



**Chelan County Public Hospital District No. 2  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes January 27, 2026 at 1:30 pm**

**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 (virtual), R. Montgomery, J. Barich, M. Miller, J. Phetteplace, B. Fields, B. Truman, T. Lautiki, B. Mello, H. Vogel. D. Ehlert, A Benegas

**Community Members:** Anna Moroz, Linda Mayer, John Pleyte, Kylie Schmitz, Nate Mote

**Recorder:** Wendy Kenck

| Agenda Item    | Topic/Action   |
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| Call to Order  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. LaPorte called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and recited the mission statement.</li> <li>• J. LaPorte opened the floor for Board position nominations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>J. LaPorte nominated L. Withrow for Board Chair position, accepted, motion passed</i></li> <li>○ <i>J. LaPorte nominated D. Gibson as Vice Chair, accepted, motion passed</i></li> <li>○ <i>J. LaPorte nominated M. Murphy as Board Secretary, accepted, motion passed.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Public Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Pleyte expressed gratitude to LCH EMS and Administration for their dedication and service to the community. He shared concerns regarding the current Chelan – Douglas Pathway proposal, noting potential safety risks for pedestrians and emergency services. He stated that as highway traffic increases, EMS response and operations may be further impacted. Mr. Pleyte requested that the Board consider issuing an official statement of concern regarding these safety issues. Mr. Pleyte also submitted an email to the Board that included two letters, one from the Chelan Fire District and one from Manson Fire District, for the Board’s review.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Linda Mayer added to Mr. Pleyte comments that traffic on Highway 150 is currently much lighter than during the summer months. She noted concerns about large trucks crossing over the center line due to limited width and stated that, as it stands, portions of the roadway do not appear wide enough. She further shared that removing the shoulder would create additional limitations and potential safety concerns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mary Murphy noted               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Merry Sterling sent an email to the Board regarding the pathway project. In her message, she indicated that she represents a group of community members who are opposed to the pathway due to concerns related to community safety and potential impacts on emergency response.</li> <li>○ Elijah and Kim submitted an email to the Board expressing concerns about the proposed pathway, including potential safety risks and impacts to the community.</li> <li>○ Sue Geodde also emailed the Board to voice concerns regarding the pathway</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|                   | <p>and its potential effect on emergency response times and overall safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nate Mote noted that at the close of last week’s executive session, the meeting continued into the open session without properly reconnecting virtually. He also expressed support for the UW Residency program.</li> <li>• Kylie Schmitz expressed support for the UW Residency Program and the rural OB program.</li> </ul>  |
| Consent Agenda    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. LaPorte reported that the special meeting was very productive, resulting in an agreement for increased collaboration between CVCH, LCH, and UW regarding the Residency Program. She expressed confidence that the meeting will help the hospital effectively carry out its mission with the support of CVCH and UW.</li> <li>• Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>L. England motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with edits, seconded, and motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Executive Session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Withrow, Chair announced an Executive Session at 1:48 PM for 10 minutes, scheduled to end at 1:58 PM, citing RCW 70.44.062 and RCW 42.30.110(1)(o) to consider information regarding staff privileges and matters discussed by quality improvement committees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L. Withrow announced Executive session ended at 1:58 PM. Board returned to open meeting.</li> <li>○ Action Following Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>M. Murphy, after reviewing the medical recommendations from the Medical Executive Committee (MEC), motioned to approve the appointment of Ismail Fahal, MD, Jedediah Kaufman, MD, Tabettha Bradley, MD, Nathan Eppich, CRNA, Sarah McKinley, MD, and Christopher Johns, MD; the reappointment of Paul Furmanczyk, MD, Quoc Nguyen, MD, Whitney Reid, MD, Nausheen Naveed, MD, Shaden Mohammed, MD, Sergey Akopov, MD, Sarbjit Atwal, MD, Lien Nguyen, DO, and Amin Hossein Rabiei, MD; and the provisional status moved to full for Craig Elsner, PA-C, and Eric Davis, PA-C. Seconded, motion approved.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>L. England motioned to approve the Delineation of Privileges for Cardiology, Urology, and Conscious Sedation, seconded, motion approved</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Reports           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Edward presented the Medical Staff report on behalf of CMO Dr. Freed , providing updates on the pre-op screening process, the LCH Residency Program, case mix index and admissions tracking, and the Culture of Safety Program. The OB Focus Group met with Dr. Harberd and Dr. Snyder and is now back on track to begin a community-based focus group. Efforts are underway to identify a facilitator and secure a location. Additionally, Drs. Snyder and Harberd are collaborating on updates to the LCH Admission Policy, which will be submitted to the Board for review.</li> <li>• <b>Finance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ B. Fields presented the quarterly Revenue Cycle report, highlighting key metrics including Days in AR, Gross Revenue, Third Party and Self-Pay, and average payer mix. She also reported on billing phone call metrics, noting an improvement in the average time to return calls to patients—from 16 days in October to 4 days in January. Changes included reorganizing the phone tree and tracking metrics to ensure accountability and timely responses.</li> <li>○ B. Truman presented the unaudited December 2025 finance report.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He noted that depreciation had not previously been calculated as an expense; this has now been implemented beginning in December to keep the hospital’s financials up to date.</li> <li>▪ <i>M. Murphy motioned to accept the unaudited December 2025 Finance Report; seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The MRI lease is currently on a year-to-year basis. A proposal to move to a five-year lease would allow LCH to lease a larger bore machine, align with Siemens standardization, and remain current with other competing facilities. This represents a change from a budgeted purchase to a lease, in compliance with DOH and L&amp;I requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>M. Murphy motioned to approve the MRI lease contract, seconded, motioned approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CEO Report:</b> A. Edwards presented the CEO Report and shared several additional items of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Rural Transformation Funds:</b> WSHA will distribute about \$40M to hospitals, with LCH potentially receiving \$630K. The state may require these funds to support new “transformation” projects.</li> <li>○ <b>SNAP Funding:</b> Reductions begin this year, decreasing SNAP funds from \$1.3M to \$0 over five years.</li> <li>○ <b>Foundation:</b> J. LaPorte, A. Edwards, and T. Lautiki met with The Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation Board Chair and Vice Chair. Clarification was sought on how the Foundation supports LCH employee requests. The Foundation bylaws allow the LCH Administrator and one staff member to serve as non-voting members on their Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>J. LaPorte motioned that LCH Executive Leadership Team members rotate representation at Health and Wellness Foundation meetings in addition to the Administrator. The motion was seconded and approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Connection Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aaron attended the “State of the City” Town Hall and appreciated the opportunity to speak.</li> <li>○ The Legislative Advocacy Day in Olympia is scheduled for January 28, and J. LaPorte and A. Edwards will be in attendance.</li> <li>○ The Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation’s “Healthy Heart – Healthy Life” event will be held on 2/12 at Lakeside Tavern with COO S. Ottley and LCH Cardiologist Dr. Nayak as speakers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Old Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EMS Capital Project Update:</b> Framing is underway on the second floor. Footings are being dug for the garage, and the footings, stem wall, and slab are scheduled to be poured in February. Change orders, which have been discussed previously, will be submitted soon.</li> <li>• <b>Policies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>J. LaPorte motioned to approve Conflict of Interest Policy w/ edits, CEO Decision Matrix w/ edits, and the LCH Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes policy, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| New Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resolutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>J. LaPorte motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01 Disposal of Recliner, Resolution 2026-02 Disposal of Eye Stretcher, Resolution 2026-03 Disposal of Fetal Doppler, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> <li>• Discussion regarding the Board Task Calendar, Committee Assignments, Quality Rounding, and Board Education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chelan Manson Pathway:</b> M. Murphy summarized a conversation with Jeff Wilkins from the Chelan-Douglas County Transportation Council regarding public comment. The formal public comment period is currently on hold while WA Dept of Transportation, Fire, and Police meet. Murphy confirmed that LCH would have a place at the table and advised contacting him for participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M. Murphy noted that there has been a long-standing discussion about highway safety and emergency response times, and she expressed concern that adding a new pathway could create additional risks if the DOT does not first address the existing safety issues.</li> <li>○ R. Eickmeyer agreed stating that while he supports projects that encourage recreation, current road safety concerns, along with increased traffic from casino and community growth, make it risky to add recreational areas without first addressing these issues.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Board Meeting efficiency:</b> The Board has requested that materials that are to be presented in the Board meeting be provided to them in advance to allow for review, to promote productive meetings, and support open, meaningful discussion. Presenters should be given a clear time frame to present in order to be prepared.</li> </ul> |
| Public            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Public Comment</li> </ul>  |
| Executive Session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Withrow announced an Executive Session at 5:26 PM for 30 minutes to end at 5:56 PM citing RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the performance of a public employee. No action is expected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 10 minutes</li> <li>○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 10 minutes</li> <li>○ Executive Session ended at 6:16 pm and the Board resumed in open meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Action Items      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Committee to collaborate with Quality on Board guidelines.</li> <li>• Board to coordinate with Ray to send out thank-you letters for the Pop Up Give NCW Event</li> <li>• L. Withrow to provide Finance with a list of donated items for the Pop Up Give NCW Event.</li> <li>• Aaron to contact Jeff Wilkins to discuss the pathway project.</li> <li>• Governance Committee to review the agenda and packet to streamline where possible.</li> </ul>  |
| Adjournment       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action was taken following the Executive Session.</li> <li>• Roundtable discussion</li> <li>• L. Withrow adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm</li> </ul>   |

Attest:

Mary C Murphy  
Mary C Murphy (Mar 5, 2026 7:14:52 PST)

Mary Murphy, Secretary

Aaron Edwards  
Aaron Edwards (Mar 5, 2026 16:16:29 PST)

Aaron Edwards, CEO

wendy kenck

Wendy Kenck, Executive Assistant










# Board Minutes 1.27.26.docx

Final Audit Report

2026-03-06

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| Created:        | 2026-03-05                                   |
| By:             | wendy kenck (wkenck@lcch.net)                |
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