

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Special Budget Meeting**

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

**October 19, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners  
Present**

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

**Staff**

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent  
Riene Simpson, CPA, Director of Finance  
Kaysi Caballero, Executive Assistant/Office Manager  
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker  
Humaira Barlas, Fiscal Specialist  
Kirk Mathis, Digital Communications & Marketing Manager  
Ceil Erickson, Director of Community Impact

**Guests**

Annika Sahota

**Call to Order**

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**Land and  
Enslaved People's  
Acknowledgement**

President Jim Distelhorst read the land acknowledgement.

**Budget Process  
Timeline and  
Strategic  
Framework**

Verdant Health Commission's Director of Finance, Ms. Simpson, began her presentation (E:65:23) with a summary of budget requirements for Public Hospital Districts. She walked attendees through the timeline of this annual budget review process.

Ms. Simpson continued to highlight trends and detail new initiatives over the last budget year. She presented a pie chart showing the revenue breakdown for 2023 from sources such as the hospital lease, tax levy, and interest income. There was a peak in expenses in 2021 because of mobilizing to spend additional programs during the Covid-19 pandemic (\$1 mill). Internal programs are a much smaller budget, but they have a mighty impact as we have 4.75 FTE employed for direct programmatic work.

Ms. Simpson presented challenges impacting expenses and spending for the 2024 budget, such as suite vacancies at our properties, continued economic crisis, adapting to an

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increasingly diverse community, and our hospital lease revenue leveling out in 2025, to name a few.

Alternatively, she outlined multiple strengths and opportunities presented to Verdant such as having a strong financial position with clean audit, a cohesive staff that works together as a team and more.

***Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to move the budget as presented forward to the Regular Board meeting for approval in the resolution, Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed.***

**Public Comments**

None.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Brennan thanked Ms. Simpson for an exceptional budget presentation. She asked if Commissioners could get a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from tonight. She continued with her view of Verdant in 2024. Verdant is shifting toward more outreach and communications. She encourages us to revisit our diversity, equity, and inclusion plan so we can better understand and serve the diverse members of our community and to let them know we are doing what we do for them.

Commissioner Knutsen thinks it is important that the whole community has a better understanding of what Verdant does, not just our diverse communities. She is passionate about our marketing and finding other ways to do outreach. She wonders if we can host an event with our white community members and our BIPOC community members to create synergy and open dialogue between the two. She wants to make sure people can see stories about every program that we fund and those outcomes for the community. Her concerns for our budget are around our Value Village property since there is no number attached to it so it is quite the wildcard. She was concerned that the budget looked like we are cutting back on events in 2024.

- Dr. Edwards clarified that in 2024 we are planning several events with partners so that the entire cost is not incurred by Verdant and it is shared. This will reduce our overall event costs in the budget.

President Distelhorst likes our Canopy mailing and wants to make sure we identify all different ways to communicate with our residents. But, he does understand the significant cost if there is a way to reduce that.

- Dr. Edwards reported that our marketing manager, Kirk Mathis, has already created a reduced size version of the Canopy that is set to go out around Halloween. He had another idea to continue printing our canopy but instead

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of mailing it to all households, we distribute it on the ground to community centers, senior housing, libraries etc.

- Commissioner Knutsen likes the idea of one bulk mailing per year and to be cognizant that in the winter months people don't get out as much so that would be the version to mail, then have the other version out at various community facilities in the Spring.
- Commissioners agreed although we are discussing the Canopy specifically, we can keep the marketing budget for 2024 the same as presented, no changes.

Ms. Simpson thanked Dr. Edwards for her support in clearing her workload a bit to focus on this budget and for staff coming together to provide their detailed budgets in preparation for 2024.

**Adjournment**

President Distelhorst adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**ATTEST BY:**

DocuSigned by:  
*JSDistelhorst*  
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President

DocuSigned by:  
*Karianna Wilson*  
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Secretary