, Lahai said that case management from their nurses is so important to provide that follow up after the clinic visit.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there is a way that the panelists can work in partnership and Verdant can work with them to increase the number of primary care providers available to serve our residents?

- Jesus Sanchez, Sea Mar said they look at the opportunity that specialty services can provide, outside of primary care. One thing they are seeing is staffing capacity. Sea

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

Mar has its own residency program and is graduating 18 students this year. They are starting a dental school in Tacoma and pharmacy school as well.

- Joe Vessey, CHC said one of the asks they are working with state legislature is doubling the student loan repayment program. There is a bill in Olympia to establish a dental therapist provider in the state which will create an additional level of dental support between dental hygienist and dentist. The Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) does a great job in training.

Ms. Silverman thanked the panelists for providing their valuable insight today. She said Verdant will host its next Verdant Partner Roundtable (VPR) in May. At VPR, participants will split into groups by priority area which will give community groups an opportunity to collaborate with each other.

Finance Report

GASB-87 Reporting

Ms. Simpson presented a one-page background summary of the recent GASB-87 implementation for lease accounting, explaining what it means for Verdant's finances (E:24:23). GASB-87 reflects more accurately our lease obligations but because of the District's extended property leases, there is a large impact to our financial statements.

The Balance Sheet as of 2/28/23 on page 27 of the meeting packet shows the key impacts to our financial statement in lines 9, 14, 15, and 16, highlighted (E:25:23). We removed \$19 Million in Deferred Rents and replaced it with a Lease Receivable of \$259 Million.

Review Financial Statements & Cash Activity

Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for February 2023 (E:26:23), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods.

Authorization of Payments of Vouchers and Payroll

Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrant numbers 15961 through 15985 and references B-C for February 2023 for payment in the amount of \$219,551.44 were presented for approval (E:27:23).

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and passed unanimously to approve the warrants.

Insurance Property Value Adjustment & Premium

Ms. Simpson reported that our property insurance provider, Enduris, did an assessment recently to determine the value of our District properties. From this assessment, we revised the insured values of our properties. The insured value of all District properties was previously \$16,072,466 and our properties are now valued at \$24,211,452.24.

Commissioners Meeting
March 22, 2023

Facility Condition
Analysis RFQ-
Vendors &
Timeline

Dr. Edwards reported we will be preparing an RFQ for a building condition analysis for Kruger Clinic, which will then be provided to MRSC Small Rosters for public bidding. We will be distributed to Commissioners before posting.

Public Comments

Joan Penney, Housing Hope: She shared the growing need that when they build affordable housing, they absolutely need to include community health rooms in their buildings. Community members coming to them are experiencing homelessness for the longest amount of time they have ever seen. The impact of homelessness takes its toll. Edmonds Lutheran Church and Scriber Lake in Lynnwood are entering into a 75-year lease and look at McKinney-Vento numbers. They continue to address the growing addiction numbers they see in our community. The additional expenses include meth and fentanyl contamination. Verdant has been a tremendous partner to them and they continue to be.

**Commissioner
Comments**

Commissioner Knutsen really appreciated the program tonight as it gave her a better view of what is happening in our community. She thanked Joan Penney with Housing Hope for her work in the community as well.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
JSDistelhorst
463092731B124E1...

President

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
A28385545A4D4A6...

Secretary