

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**

**May 22, 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  
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker  
Kyla Morgan, Executive Assistant and Office Manager  
Chase Toscano, Contracts Manager  
Annika Sahota, Community Engagement Specialist

**Guests**

Patrick Evans, CEO, Evergreen Recovery  
Bob Mack, Evergreen Recovery  
Cole Langdon, Chief, Lynnwood Police Department  
Anthony de Sam Lazaro

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 8:04 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 amend the May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes by adding that Commissioner Brennan had an excused absence. Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to approve all items included on the consent agenda, Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion passed.***

Consent Agenda (E:39:24)

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. April 23, 2024 Special Board Meeting
  - b. April 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
  - c. April 30, 2024 Special Board Meeting
  - d. May 20, 2024 Special Board Meeting

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**Public Comment** None.

**Executive Committee Report** President Wilson reported that Executive Committee met to approve the agenda for today's meeting and discussed property related items, and no action was taken.

**Community Presentation** Ms. Erickson introduced the community presenters to share the work they are doing with the community around mental health and substance abuse.

Patrick Evans &  
John Mack –  
Evergreen Recovery  
Center

Mr. Evans is new to Evergreen Recovery, he has been with them for six weeks. Mr. Evans has a passion for the industry due to the struggles he has been through with his own family. He was drawn to Evergreen's philosophy of keeping families together and their outreach in the community. Evergreen has a residential program for women that allows their children to come stay with them. They also offer both detox and residential programs. Mr. Evans was accompanied by Mr. Mack, the Director of the Outreach Program. Mr. Mack talked about their spectrum of services along with their harm reduction efforts. The Outreach program strives to meet people where they are at for treatment. They cover all of Snohomish County, but a large majority of their time is spent in Lynnwood and Everett. Mr. Mack feels very lucky to be a part of the solution working towards tackling the substance abuse issues from a solution-based approach.

He discussed the surge and prevalence of Xylazine related overdoses and the large list of medical problems it creates. Commissioner Wilson asked what Xylazine is and what is the total volume of people that Evergreen treats. Mr. Mack answered that it is a horse tranquilizer that is commonly mixed in with pills and powders. Regarding the volume of patients, their case managers do not have more than 25 clients at a time. They estimate around 60 clients in their HOST program and 150 in the LEAD program. Dr. Edwards added that Xylazine reduces the heart and respiration rate and does not respond to Narcan, so it is increasing the fatality rate. The Commissioners discussed the presence of Xylazine on the streets and how it was introduced. Since it is not responsive to Narcan, the current method recommended by Evergreen is to handout test strips as much as possible and to call 911 immediately. Verdant will look into getting test strips to hand out at their next Narcan Distribution Event in July 2024.

Cole Langdon –  
Lynnwood Police  
Department

Chief Langdon from the Lynnwood Police Department presented the City of Lynnwood's Assessment of Mental Health (E:40:24). In our community, twenty-four percent of adults are experiencing a mental health diagnosis. The police department

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is using the Sequential Intercept Model, to attempt diversion from the criminal justice system. They hired a new mental health professional to do a real assessment for individuals in the jail to see what resources they can connect them with. When diversion efforts are not working or applicable for individuals, they are offering robust jail programming. Currently, the police department is working on a re-entry program that includes peer led programming, resource connection, and follow-up care and connection.

Commissioner Wilson asked what the protocol is for people who come up to criminal line but do not cross it? Chief Langdon shared an incident with an individual who had been convicted of criminal charges that were a result of delusions caused by mental health issues. He was being treated for many years but has recently fallen off his care plan. His family notified the police due to concern for repeat behavior. Law enforcement can observe and be aware, but unfortunately, they cannot intervene unless there is a criminal act.

Chief Langdon discussed the importance of community health workers and how the loss of the Compass Health Community Resource Advocate (CRA) impacts their protocol and service to the community. Without a CRA, the police department loses access to the diversion center. The District and Chief Langdon discussed the current programs and protocols they use to try and incentivize individuals to seek treatment and engage in diversion programs. They also discussed the unique needs of the adolescent population since they have very different criteria for mental health treatment and the criminal justice system. There is a shortage of beds for mental health and substance abuse treatment for individuals under 18.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Edwards participated in a community meeting alongside the Chief of Police, Mayor Frizzell, and other Snohomish County representatives. They were meeting to troubleshoot Compass Health ending the Community Transitions Programs. The end of the program will eliminate 37 employees across the county – specifically staff in Lynnwood, Edmonds, and Mount Lake Terrace. Verdant has funded many of these positions in the past. Snohomish County currently sponsors six of these positions. In the next two to three weeks, they will bring a proposal to Commissioners to continue the CRA role.

Dr. Edwards thanked Commissioner Distelhorst for joining her at the Edmonds Civic Roundtable and Commissioner Knutzen for her participation in the Narcan distribution event. Verdant is

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repeating the event in July in partnership with South County Fire.

The Verdant team recently participated in the Community Fitness Expo, and they have ten more outreach activities in the coming summer months.

Verdant is actively interviewing for the Interim Digital Marketing and Communications Manager role and kicked off recruitment for the Community Engagement Manager position.

**Program  
Committee Report**

Ms. Erickson will be sending out the revised documents from the April 30<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting to plan for the 2025 funding cycle.

Review of  
Continuation  
Funding

Ms. Erickson reviewed the draft for the 2025 funding cycle timeline (E:41:24). She will be updating the board calendar for the remainder of the year.

The Verdant Parter Roundtable will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Verdant Community Wellness Center. At the Roundtable, Verdant will provide information to partners regarding the 2025 funding cycle and any revisions that have been made.

**Finance Report**

Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for April 2024 (E:42:24), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods.

Review Financial  
Statements & Cash  
Activity

Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrants Reference A, No. 16478 through 16484, and Warrants Reference B, No. J2503 through J2543 for April in the amount of \$213,318.84 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$1,255,091.42 for total disbursements of \$1,468,410.26 (E:43:24).

Authorization of  
Payments of  
Vouchers and  
Payroll

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

**Public Comments**

None.

**Commissioner  
Comments**

Commissioner Knutzen thanked all the staff and shared her uplifting experience at the Narcan event.

The district discussed the loss of the CRA role and the need for more inpatient adolescent treatment in South Snohomish County. Dr. Edwards shared that they are meeting with key partners to support the continuation of the CRA, but it will not be going through Compass Health.

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**Adjournment**      The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 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