

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
April 30th, 2024
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners
Present**

Karianna Wilson, President
Carolyn Brennan, Treasurer
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
Kyla Morgan, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Chase Toscano, Grants Manager

Guests

Margot Helphand, Board Facilitator

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 Wilson.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Wilson read the acknowledgement.

Meeting Goals

Ms. Helphand walked through a PowerPoint with a summary of the meeting goals. (E:30:24)

**Verdant Health
Commission
Narrative**

Ms. Helphand presented a draft of the Verdant narrative to the Commissioners (E:31:24). Dr. Edwards and Ms. Erickson clarified that the narrative is a general overview and they can provide more detailed breakdown of the funding criteria for applicants in the funding guidelines that will be updated before the next funding cycle. Commissioners highlighted the community investments section and prioritizing the hospital, leading them to agree on approving the narrative presented with minor modifications.

**Affirm 2025
Priorities and
Objectives**

Ms. Erickson presented the funding criteria that Verdant would like to focus on for the new 2025 funding cycle (E:32:24). She would like to offer more clarity and detail to community partners.

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Commissioner Wilson asked if most applicants that that they are in clear alignment with the current priorities?

Ms. Erickson answered that if applicants were asked, they would all highlight the ways they align with Verdant's priorities. However, that would need to be vetted by the Board because organizations are seeking resources for their program and will try their best to tell their story of alignment to secure funding to sustain their operations.

Commissioners discussed the accessibility of the wording and criteria included in the priorities. Commissioners agreed that it was important to ensure organizations have staffing power as well as fiscal responsibility to run the programs for which they request funding. When finalizing the priorities, they wanted to establish wording and criteria that does not exclude any groups for funding or discourage certain organizations from applying.

Dr. Edwards and Commissioner Knutsen pointed out that the district is part of the triage for the community during public emergencies and Verdant will continue to pivot as necessary to address emergency needs.

**Refine 2025
Funding Criteria**

The Board discussed the 2025 community investment priorities and agreed with Ms. Helphand that they would focus on external programs for the meeting (E:33:24). Commissioners revisited the topic of care coordinators and how they envisioned them contributing to healthcare access. Commissioner Wilson shared there are many different categories of care coordinators and she wanted to be very specific about only funding healthcare coordinators that connect individuals to care. Commissioners discussed how to provide general guidance without being too specific.

Commissioners agreed that for Mental Health they want to provide a broader objective to mental health services rather than three detailed bullets. However, they wanted to streamline the language in a way to provide effective communication about what they will fund.

Commissioners agreed to keep Food Security as a priority for the 2025 cycle. Commissioner Knutzen shared that she has seen success with wrapping mental health services into food access since it can be a HUB that has direct access to the community. Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Knutsen clarified that they want to fund food and programs for wrap around services, not staff salaries for the food security priority.

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Funding Process

1. Timeline

1. Ms. Erickson presented the drafted funding timeline for the 2025 funding application cycle (E:34:24). Commissioners want to make funding decisions at the November board meeting to communicate to applicants in December. Ms. Erickson answered Commissioner Brennan's inquiry regarding the number of expected applicants by stating Verdant expects around 75. Due to shifting to an annual cycle, the timeline for reviewing applicants this year is shorter. Commissioners decided that they want to shorten the review period, rearrange committee meetings to accommodate the funding cycle, and have more time to discuss as a full Board. Commissioner Distelhorst shared he wants to ensure they prioritize commissioner discussion as that has been the most valued in the past. All commissioners are in agreement to decrease to a one-month period for Commissioners to review and to add special board meetings for each category. Then, they will go into one final board meeting for final decision making on all three topics and final funding awardees.

Dr. Edwards stressed the importance of considering the upcoming hospital study and ensuring they are considering that price when preparing the 2025 budget.

2. Application and Scoring Rubric Revisions

2. Commissioners discussed the status of the scoring rubric and how it is incorporated in the decision-making process. They wanted to be sure it is updated to align with the changes to the objectives and goals for 2025.

3. Roles of Reviewers

3. Commissioners discussed the importance of very clear messaging going out to the community regarding the budget as well as Commissioners making all the final decisions. Dr. Edwards stated the standard operating procedure at Verdant is to encourage applicants to come to board meetings to speak directly to the decision makers – the Board of Commissioners.

Communications with Community

Dr. Edwards stated Commissioners and staff need to be thoughtful and intentional with messaging going out to the community. The messaging needs to be understood by staff and Commissioners to send a consistent message to the community. There is a three-month gap in funding due to the transition to an annual cycle. Ms. Erickson informed the Commissioners that staff will be sending out information on Friday regarding an overview of organizations and their midterm reports. They are creating a tool for Commissioners to help score bridge funding. Between now and Friday, midterm reports and a scoring rubric will be organized to send out to the Commissioners for them to discuss in the committee meetings.

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Commissioners decided they would like to schedule a special board meeting to discuss the continuation funding. A special board meeting will be held on May 20, 2024 at 5:00pm.

Executive Session President Wilson closed the meeting for executive session to begin at 7:29 pm to consider the legal risks of a proposed action of the District. The meeting will be reopened at 7:45pm.

Executive Session extended 3 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 7:48 pm.

Open Session President Wilson reopened the public meeting at 7:48 pm.

Commissioner Comments The Finance Committee meeting will be moved to the previous week and schedule a Special Board Meeting on May 20th to review continuation funding.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm by President Wilson.

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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President

DocuSigned by:
Carolyn Brennan
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Secretary