

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

December 18, 2024

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

**Commissioners
Present**

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

Staff

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent
Riene Simpson, CPA, Director of Finance
Ceil Erickson, Director of Community Impact
Chase Toscano, Contracts Manager
Kyla Morgan, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Humaira Barlas, Fiscal Specialist
Nancy Budd, Community Social Work
David Lee, Digital Marketing and Communication Manager

Visitors

Howard Thomas, HT Consulting
Melissa Teichman, OAC Services
Phil Baker, OAC Services
Rob Weber, Carney Badley Spellman
Mark Henninger, Cushman & Wakefield
Lahai Health

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by President Wilson.

**Land and
Enslaved
People's
Acknowledge-
ment**

President Wilson read the acknowledgement.

**Consent
Agenda**

Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to approve all items included on the consent agenda, Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda (E:84:24)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. November 20, 2024, Board Meeting
 - b. December 4, 2024, Special Board Meeting

**Public
Comment**

None.

**Executive
Committee
Report**

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

**1. Nominati
ons for
2025
Officers
and
Committe
es**

1. President Wilson requested that nominations for 2025 officers and committees shall be made at this meeting. Current Committee and Board assignments will be in place through January 31, 2025 and the new committee assignments and Board President will take effect February 1, 2025.

Commissioner Brennan nominated Commissioner Wilson for Board President, Commissioner Knowles seconded. All others voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Brennan as Board Secretary, Commissioner Distelhorst seconded. All others voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Knowles nominated Commissioner Wilson as Chair of Executive Committee and Commissioner Brennan as second officer. All others voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Distelhorst nominated Commissioner Knutsen as Chair of Finance Committee and Commissioner Distelhorst as the second officer. Commissioner Knutsen seconded. All others voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Knowles nominated Commissioner Brennan as Chair of Program Committee and Commissioner Knowles as second officer. All others voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Wilson as Chair of Strategic Collaboration Committee and Commissioner Brennan as second officer. All others voted aye, motion passed.

**2. 2025
Board &
Special
Board
Meeting
Calendar**

2. The board meeting calendar for 2025 was approved as presented (E:85:24), with the possibility of changes in the future after the Board discusses the timing of the funding cycle at the January 21st strategic planning session.

Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to approve the board meeting calendar as presented. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

3. Remote Board Meetings during Emergencies

3. Executive committee reviewed the information in the bylaws regarding remote meetings during emergency conditions. Under the Open Public Meetings Act, the District can have remote board meetings during inclement weather and intends to for the safety of the staff and board. The District will bring forward an amendment to the Bylaws to reflect this policy.

President Wilson met with school district leadership and Dr. Edwards on Friday to discuss priorities and budget constraints. The school district emphasized mental health over food security, noting they feel confident in their food resources, with 20 of 35 schools providing free meals for all students. However, they see a significant gap in mental health resources. \$12-15 million of their levy goes towards their special education deficit. Ms. Erickson noted that the expansion of CHC school-based health centers in Lynnwood is paused, with a focus on Everett instead. Commissioner Wilson suggested Verdant collaborate with the school district on marketing, given its large audience reach. President Wilson shared that the senior district administrators were unaware of the extent of Verdant's funding.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Edwards thanked the team—Ms. Budd, Ms. Al-Mahana, and Mr. Lee—for organizing a Narcan event in partnership with the city of Edmonds and the Edmonds Food Bank, distributing 80 kits to the community. The food bank is interested in hosting another event in 2025. Notably, overdose deaths in Snohomish County have decreased for the first time in years. The program team has been working very hard to get the 2025 funding contracts out. Inevitably, there were some organizations that were disappointed with the decreased funding amounts. Ms. Erickson is meeting directly with organizations and working through some challenging conversations. Last week, Dr. Edwards, Mr. Zapora and others discussed whether Verdant might offer emergency medical services (EMS) to Edmonds, citing the city's unique medical needs. However, commissioners felt this doesn't align with Verdant's mission and is a decision for Edmonds voters. Commissioner Wilson noted this highlights public misunderstanding of Verdant's role in the community.

Program Committee Report

1. Recap of 2024 Investments

1. The Program Committee reviewed Fall 2023 awardees and the reporting schedule. Of the 19 awardees whose contracts ended on September 30th, eight received bridge funding through December. An analysis will be shared at the January board meeting.
2. Ms. Erickson presented two no cost extensions for the Boards approval (E:86:24). Inside Health Institute originally requested funding in Spring 2024. They are requesting an extension into the first quarter of 2025 to spend the

- 2. **No Cost Extensions**
 - a. **Inside Health Institute**
 - b. **Therapeutic Health Services**
- 3. **2025 Contracts & Payments**

remainder of their allotted funding. Therapeutic Health Services requested an adjustment of budget line items. They are adjusting their primary service delivery towards group services to reach more students.

Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to move approval for both no cost extensions as presented. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

3. Verdant made 43 awards to 41 organizations for the 2025 funding cycle. Ms. Erickson is working with the partially funded awardees to revise and adjust their budgets and outcomes. The team is still working on generating the contracts and will be releasing first payments in January.

Finance Report

- 1. **Review Financial Statements & Cash Activity**
- 2. **Authorization of Warrants and Electronic Disbursements**

- 1. Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for November 2024 (E:87:24), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods. Transfer from the reserve has been initiated this week to sustain the cash operating balance. Commissioner Knowles Requested to see trending reports of the percentages to see if they are increasing/decreasing overtime.
- 2. Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrants Reference A, No. 16691 through 16707, Warrants Reference B, No. J2759 through J2792, and no Warrants Reference C, for November in the amount of \$231,409.16 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$1,535,915.60 for total disbursements of \$1,767,324.76 (E:88:24).

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

Executive Session

President Wilson closed the meeting for executive session to begin at 8:56 am and will continue through 9:55 am. This executive session is to consider the legal risks of a proposed action of the District.

Executive session began at 8:56 am.

Executive session was extended 10-minutes to 10:05 am.

Executive session was extended 10-minutes to 10:15 am.

Executive session was extended 10-minutes to 10:30 am.


Executive session ended at 10:30 am.

Open Session President Wilson reopened the public meeting at 10:30 am.

**Commissioner
Comments** No comments.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m. by President Wilson.

ATTEST BY:

Signed by:

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President

Signed by:

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Secretary