

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 28, 2024

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

**Commissioners
Present**

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

Staff

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

Guests

Lahai Health

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 Wilson.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Wilson 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:09:24)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. January 21, 2024 Special Board Meeting
 - b. January 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
 - c. February 21, 2024 Special Board Meeting
2. Superintendent's Discretionary Request: The ACCESS Project
3. Grant Modification Request: Compass Health

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Public Comments None.

Executive Committee Report President Wilson reported that Executive Committee met on February 13th to approve the agenda for today's meeting. No action was taken at the Executive Committee meeting.

Strategic Collaboration Committee Update: President Wilson provided a brief update from the February 16th Strategic Collaboration meeting. They discussed the repair of Swedish Edmonds elevators to increase patient transport and they also discussed the process for the hospital engineering study that will take place later in 2024.

South Snohomish County Demographics Presentation

Mr. Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management from Puget Sound Regional Council presented slides showing the population growth forecast and strategies to support this for the Puget Sound region (E:10:24). To meet future affordability needs, about 1/3 of the new housing units created should be low-income or affordable housing units to accommodate this large population. He shared a heat map showing households by income, people with disability, people of color, with older adults, with limited English language which are all growing. In 20 years, households will be getting smaller, older in age, and more diverse. On the Puget Sound Regional Council website there is a search function to view demographic data for certain communities like "Kirkland" or "Seattle."

- Commissioner Wilson asked both presenters if this area is typically zoned for single family or multi-family housing and how they respond to community needs?
 - Mr. Inghram answered that over 80% of Snohomish County is zoned for single-family homes.
- Commissioner Knutsen asked if there is data showing the upcoming generation's ability to purchase a house or if they find these generations are moving into their family's historical home?
 - Mr. Inghram answered that there is difficulty for the newer generations who do not have a family inheritance or who end up living with their parents in their family home.

Mr. Collier, Program Manager for Alliance for Housing Affordability, shared slides showing housing trends for South Snohomish County (E:11:24). Starting in 2025 there is a separation of new housing and old housing which is impacting the price of housing. Median household income has remained steady over the past 20 years yet the median sale price, income

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levels, and average rent have increased. The city of Mill Creek is the only city where it is cheaper to rent your home rather than own it.

- Dr. Edwards asked the presenters if they could speak to the increasing diversity of our District over the last five years.
 - Mr. Collier answered that diversity has not increased as much as he had hoped since there is still underlying discrimination that hinders certain groups from buying housing. Mr. Inghram added that even if income remains the same across diverse population groups, home ownership is still more difficult as there is mortgage discrimination that impacts people of color. If you break median income level down into different ethnic groups, black households tend to be half of that median population. There is a large group of Indians and east Asians who work in technology and make a good income but are not buying homes.
- Commissioner Knutsen asked what the plan is when people who moved to Lynnwood over the last 20-30 years have nowhere else to go? For example, a lot of new people in Lynnwood came from Seattle since they were displaced there and now, we are seeing people being displaced in Lynnwood.
 - Mr. Inghram answered that displacement can happen for a lot of reasons. The answer is not to freeze rates or growth since new developments do increase choices and opportunity for the neighborhood.

**Superintendent's
Report**

Dr. Edwards reported that in the past month there has been a strong emphasis on District facilities. There is an invitation to bid for approval today for the Kruger Clinic remodel signage. There is another proposal for approval today for the wellness center reception area remodel. We are on schedule for the remodel of Kruger Clinic. We recently received more information on the timing of the well water testing at our Value Village property.

We are looking forward to the state audit being completed hopefully in March. She thanked Ms. Erickson and Ms. Boehm for their hard work in preparing the Spring 2024 funding cycle materials.

There are two special meetings coming up on April 15th and April 30th for Commissioners to discuss the funding process changes.

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Dr. Edwards reported that she has been accepted into the WA State Hospital Leadership Academy and was able to receive a full scholarship so there is no fee to the District for her to participate.

Verdant staff recently did a tour of the Lynnwood Hygiene Center and saw the services provided to community members from Mercy Watch.

Verdant Marketing Presentation

Mr. Kirk Mathis presented slides (E:12:24) showing ongoing marketing efforts and goals to share Verdant's impact in the community. He thanked Commissioners for the times that they attend community events and the impact our community feels when they see a Commissioner participating. He shared highlights from events Verdant hosted in 2023. He spoke about the social media statistics and the importance of Verdant's presence on social media as a major brand that people can follow and be impacted by. The 2024 marketing strategy includes growth in social media, utilization of PeachJar to share our flyers in the Edmonds School District, form new partnerships and expand Verdant's visibility in the community. In 2024 Verdant will host Verdant Wellness Day at Verdant March 9th, Verdant Cares at the Alderwood Mall parking lot July 13th, Verdant Block Party at Alderwood Mall parking lot August 15th and Community Health Networking Event at Event Center November 1st. He thanked the Verdant staff for their support in 2023 which was a difficult personal time for a lot of staff, and we all came together.

Program Committee Report

Conflicts of Interest None.

Spring 2024
Funding Cycle

Ms. Erickson shared a report showing the 35 organizations that Verdant recently approved for funding in the Spring 2024 cycle (E:13:24).

Commissioner Knutsen moved to approve the list of 35 organization for funding, Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion passed.

Verdant will be communicating heavily with these funded organizations to review the new 9-month funding for April 1 through December 2024 and then Verdant will provide one-year funding starting January 1, 2025 through year-end.

Commissioner Wilson added that the remaining budget available for the Spring 2024 awards was \$3,557,222.

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Finance Report
Review Financial
Statements & Cash
Activity

Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for January 2024 (E:14:24), 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 16365 through 16400 and J2400 through J2432 for January 2024 for total warrant payments in the amount of \$304,574.21 were presented for approval (E:15:24). ***Motion was made by Commissioner Knutsen, seconded by Commissioner Distelhorst and passed unanimously to approve the warrants.***

Audit Update

Ms. Simpson will report final audit results to the Verdant team next week and we will have the final findings available for Commissioners at the March 27th Board meeting. She will also need to get approval for a temporary appointment of District Treasurer in Ms. Caballero's absence.

VCWC Remodel:
Highmark
Construction

Dr. Edwards presented a proposal received by Highmark Construction for the remodel of the Verdant Community Wellness Center reception area (E:16:24). ***Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to accept this construction proposal as presented, Commissioner Distelhorst seconded. Motion passed.***

Kruger Clinic
Signage Invitation
to Bid

Commissioners reviewed and discussed an invitation to bid for signage for the Kruger Clinic remodel project (E:17:24). ***Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to accept the Invitation to Bid as presented, Commissioner Knutsen seconded, motion passed.***

Public Comments

None.

**Commissioner
Comments**

Commissioner Brennan is grateful to be a part of the Board and is committed to making the Executive Committee report more exciting moving forward. She attended her first Strategic Collaboration Committee meeting a couple weeks ago which was eye opening to see into the operations of the hospital. She wished Ms. Nancy Budd a happy birthday today. She is Assistant Vice Chancellor at UW Bothell and wanted to clarify her employment which does not serve as a conflict of interest. She has three kids who are in the Edmonds School District and she is a member of the Catholic church.

Commissioner Knutsen wished Ms. Nancy Budd a happy birthday. She will try to attend the March 9th Wellness Day

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event. She looks forward to serving on the Finance Committee. She found the demographic presentations today very interesting and seeing the impact housing has on the community. She thanked Mr. Mathis for his marketing presentation today.

Commissioner Distelhorst thanked the staff and Commissioners for their involvement at the recent special meeting and all the work that goes into preparing these funding applications for review and approval.

Commissioner Wilson also wished Ms. Nancy Budd a happy birthday. She repeated that there is a lot of work that goes into reviewing these funding applications and making decisions that impact our community partners. She reminded everyone that our meetings are public, and the community can participate.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m. by President Wilson.

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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President

DocuSigned by:
Carolyn Brennan
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Secretary