

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
September 28, 2022
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.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
Maggie Konstanski, Grants Manager
Zoe Reese, MPA, Director of Community Impact & Grantmaking
Kaysi Kelly, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Sandra Huber, Community Engagement Manager
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker
Monika Star, Wellness Center Assistant
Kirk Mathis, Digital Communications & Marketing Manager

Guests

Keith
Gloria Kraegel
Rich Robinson
Sandra Mears
Elizabeth Lunsford
Harmony Weinberg
Liz Flores-Marcus
Tom Laing
Nelly Romero
Miriam Molloy

Call to Order

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

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Distelhorst read the acknowledgement.

**Approval of
Minutes**

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the special board meeting on August 24, 2022. (E:90:22)
Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting on August 25, 2022.

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(E:91:22)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the special board meeting on September 10, 2022.

(E:92:22)

Public Comment

Miriam Molloy: She is concerned with Verdant deciding not to fund some portions of the Move60! program. This program gives kids a sense of belonging, connection to their community, and physical exercise. She hopes that Verdant can reconsider their assistance in funding that program.

Elizabeth Lunsford: Lynnwood resident, 98037. She wishes she was at the meeting in person since she does not think she is being taken seriously. She is trying to keep her composure, but she is upset. She doesn't know who will take her seriously when she says she needs help. It is depressing being here in her community. She has children and is a veteran. Her government is not taking her seriously. Silence is violence and Verdant is not taking a stand on the Center for Justice. The only way for her, a citizen of Lynnwood, to get help for her mental health is through the City of Lynnwood. She spoke to Commissioners and said shame on you for being a bully of the Move60! program for Edmonds School District, simply because a gate was locked on a play field.

Presentation: Dr. Rebecca Miner, Interim Superintendent of Edmonds School District

Dr. Miner shared statistics about the Edmonds School District (ESD) students and their families (E:93:22). The ESD recently went through a strategic planning session. They work to embrace the cultural and linguistic diversity of their students as an *asset* that will prepare them to be lifelong learners. Dr. Miner spoke about the ESD's Healthy Youth Survey which is given every two years. The survey utilizes a cohort model for 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th graders every other year. She reported 62% of their 8th graders felt nervous or anxious in the last two weeks and 15% of their 8th graders considered attempting suicide in the past year. The students who felt anxious enough not to do everyday activities went up compared to pre-pandemic numbers. Their strategic plan includes a gradual uptick for school counseling and mental health support over the next two years. The ESD has a pool of forty on-call district interpreters and translators in 20+ languages. There are eighteen Family Resource Advocates assigned to 20 school buildings to help families meet basic needs and remove barriers to the educational process. The School-Based Health Center (SBHC) ribbon cutting event is on 9/28/22 at Meadowdale High School and they are excited to get this program off the ground.

Commissioner Brennan commented that she appreciates seeing these statistics as she has three kids in the ESD. Food security,

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mental health, and the SBHC align with Verdant's priorities. She asked Dr. Miner to see more data, such as pre and post pandemic comparison. The school district is such an important part of our district as our borders almost exactly align.

- Dr. Miner answered that yes, they can provide more data to show the picture over time. Dr. Edwards can contact her to get the data for Commissioners.

Commissioner Wilson asked if they have data for our District compared to the state. She asked if we could share this data on our website so the community can access it.

- Dr. Miner answered that they don't link the community health survey to their website since it is 95 pages, and they want to portray it in a more contextual way that people will be able to digest it.

Commissioner Knutsen said it would be helpful for Commissioners to get feedback on how effective the school district programs we fund are and where there are gaps, so Verdant can assure they are being a strategic partner and that the programs we fund are still meeting the needs of the school district.

- Dr. Miner answered that she and Dr. Edwards will explore this throughout the year as they meet regularly and send that feedback over to the Board. She can possibly come back to present in Spring 2023 when she has had her feet on the ground a bit longer.

**Superintendent
Report**

Dr. Edwards thanked the community members who attended the meeting. Verdant team members will follow up with the resident who had reached out after the board meeting to see how we can help meet her needs.

She thanked Verdant staff and Commissioners who have recently spent 30 hours over the past month to complete our strategic plan. There will be three upcoming community forum events where Verdant will cover the strategic plan and new funding cycles for 2023 and 2024. Maggie Konstanski on the Verdant team is available to meet 1:1 with people to answer questions about Verdant's new priorities.

Dr. Edwards welcomed JSH Properties as the District's new property manager effective October 1st.

She thanked Zoe Reese for her two years of service, including data collection for the health needs assessment, implementation of the online grantmaking system, and her work to support the School Based Health Center at Meadowdale High School.

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**Executive
Committee report**

The Executive Committee met on 9/22/22 to review the agenda for the 9/28 regular Board meeting. No action was taken at that time.

Finance Report

Ms. Simpson walked Commissioners through the statement of income report, noting explanations for gains and losses (E:94:22). As of 8/31, the District is in a favorable position against budget YTD.

Commissioner Wilson asked Ms. Simpson, where she thinks the District will end up as of 12/31/22. Ms. Simpson, answered that there will be an unfavorable balance at the end of the year due to unexpected expenses for our properties. However, with revenue trailing ahead, and savings from the underspend of building health communities fund, she anticipates we will be in line with budget.

Ms. Simpson, CPA, provided a heads up to Commissioners about upcoming changes to the banking authorizations and potential updates needed to the bylaws regarding the Auditor and Treasurer roles.

**Authorization of
Payments of
Vouchers and
Payroll**

Authorization for payment of vouchers and payroll: Warrant numbers 15675 through 15732 and references B-C for August 2022 for payment in the amount of \$188,767.72 were presented for approval (E:95:22). ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and passed unanimously to approve the warrants.***

**Resolution
2022:08**

Appointment of Kaysi Kelly as District Treasurer. ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and passed unanimously to approve RES 2022:08.***

**Program
Committee Report**

**Conflicts of
Interest**

Commissioner Brennan has two conflicts, with LETI and the WA West African Center and will abstain from voting on these applications.

**Q3 Grants – Full
Proposals**

Ms. Reese, MPA, clarified page 38 of the meeting packet that the first two columns of 'current award' and 'amount requested' are for 12-month terms and the proposed contract amount is for 6-months (E:96:22). Ms. Reese, MPA, explained that the 6-month contract term is due to our change in priority areas and grant cycles as we are moving from 4 grant cycles per year to two. This 6-month contract is a stopgap to get contracts on the

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same term, so all grantees apply under the new priorities and on the same grantmaking term.

Community Health Centers of Snohomish County, Dental Program: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$50,000, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

Latino Educational Training Institute, Combined Health and Wellness Program Café LETI: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$72,000, President Distelhorst seconded, motion passed.** Commissioner Brennan abstained due to conflict of interest.

Parent Trust, Family Wellness: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$6,250, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

Prescription Drug Assistance Foundation: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$27,500, Commissioner Wilson seconded, motion passed**

WA West African Center, Drop-In Center: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$57,300 for continuing their Year 1 services, President Distelhorst seconded, motion passed.**

Commissioner Brennan abstained due to conflict of interest.

- Commissioner Wilson asked how the Program Committee came to their recommendation since WAWAC's Year 2 request was very different than their Year 1 request (some new services that were outside of Verdant's priority area such as music classes). Commissioners decided to continue funding at the Year 1 service level.

Wonderland Family Services, The Next Level: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$37,500, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

- Commissioner Wilson asked how Program Committee came up with their compromise. Commissioner Knutsen answered that PC wanted them to provide pre-pandemic services, such as what they did at the Wellness Center. Ms. Reese, MPA, added that this proposed funding was an average of the two committees, so it is a slight reduction from their current funding. Commissioner Wilson commented that Wonderland is well established and have other funding partners, so she has concerns about funding this program at a high level. Commissioner Knutsen commented that the 6-month contract of

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\$37,500 only comes out to \$84,000 for a 12-month period when we were previously funding them at \$150,000 for 12-months. Ms. Simpson, CPA, commented that it is very difficult to manage these grant cycles that cross over multiple years. Commissioner Wilson wants it to be clear that part of their outcome includes in-person services.

**Q3 Grants –
Renewal Requests**

Cancer Lifeline, Whole Patient Services: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$6,650, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

Domestic Violence Services, Education, Outreach and Prevention: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$35,000, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

- Commissioners asked if DVS would be able to spend down their current contract award. Ms. Reese, MPA, confirmed Verdant will not need to extend their current funding deadline.

Girls on the Run, Heart and Sole: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$11,000, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

Jean Kim Foundation, Hygiene Center: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$111,300, Commissioner Wilson seconded, motion passed.**

- Commissioner Brennan added that there are wrap-around services with this program, and she is excited to see how our partnerships are working in the community. She thinks this is a great opportunity for capacity-building so that Verdant isn't the only major funder of this organization and their great work. Commissioner Knutsen knows how important these services are as she lives right down the street and sees what has happened when they had to had to close their first location.

Korean Community Service Center, Mind Body and Soul for Korean Americans: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$51,750, Commissioner Knowles seconded, motion passed.**

Medical Teams International, Care & Connect: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$67,500, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

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Parent Trust, Conscious Fathering: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve the 6-month contract award of \$2,975, Commissioner Brennan seconded, motion passed.**

- Commissioner Wilson commented this is a very well-funded program and believes they can function without Verdant support. Commissioner Knutsen added that Program Committee discussed the need for this program due to their focus on post-partum care which is important for parents in our community. This funding is a compromise until they resubmit their request with both Parent Trust programs combined.

Any applications which were not discussed at today's meeting, did not make it through the scoring and will be notified after today's meeting.

COVID Grants

Hand in Hand: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve funding of \$15,000, Commissioner Wilson seconded, motion passed.**

Vision Church: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion to approve funding of \$22,300, Commissioner Wilson seconded, motion passed.**

Seattle Visiting Nurse Association: **Commissioner Knutsen made a motion approve funding of \$13,000 to cover direct costs plus \$3,000 for Personnel, Commissioner Wilson seconded, motion passed.**

- Commissioners discussed whether or not to fund admin and personnel costs or to only cover direct costs (COVID vaccines)
- Commissioner Wilson commented that their financial statements showed they are a stable organization and can cover their own admin and personnel costs.
- Commissioner Knowles asked if Verdant could cover a *percentage* of their admin and personnel costs since they shouldn't have to provide these services completely free, perhaps 50% of admin and personnel to cover their costs but not to make profit.
- Commissioner Wilson clarified that their admin costs would be covered by insurance companies for the people who get the flu vaccine. Dr. Edwards asked Ms. Reese, MPA, if their proposal is for the admin costs of personnel administering vaccines to un-insured or under-insured patients.

WAGRO: Commissioners requested to have them resubmit their application for review at the October Board meeting with a reduced budget and more focus on direct COVID activities.

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Public Comments

Elizabeth Lunsford: Resident of Lynnwood, 98037. She apologized for her outburst on Zoom. She is upset about the decrease in funding, especially for kids. She doesn't simply stand for the flag, she shows up and she protests. She has some suggestions. She said there is some hypocrisy in the Commissioners dialogue. She suggested color coding applications to see which organizations are institutionalized and which are grassroots. She stated that public servants, such as the Commissioners, deserve appreciation too. She hopes Commissioners are comfortable enough to reach out to her and discuss her comments further. She added, we are family, and the kids need us. We don't need any more data; the kids need us right now.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Knutsen thanked Ms. Reese, MPA, Ms. Konstanski, and Ms. Simpson, for the heavy lifting in preparing the Q3 grant recommendations for Commissioners. She thanked the staff, Commissioners, and community members for their help in preparing the strategic plan.

Commissioner Wilson thanked the Verdant team for managing the strategic planning process.

Commissioner Brennan appreciates the involvement of staff and the community in being passionate about these priorities. She looks forward to continued feedback from the community. She provided special thanks to Ms. Reese, MPA, for the heart and soul she brings to this work.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m. by President Distelhorst.

ATTEST BY:

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JSDistelhorst
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President

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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Secretary