

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting

**Hybrid: In-Person at Verdant Community Wellness Center and via Zoom
November 8, 2022
5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners
Present**

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

Staff

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent
Riene Simpson, CPA, Director of Finance
Kaysi Kelly, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Kirk Mathis, Digital Marketing & Communications Manager
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Distelhorst read the acknowledgement.

**Review of
Commissioner
Talking Points for
Strategic Plan**

President Distelhorst walked Commissioners through each section of the Talking Points document to discuss any revisions needed (E:119:22).

I. About Verdant:

- **Bullet #4:** Commissioner Wilson thinks it would be nice to have a separate "notes" section of these talking points for more details such as the amount of levy dollars we receive per the amount of District property owned. Commissioner Knowles agrees to have a separate "notes" sheet with additional information as available.
 - Commissioner Knutsen thinks it would be helpful to compare our Public Hospital District property levy to that of other districts, such as transportation levy for example, so people can see that it is not as high an amount of tax dollars as those other public districts receive. There was one graph in particular showing this that was shared at our last public community forum.

II. Understanding Community Health and Strategic Priorities:

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- Bullet #3: Commissioner Brennan suggested to revise this bullet to add “each year” so that it is clear we are providing grant funding of \$16.4 Million for 2023-2024 (i.e. \$8.2 Million each year).

III. Commissioner Responses for Potential Questions:

Question #1: Why move to the one-year term—seems burdensome on both nonprofits and Verdant staff. Do you expect it will favor the larger and established nonprofits who have the capacity to develop grant applicants annually? How does the one-year term benefit Verdant?

- Dr. Edwards will add language to answer the second part of this question: “How does the one-year term benefit Verdant?”
- Commissioners agreed that the term “adaptive leadership” in the response to this question is great to describe how we are needing to pivot our priorities in order to be smart and efficient with our fixed amount of spending.
 - Commissioner Brennan added that we will be reviewing these priorities annually to be able to adapt as needed.
- Commissioner Wilson wants to be able to diversify our grant portfolio to encourage smaller or newer organizations to apply for funding.
 - Commissioner Knutsen cautions to make sure we aren’t saying we are no longer supporting historically funded organizations and moving to new organizations only.

Question #2: I am on Year 1 (or Year 2) of a 3-year commitment. Do I still get that funding?

- Dr. Edwards will add clarifying language about contract end dates to this response. She added that staff has been calling each grant partner to let them know when their contract expires and that they will need to submit a new application for 2023.

Question #3: What justifications do you have for not honoring multi-year grant commitments? We are on Year 1 of a 3-year grant, renewable annually. We have had strong performance and had scaled up based on the trust that Verdant would honor that commitment.

- Commissioner Wilson asked if staff thinks that grant partners don’t understand they are still on an annual renewal even if they are awarded a “multi-year” contract.

Question #4: Why is housing no longer a priority area?

- Dr. Edwards will simplify this answer to explain that housing was never a priority area and that our new

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priorities still include wrap-around services which can sometimes be housing related.

- Commissioner Wilson suggested to add language about the additional \$100k in temporary housing that Verdant has approved for the Community Social Worker to use for her clients.

Question #5: no revisions were made.

Question #6: How much is the grant budget being reduced compared to last year?

- Commissioners agreed to include the 2019, 2020, and 2021 grant spending figures in this response. Commissioner Knutsen reminded the Board that Verdant *increased* grant spending during COVID and now we are returning to that pre-pandemic grant spending level but still at a slightly higher rate than 2019.
- Ms. Simpson, CPA, corrected the figure in this response to a reduction of \$1.7 Million from 2022 (not \$2.3 Million as stated). This decrease leads to a \$77,500 increase to Verdant's internal programs.

Question #7: What do we do if our current grant does not fit into the new Verdant priority areas?

- Commissioner Brennan requested to add language about Verdant wanting to make the biggest impact for the community and this is why we picked the three priorities we did, so our support would have maximum effect.

Questions 8-14: no revisions were made.

Question #15: Are these changes really about hoarding money?

- Dr. Edwards will work on re-writing the response to this question to make it shorter and more direct.
- Commissioner Knutsen added that the reason why our Public Hospital District was created is incorrect.
- Commissioner Wilson added that providing grant funding to the community is not a requirement of a Public Hospital District but that Verdant chooses to invest its money into health and wellness programs for its residents.

Question #16: What is the purpose of the reserve and how do you determine the amount you want to maintain in the reserve?

- Commissioner Knutsen believes this response is too heavy on the hospital services and wants to focus on all the services we provide in support of our mission.
- Commissioner Knowles would like to add language about the growing/expanding number of residents, and diverse

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residents, of our district and how our Reserve budget needs to be able to support this population.

Commissioners agreed to add a final page to this talking points document to show the assessed value of different tax levies and compare that to what a Public Hospital District receives.

**Review of
Verdant's Equity
Statement**

Dr. Edwards presented two different diversity and equity statements that Verdant has and asked Commissioners to pick one or revise one to use going forward. One statement is posted on Verdant's website in June 2020 in response to the George Floyd incident (E:120:22) and the other statement is from Verdant's strategic plan (E:121:22).

Commissioners agreed to use the version from the strategic plan, with one revision to part of the second paragraph. Dr. Edwards will make this revision and bring the final version forward for Board approval at the November 16th regular Board meeting.

Adjournment

President Distelhorst adjourned the special meeting at 6:21pm

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
JSDistelhorst
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President

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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Secretary