

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

April 24, 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
Kirk Mathis, Digital Marketing & Communications Manager
Olia Josiah, Wellness Center Assistant
Kyla Morgan, Executive Assistant and Office Manager

Guests

Arun Sharma, UTSAV
Rene Acevedo, LETI
Renee Wallace, YWCA
Marisol Bejarano, LETI
Fatoumatta Joma

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

Consent Agenda (E:24:24)

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. March 27, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
 - b. April 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting
 - c. April 15, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Public Comment

Commissioners Meeting
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**Executive
Committee Report**

President Wilson reported that Executive Committee met on April 16th to approve the agenda for today's meeting and no action was taken.

**Community
Presentation**

Ms. Erickson introduced the panel of community presenters that provided an overview of their organizations, and the role of care coordinators play when serving the community.

UTSAV- Arun
Sharma, Executive
Director

- Mr. Sharma, the Executive Director and Founder of UTSAV, shared that he started the organization to support Southeast Asian individuals living in south Snohomish County. He thanked Verdant for supporting communities of color that may receive less resources. Among the many resources they provide, he highlighted their navigation services that help guide individuals to services for general and mental healthcare. Mr. Sharma spoke about the struggles of acceptance regarding mental health in his community and his efforts to break down the barriers. Additionally, having navigators from their own communities helps fill in the gaps that they may experience in receiving care, such as knowing what kinds of food they need to access to support their health through fasting. UTSAV has direct care coordinators, as well as health panels with medical professionals to give advice and help individuals to get connected to care.

LETI - Rene
Acevedo, Volunteer
Coordinator

- Mr. Acevedo, the Volunteer coordinator for LETI, thanked Verdant for the work they have been doing to help support LETI and the community. LETI serves clients from Mexico to Argentina. They identified the challenges created for individuals who have to combine a language barrier with limited technology skills. Due to the presence of technology in healthcare, it creates a barrier to care. LETI offers computer classes to help individuals feel comfortable navigating technology. As individuals came together for the technology classes, they shared their struggles and sought support. Mr. Acevedo shared the personal story of two clients of LETI. Through their classes, they were able to gain the technical skills to comfortably navigate ZOOM visits and take care of their health. Mr. Acevedo highlighted the progress several individuals were able to make in their personal lives and the community after starting services with LETI. Ms. Bejarano, the Director of Health and Wellness Programs at LETI, shared she was the first full-time staff member thanks to Verdant's funding. Their work is about bringing access to education. They utilized a community survey that had over 400 responses to determine what the new normal is in the community. They partner with SEAMAR

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YWCA – Renee
Wallace, Program
Manager

to do health fairs and do exams onsite to bring healthcare access to clientele they often would not see otherwise. They have large group chats that help them stay connected with the community, as well as Facebook.

- Ms. Wallace, the Program Manager at YWCA, spoke about their healthcare access program. Initially they were serving all of King County, but thanks to Verdant and grants they have expanded to South Snohomish County. They provide and give access to whatever a person needs. Ms. Wallace explained there are language and cultural barriers to gaining access, and racism has been deemed a public health crisis. Each person who comes to their program is looking for assistance and needed help navigating the system at some point in their journey. They build trust by working to flatten the power dynamics between organizations and community members. They take care of the whole person including access to mental health providers, housing, legal services, immigration support etc. She stated, without care coordination and other organizations that Verdant funds, the many residents would be in a lot more crisis than they are now.

**Commissioner
Discussion of Care
Coordination**

Commissioner Wilson asked how people know to find UTSAV?

- Mr. Sharma answered that his organization services members from many countries, religions, and languages. They utilize faith and community leaders to spread the word about UTSAV. They find coordinators that are relatable to bring access to niche groups of people.

**Superintendent's
Report**

Verdant Operations

Dr. Edwards thanked the guests and Commissioners for the engaging discussion. She reported that the Value Village parking lot is empty, and they are gearing up for well water testing and the implementation of wells within the next 3 weeks. The hospital RFQ is live and on Builders Exchange, the bids are due May 8th. Commissioner Distelhorst will be participating in the consultant selection process. The Verdant Wellness Center remodel is moving forward, and we are waiting for a timeline from the contractor and expect the project to take about 6 weeks. The Kruger Clinic remodel is underway. They are currently determining if they can replace the fire panel now or delay until 2025. The bids to replace the fire panel would consume a significant portion of the project contingency due to the high cost.

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Langer Clinic
Signage Proposal

The budget for internal and external signage was \$350,000. Verdant received three bids. Of the three, the lowest was disqualified because it was incomplete, the second bid only offered an 18-month warranty and Verdant requires a 5 year on signage. The final bidder was the highest, but still came in \$100,000 under budget. (E:25:24)

Motion was made to approve the Signage Bid by Commissioner Knutsen, seconded by Commissioner Distelhorst and passed unanimously to approve the signage proposal.

Langer Clinic
Furniture ITB

The last RFP for the clinic is for furniture. The bariatric seating (1.5 chair width) will go internally in the clinic. The Verdant team is requesting approval to let the RFP. (E:26:24)

Motion was made by Commissioner Knutsen, seconded by Commissioner Distelhorst and passed unanimously to approve the furniture RFP.

Dr. Edwards congratulated the finance team for compiling all 48 items for the Moss Adams audit and continuing to smile through the various audits they are supporting this year.

Ms. Caballero is officially on maternity leave. Dr. Edwards thanked Ms. Morgan for Administrative Professionals Week. She also thanked Commissioners for their work in the community and Verdant staff who participated in the VOA Lynnwood Community Center groundbreaking.

On May 2nd Dr. Edwards will be on a panel with Commissioner Distelhorst discussing the changing medical needs of our community.

Commissioner Wilson shared she appreciated the quarterly community program report and that the names and color helped display data in addition to just numbers.

Commissioner Brennan asked about the spread of district to out of district in the report. Dr. Edwards clarified it ebbs and flows, this quarter is one that has a higher spread out of district for online participants.

Verdant is hosting a Narcan drive through distribution event on May 4th, they are partnering with the Lynnwood Police

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Department and the Mayor of Lynnwood. The goal is to get 400 Narcan kits out into the community.

**Program
Committee Report**

Ms. Erickson presents information from the Program Committee. They are working through the shift to annual funding. There is a three-month gap from the end of the 2024 cycle to the start of 2025.

Review of Midterm
Progress Reports

The Verdant team will receive midterm reports on April 30th. Ms. Erickson drafted a timeline to accommodate the gap and give advance notice to organizations. (E:27:24)

Commissioner Wilson asked for the total dollar amount remaining for the end of the year.

- Ms. Erickson answered there is \$290,347 available.
- Ms. Simpson stated the total cost to fund all expiring contracts is \$890,000 through the end of the year. There is a \$600,000 gap. Dr. Edwards added, the Program Committee suggested looking at the progress reports and considering which programs are vital to the community to decide which programs are offered bridge funding through Dec. 31, 2024.

Commissioners discussed possible strategies and timelines for deciding on bridge funding recipients. They settled on having access to the midterm reports prior to the May board meeting, to then discuss with the full Board at the meeting.

Finance Report

Ms. Simpson presented the financial reports for March 2024 (E:28:24), 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. 16439 through 16477, and Warrants Reference B, No. J2469 through J2502 for March in the amount of \$214,353.85 were presented for approval as well as electronic disbursements in the amount of \$977,452.94 for total disbursements of \$1,368,398.77 (E:29:24).

Authorization of
Payments of
Vouchers and
Payroll

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

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Public Comments

Fatoumatta Joma, the Owner of the African store in Edmonds, spoke on behalf of Helping Hands and the vital programs they provide for immigrant communities. She shared that Helping Hands assists community members with culturally appropriate foods and that many families benefit. She encouraged Verdant to continue funding Helping Hands because there is a need in the community and certain immigration statuses limit access to government assistance.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Distelhorst thanked Commissioner Wilson for getting through the agenda with the technical difficulties.

Commissioner Knutsen thanked the staff for their work and shared she found the presentations to be interesting and brought forth a conversation about care coordination in the community.

Commissioner Brennan thanked Ms. Morgan for Administrative Assistants Day and her support, as well as the panel for bringing up the conversations about different community hubs and resources.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 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