

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2 OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON
VERDANT HEALTH COMMISSION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting – Community Forum

Hybrid: In-Person at Verdant Community Wellness Center and via Zoom

November 15, 2022

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Commissioners
Present**

Jim Distelhorst, MD, President
Deana Knutsen, Commissioner
Carolyn Brennan, Commissioner

Staff

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent
Leslie Silverman, Interim Director of Community Impact &
Grantmaking
Erin Boehm, Interim Grants Manager
Riene Simpson, CPA, Director of Finance
Nancy Budd, Community Social Worker
Kirk Mathis, Digital Marketing & Communications Manager
Kaysi Kelly, Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Monika Star, Wellness Center Assistant

Guests

Lisa Wolch
Jenni McCloughan
Rachel Mathison
Rahel Schwartz
Jason Hauff

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**Land and
Enslaved People's
Acknowledgement**

President Distelhorst read the acknowledgement.

Review Agenda

President Distelhorst began by reviewing the agenda for today's special meeting, the second of three Community Forum events. Dr. Edwards provided a brief explanation of what a Public Hospital District is and the services that PHD #2/Verdant Health Commission provides to residents of our District (E:122:22).

**Presentation of
2022 Community
Health Needs
Assessment**

Dr. Edwards presented a summary of findings from Verdant's Community Health Needs Assessment which surveyed community needs in May 2022 (E:123:22).

**Summary of
Verdant Strategic
Plan**

Ms. Silverman walked attendees through the recent strategic planning process completed by Commissioners and presented the four new strategic priorities for 2023-2024 (E:124:22).

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**Changes in
Grantmaking
Guidelines &
Cycles**

Ms. Silverman shared the changes to the grantmaking approach and online application (E:125:22). All the application materials for Verdant grantmaking are posted on Verdant's website (www.verdanthealth.org). The grant application cycle for funding effective 4/1/23 is now open through 12/2/22. She shared that Verdant's COVID-19 funding will be ending on 12/31/22.

Public Comments

(Anonymous) How does Verdant get its funding?

- Dr. Edwards answered that 85% of our funding comes from rental income from our property leases. The next source of income for Verdant is a property tax levy. For this year, this levy amount is just over \$2 Million. For every \$1 in public funds received, Verdant contributes \$3.50 in funded healthcare services for the residents of South Snohomish County.

(Anonymous) Does Verdant have an obligation to Swedish Edmonds during a financial loss at the hospital?

- Dr. Edwards answered that we have a landlord-tenant agreement with Providence-Swedish which clearly delineates the roles of the hospital and Verdant. As such, Verdant does not directly control the hospital management decisions of Providence-Swedish.
- Commissioner Knutsen added that back in the day when we began this agreement it was with Swedish and we do not have an affiliation with Providence.
- President Distelhorst added that there are many struggles of hospitals right now which is not just an issue with Providence-Swedish. This issue needs to be addressed by the industry and the government.

(Anonymous) Could funds from Verdant help with hiring more nurses?

- Dr. Edwards answered that this is a management decision of the hospital and separate from the operations of Verdant.

(Anonymous) Can we get a copy of the slides presented at today's forum?

- Yes, Verdant will provide these slides to the requester after today's meeting.

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(Anonymous) What has the board done to mitigate the reality that most organizations are facing: funding is already hard to come by, and hiring still remains difficult. If the grant is renewing every year, and especially for programs depending on schools, that gives them only a few months to get their program fully staffed and running in time for the school year. This makes it difficult to plan ahead of time and be ready with the current timelines. What has the board done to be mindful and considerate of this and what it takes a program to start and stop around these funding timelines?

- Dr. Edwards has reached out individually to each grant recipient to make sure they are aware of the new application and funding processes.

(Anonymous) For programs funding healthcare, it is not trauma-informed to potentially tell a patient their healthcare services might or might not stop at the end of a grant cycle, and that it is out of our control and we may not have much time or success to help them find other affordable care before funding stops. What will Verdant do if it stops grant funding for healthcare programs if there are still patients who are receiving care and grant funding isn't renewed?

- Dr. Edwards answered that Commissioners have been really thoughtful in implementing this big change. Our goal is to provide as much support to our organizations as possible to assure they can continue serving their clients.

(Anonymous) Does Verdant have a preference on whether our programs are serving youth vs 65+? I noticed more specific youth-related data, so seeking clarity. Thank you!

- Dr. Edwards answered that we consider all age groups as we review funding applications so that we can provide services to the entire community and not just in certain age brackets.

Did Verdant receive any recovery funding from the government during the pandemic, such as ARPA funding?

- No, Verdant did not receive any recovery funding.

(Anonymous) Verdant was beloved for offering multi-year funding -- ahead of their times. Why the change?

- Dr. Edwards answered that, in the process of reviewing our finances and the strategic plan, we realized we need to be nimble and efficient with our funding. During the pandemic, our grant funding went up to \$11.7 Million in 2021.

**Commissioner
Comments**

Commissioner Knutsen really appreciates seeing everyone online and sharing their questions and concerns. We were able to pivot during the pandemic to provide an increase in services and funding.

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Commissioner Brennan spoke about the honor and privilege it is to serve our residents and to maintain the services of the hospital. She provided kudos to the Verdant staff who were able to facilitate and present the findings of the Community Health Needs Assessment survey. She congratulated the Verdant team on its re-opening of the Verdant Community Wellness Center in May 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

ATTEST BY:

DocuSigned by:
JSDistelhorst
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President

DocuSigned by:
Karianna Wilson
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Secretary