

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
November 15, 2023
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

**Commissioners
Present**

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

Staff

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

Guests

Sandra Mears
Omar Gamez
Jason Rezek
Nanci Johnson
Brian Smith

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 8:00 a.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 Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda (E:70:23)

1. Approval of Minutes:

- a. October 19, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- b. October 25, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Public Comments

None.

Commissioners Meeting
November 15, 2023

**Executive
Committee Report**

President Distelhorst reported that Executive Committee met on November 9th to approve the agenda for today's meeting. No action was taken at the Executive Committee meeting.

**Community
Discussion:
Increasing
Healthcare Access**

Ms. Erickson introduced the topic and presenters for today's discussion about healthcare access.

Omar Gamez, The Extra Step, presented a slideshow of stats for the South Snohomish County CHART Program over the past year (E:71:23). Mr. Gamez spoke about the positive changes the program has been able to make for some of their clients to significantly reduce the number of times they utilize emergency services when it may not be necessary. The CHART program partners with many leaders in the emergency services to bring this service to high utilizers of emergency systems. Nanci Johnson from Compass Health added that the CHART program has been a godsend for her in managing her client's needs. CHART provides boots-on-the-ground representatives who get to know these clients and build trust with them to provide the best services. They are always available, even on weekends and after-hours. Ms. Johnson's goal is always to provide the least invasive care and CHART helps her client accomplish this by giving him access the services he needs.

Sandra Mears, Jean Kim Hygiene Center, presented a slideshow to showcase some of the services provided at the Lynnwood hygiene center (E:72:23). In 2022 the center served over 3,000 meals and over 9,000 showers were provided for 600 guests. The center is working to address the concerns from neighboring businesses who are worried about the increased traffic from the unhoused population. They are continuing to work on reducing the negative stigma associated with their services for the unhoused, as they are often associated with unfortunate activities that happen across the street from the center even though it is not a part of what happens at the center. Verdant's support is invaluable. The hygiene center would not exist without Verdant. It is more than a hygiene center, it's a place for the community to receive invaluable services in their times of incredible need.

Brian Smith, Volunteers of America, shared a powerpoint presentation showcasing details about the new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center (E:73:23). The center will be constructed in 2024 and begin providing its services such as gathering space, affordable medical and dental care, reliable transportation in 2025. There is a YouTube video with a 3-D virtual tour of the design that can be viewed at:

Commissioners Meeting
November 15, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S93VscCIuto>. The project for this new community center addresses the community needs that came about from the City of Lynnwood Community Needs Assessment and it aligns well with Verdant's strategic priorities. VOA distributes 8-10 million pounds of food to Snohomish County food banks and meal sites. Ms. Smith would appreciate any referrals we can share in the medical community who can provide the medical and/or dental services from the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center.

Ms. Erickson asked Verdant commissioners if they had any questions for today's presenters. President Distelhorst asked Mr. Gamex, CHART program, why his clients typically go to the emergency department so frequently?

- Mr. Gamez answered sometimes it is alcohol detox, for example someone might find his client passed out in the street and call 9-1-1 so he goes in. Sometimes after detox the client may come back to the ED in the same day. For this particular client, the detox at the ED is not long enough and he needs to stay somewhere longer to get help. This client jumps from one hospital to another to get services.

President Distelhorst commented that one of the things Verdant appreciates about the Jean Kim Hygiene Center is that they act as a hub of resources in addition to showers.

- Ms. Mears added they have LEAD and case managers who work at the hygiene center every day.

Commissioner Knutsen asked Ms. Smith of VOA how they are leveraging the services of other organizations in the area that seem to provide similar services.

- Mr. Smith answered that the need is greater than any one organizations can provide. Their resource and navigation staff are well informed of the other services in the area and can refer clients to these other organizations as needed. Sandra Mears added that the hygiene center does not own its property so at some point in the next year or two it may be developed.

Commissioner Brennan asked if VOA will also provide showers at the neighborhood center?

- Ms. Mears, Jean Kim Hygiene Center, would like to see collaboration with partner organizations and hotels to consider providing showers. Ms. Smith commented that

Commissioners Meeting
November 15, 2023

if there was an emergent need, they could still redesign the facility to accommodate something like showers.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Edwards reported the contract with Axiom Construction is under draft for the Kruger/Langer Clinic refresh project. The Verdant team and South County Fire recently put together emergency hygiene kits to hand out as the hygiene center is closed for two weeks for staff training and repair. Olia Josiah has recently joined the Verdant team as our new after-hours Wellness Center Assistant. Mr. Mathis presented a report about marketing efforts and some 2024 events on the horizon (E:74:23). Commissioner Knutsen appreciates the way that Mr. Mathis communicates with the community, and she appreciates the way he is building relationships with others.

Program Committee Report

Conflicts of Interest None.

Spring 2024 Funding Cycle Ms. Erickson shared the Spring 2024 funding cycle which opened on 11/1/23 (E:75:23). The current grant cycle is now through December 14th. Commissioners will begin reading applications for scoring on January 8th through February 9th. Verdant recently hosted a Grant Funding Guideline Q&A online and the next one is December 7th.

Finance Report

Review Financial Statements & Cash Activity

Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for October 2023 (E:76:23), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods. Commissioner Wilson asked the other Commissioners to remember these grant monies being returned when they review applications for Spring 2024 funding. Ms. Simpson will note organizations where we consistently receive returned grant money (repayments).

Authorization of Payments of Vouchers and Payroll

Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrant numbers 16247 through 16285 and J2301 through J2336 for October 2023 for total warrant payments in the amount of \$239,564.14 were presented for approval (E:77:23).
Motion was made by Commissioner Knowles, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the warrants.

Commissioners Meeting
November 15, 2023

Resolution 2023:09: Approving Dollar Amount & Percentage Increase of Regular Levy for 2024

Ms. Simpson brought forward RES 2023:09 to approve the levy dollar and percentage increase amounts for 2024. This Resolution is slightly different than the Resolution presented at the October Board meeting as it references different RCWs required by law.

Motion was made by Commissioner Knowles, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve RES 2023:09.

Public Comments None.

Commissioner Comments

President Distelhorst congratulated the incumbent commissioners Wilson and Knutsen who were recently re-elected for another 6-year term.

Commissioner Knowles asked if there was any way to take the load off Verdant's Director of Finance in December with the audit field work also beginning next month.

- Ms. Simpson answered that delaying the hospital RFQ project to January 2024 will help reduce the number of additional projects to manage.

Commissioner Wilson commented that the 2024 calendar for board study sessions, listening sessions, and three new community events seems like a lot. She wants to say this is a *plan* for 2024 but if it is not enacted then that is OK.

- Dr. Edwards reported that the calendar was based off feedback from Commissioners and once it all came together it did look like a lot. In December committee meetings she will present the Board & Committee meeting calendar with actual dates and times for consideration.
- Commissioner Brennan reiterated that staff and Commissioners need to be aware of the workload and to not be overly ambitious. She encouraged the team to pace ourselves.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m. by President Distelhorst.

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
JS Distelhorst
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President

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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Secretary