



**Chelan County Public Hospital District No. 2  
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes October 16, 2025 at 8am  
in person and virtual**

**Commission Attendance:**

(  not present  present )

Jordana LaPorte, Chair  
 Lori Withrow, Vice Chair

Mary Murphy,  
Secretary  
 Doug Gibson

Len England

**Staff Participants:** A. Edwards, B. Truman, S. Ottley, R. Montgomery, L. Sahlinger, Dr. Freed, M. Miller, A. Benegas

**Community Members:** Nat Mote

**Recorder:** Wendy Kenck

Agenda Item	Topic/Action
1. Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>J. LaPorte</b> called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM</li> </ul>
2. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>S. Ottley</b> presented key focus areas based on Board feedback following the draft CHNA report shared by Wipfli at the September Board Meeting. A total of 129 community surveys were completed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Specialty Care:</b> The Board acknowledged a continuing shortage of specialty providers in Lake Chelan, especially in cardiology, neurology, dermatology, sleep medicine, oncology, behavioral health, substance use treatment, pediatrics, and dental/orthodontic care. Currently, orthopedics, dermatology, and pediatrics are offered, with cardiology services in development. Oncology is recognized as a need but limited by resources, and dental/orthodontic care typically falls outside hospital services. The Board emphasized stabilizing recent service expansions and recruiting culturally competent, bilingual providers.</li> <li>• <b>Continuity of Care &amp; Provider Turnover:</b> The Board discussed the ongoing challenges related to provider turnover and gaps in continuity of care. Current efforts to improve provider retention were noted, including the planned implementation of a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system in 2025 to enhance system integration. The group emphasized the importance of evaluating translation service vendors to better meet patient needs, investing in educational funding to support and retain long-term staff, and strengthening partnerships that assist patients in navigating care across the system.</li> <li>• <b>Health Literacy, Education &amp; Preventative Care:</b> The Board discussed how social media misinformation has contributed to confusion within the community. Members emphasized the importance of improving outreach to underserved populations, strengthening partnerships with schools to enhance health education and access, and addressing barriers such as cost, transportation, and limited understanding of insurance options.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion of Senior Healthcare &amp; Social Services:</b> The Board discussed the challenges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

seniors face in accessing comprehensive healthcare, particularly due to low health literacy and limited case management for complex medical and social needs. Emphasis was placed on the need to partner with senior-serving organizations and in-home care programs, expand community paramedicine and preventive services, and strengthen collaboration with existing providers to improve continuity and quality of care for the aging population.

- **Additional CHNA Topics**

The Board highlighted housing as a critical factor influencing provider recruitment and retention, emphasizing its importance for long-term community integration. Cost of care remains a significant barrier, warranting further analysis and enhanced community education. Efforts to improve billing and insurance literacy were discussed, including promoting LCH’s SHIBA-certified Medicare consultant to better assist residents. Cultural and language barriers continue to be addressed through existing translation services, with plans to explore additional vendors and increase outreach to identify and close service gaps from the patient’s perspective.

- **J. LaPorte** called for a break at 10:07 am and the meeting resumed at 10:20 am
- **B. Truman** provided a comprehensive review of the 2026 budget, including assumptions, expenses, cash flow, and capital planning:
  - **Budget Assumptions:** Discussed anticipated increases in orthopedic services, bad debt and charity care, staffing needs due to L&I rest and meal break requirements, supplies, staffing costs, purchased services, community relations, rent/leases, travel and training. Also noted the recognition of approximately \$9.97 million from the Commerce Grant and incentive programs.
  - **Expenses:** Highlighted line-item increases as outlined in the budget assumptions and noted the removal of the \$10 million pass-through related to the EMS/Admin building project.
  - **Cash Flow:** Reviewed the Statement of Cash Flows, including a correction in depreciation from \$4.3M to \$4.7M, which will positively affect the bottom line. Noted that the \$650K for the EMR system is not yet included, which would create a \$250K negative impact if added.
  - **Capital Budget:** Confirmed that the \$650K for the EMR system will be added to both the cash flow statement and capital list. The MRI project is not included in the 2026 budget and is planned for inclusion in 2027.

3. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Public Comment</li> </ul>
4. Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board will review the CHNA and submit their top topics of interest to Wipfli at the October Board meeting.</li> </ul>
5. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>J. LaPorte</b> adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm</li> </ul>

Attest:

*Mary C Murphy*  
Mary C Murphy (Dec 26, 2025 15:44:04 EST)

M. Murphy, Secretary

*Aaron Edwards*  
Aaron Edwards (Dec 26, 2025 08:47:15 PST)

Aaron Edwards, CEO

*wendy kenck*

W. Kenck, Executive Assistant










# Special Meeting Minutes- Budget Workshop 10.16.25 v2 (1)

Final Audit Report

2025-12-26

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