

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

July 24, 2024

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

**Commissioners
Present**

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

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
Olia Josiah, Wellness Center Assistant
Chase Toscano, Contracts Manager

Guests

Omar Gamez, South Snohomish County CHART Program
Galina Volchkova, Volunteers of America/211 Resources & Referrals
Amanda Etchey, Volunteers of America/211 Resources & Referrals
Kyle Ward, City of Lynnwood
Leslie Silverman
Kristina Brown, Kindering

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 Commissioner Brennan.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

Commissioner Brennan read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda (E:47:24)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. June 26, 2024 Board Meeting
2. Superintendent Discretionary: The ACCESS Project \$15,000

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Public Comment Kristina Brown - Public Affairs Director of Kindering – Kindering is the largest developmental center in the northwest serving thousands of kids with developmental delays and disabilities. Kindering rely on philanthropy and funding to cover the annual funding gap they face. Ms. Brown thanked Verdant for investing in Kindering and shared that their investments are making a genuine lifelong impact.

Executive Committee Report Commissioner Brennan shared that they met to talk about the board survey results and to approve today's agenda

Community Presentation: Increase access to services Ms. Erickson introduced the members of the community panel. Mr. Gamez has been running the CHART program for three years. The program is focused on high risk, high need populations. Their goal is to help diminish calls to emergency services.
Mr. Ward, Human Services Coordinator for the city of Lynnwood. Mr. Ward works directly with residence of Lynnwood, partners with organizations, such as VOA on housing, community events, and is a referral source.
Ms. Etchy, Director for Northsound 211. They partner with Verdant for the South Snohomish County Community Resource Advocate (CRA).
Ms. Volchkova, Executive director of housing services at Volunteers of America (VOA). They focus on housing services and stability.
The District and Community Panel members discussed the challenges and collaborative efforts in providing support to the community, particularly those at risk of homelessness and struggling with substance abuse. The panel members highlighted the importance of comprehensive support, including access to healthcare, nutrition, and housing assistance, as well as the role of case managers in facilitating recovery. They also addressed the impact of the opioid crisis, food insecurity, and mental health issues on the community, and the need for collaboration among various agencies to address these issues. All panelists mentioned the housing crisis as an ongoing issue.
Commissioner Knutsen acknowledged the housing crisis and the limitations of a public hospital district due to the RCWs, but affirmed Verdant's commitment to addressing wraparound services and mental health. Mr. Gamez ended the conversation by sharing the success story of a client who was able to secure housing and employment, despite ongoing struggles with substance abuse.

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Ms. Silverman presented an update on a pilot project she and Ms. Erickson had initiated in an effort to assist nonprofit applicants that were not approved for funding. The project aimed to provide one-on-one coaching sessions to help these applicants improve their grant writing skills. Ms. Silverman presented a flexible framework for the coaching sessions, emphasizing the importance of understanding the nonprofits' learning expectations and goals. She also shared positive survey results from the eight nonprofits they had worked with, indicating satisfaction with the guidance received and the organization and planning of the sessions (E:48:24). Dr. Edwards appreciated Ms. Silverman's best practices regarding the survey and its results and requested she follow up individually with nonprofits to check on funding secured as a result of the grant coaching.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Edwards reported the Superintendent's budget for the project with Ms. Silverman was \$7,500 and only \$3,900 has been spent so far.

1. Wellness Center Q2 Report

Ms. Josiah the Wellness Center Assistant presented the facility use data for Q2 (E:49:24). She highlighted the impact of their community programs, including health education classes, nutritional programming, and partnership events. Dr. Edwards announced that Ms. Josiah will transition into the Community Engagement Specialist role.

The Marketing team has 52 responses on the community survey so far (E:50:24) and are working on increasing community engagement during upcoming Summer events.

Dr. Edwards thanked Commissioner Knutsen for participating in the second Narcan drive through event. They handed out over 180 kits. Verdant is going to be doing two more Narcan events, one in partnership with Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace.

Program Committee Report

1. Superintendent Discretionary: Lynnwood Police \$105,401

Ms. Erickson presented a Superintends Discretionary Funding request from the Lynnwood Police department for an embedded social worker (E:51:24). The role was originally funded through a funding award with Compass Health from Verdant that has been funded annually since 2019. The program ended May 31st, 2024. The remainder of their funding was not allocated, and they returned some funds, amounting to \$80,659.41. Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace police departments have submitted a concept paper for \$105,401.00 to continue this program in

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partnership with Snohomish County and funded by Verdant from August 1st, 2024 through December 31st, 2024. Commissioner Knowles requested to forward this concept paper from the Program Committee to the full board because he wanted the whole board to have exposure on how it would be handled and funded. Commissioner Brennan supported the \$80,659.41 being used for the program, but would like to see how the program goes before Verdant invests any more funds. However, she does not want superintendent funds moving towards the program. Commissioner Knutsen and Commissioner Distelhorst are for funding the full amount of \$105,401.00. Dr. Edwards clarified the additional ~\$25,000 is because the program is more expensive since they must rehire for this role and the police department will be using the county to provide stop gap staffing. They had to move quickly within a very short timeframe to relaunch this program with the county. Commissioner Knowles would like to approve using the reallocated funds for the program and thinks the municipalities can cover the \$25,000 gap. However, he clarified the funds in the Superintendent Discretionary Fund are up to the Superintendent to determine the use of and it is ultimately not Commissioners' decision. Commissioners deliberated on funding the program with the returned and unallocated funds and/or using the Superintendent Discretionary Fund to cover the \$25,000 gap. Commissioners agreed to transfer the remaining funds from the Compass Health contract to the City of Lynnwood Police Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Distelhorst to authorize Verdant to enter a contract to allocate to the city of Lynnwood from the money that was not allocated to Compass. Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion Passed.

Finance Report

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| <p>1. Review Financial Statements & Cash Activity</p> | <p>1. Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for June 2024 (E:52:24), noting any transactions out of the ordinary, compared to prior month periods. The District is dipping below their 90 day cash balance, as a result they will be preparing for a transfer from the reserve.</p> |
| <p>2. 6-Month OPEX Budget Review</p> | <p>2. Ms. Simpson presented the 6-month review of budget (E:53:24). She highlighted that the District was tracking ahead of budget by \$330,000, primarily due total programmatic underspend, the drivers being community awards and internal programmatic work.</p> |

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3. Authorization of Payments of Vouchers and Payroll

3. Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrants Reference A, No. 16547 through 16569, and Warrants Reference B, No. J2582 through J2615 for April in the amount of \$166,569.33 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$1,399,318.45 for total disbursements of \$1,565,914.78 (E:54:24).

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

Executive Session

Commissioner Brennan closed the meeting for executive session to begin at 9:45 am and will continue through 9:55 am. This executive session is to review the performance of a public employee.

Extended two minutes to 9:57 am.

Extended five minutes to 10:02 am.

Open Session

Commissioner Brennan reopened the public meeting at 10:03 am.

Approval of Contract for Hospital Facility Assessment

Commissioner Distelhorst made a motion to approve the contract for hospital facility assessment with OAC, Services, \$445,200.00 Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comments

None.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Distelhorst asked staff and Superintendent Edwards to communicate to the Lynnwood Police that the funding is only a stop gap for 2024 and is in no way a commitment to 2025 funding.

Commissioner Knowles congratulated Commissioner Brennan for successfully covering the meeting today in President Wilson's absence.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. by Commissioner Brennan.

ATTEST BY:

Signed by:

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President

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Signed by:

Carolyn Brennan

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Secretary