

**Chelan County Public Hospital District No. 2  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026 at 1:30 pm**

**Commission Attendance:**

( not present  present)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordana LaPorte, (Virtual & In Person) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Withrow, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Murphy, Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Len England
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**Staff Participants:** A. Edwards B. Truman, R. Montgomery, B. Truman, L. Sahlinger, H. Vogel, Dr. Freed, M. Miller, B. Fields, B. Mello, A. Benegas, D. Ehlert, K. Hudson

**Guests:** Dr. LeMire, Dr. Rothmeyer

**Community Members:** Manuel Navarro, D. Pinsky, Ana Moroz

**Recorder:** Wendy Kenck

Agenda Item	Topic/Action
Call to Order Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Withrow called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and recited the Mission statement.</li> <li>• Congratulations to the EMS team for multiple awards for outstanding quality service and performance.</li> <li>• L Withrow fortunate to participate in the Quality Rounding this month and see the enthusiasm and work the staff have put into their Quality Improvement projects.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doug Pinski, representing Lake Chelan Fire and the Manson Chamber of Commerce, presented information on this year’s Fourth of July festival and requested Lake Chelan Health’s support through event sponsorship.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L. Withrow noted that there are strict legal requirements governing the gifting of funds and referred Doug to the Community Relations department.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• R. Montgomery, CNO read a community letter commending Lake Chelan Health staff for their exceptional care and professional manner.</li> </ul>
Consent Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>D. Gibson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded, and motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Rothmeyer shared the quarterly Medical Staff update, noting improved morale with 24-hour General Surgeon coverage and the successful launch of Cardiology services. Telehealth expansion is improving local patient care. Operational priorities remain focused on staffing, bed capacity, and space optimization, while transfer coordination continues to be managed in a constrained regional environment.</li> <li>• Aaron Edwards met with UW and is working with The Rural Collaborative toward opening the WMCC again to assist in patient transfers using state transportation funds to help support patient transfers.</li> <li>• Dr. LeMire presented his Quality Improvement project completed during his residency in Chelan. He shared that his decision to train in Chelan was driven by his interest in practicing in a rural environment and the connection to the UW academic network. His Quality Improvement project focused on long term opioid therapy for chronic pain and included a structured assessment tool to support provider documentation, ensure</li> </ul>

	<p>appropriate treatment processes, and promote the advancement of patient care. Dr. LeMire expressed appreciation for his experience and noted that he looks forward to joining the workforce, gaining additional experience, and eventually bringing this knowledge back to Michigan to support rural healthcare in his home community.</p>
<p>Executive Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Withrow, Chair announced an Executive Session at 2:05 PM for 15 minutes, scheduled to end at 2:20 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 2:20PM. The Board returned to the open meeting.</li> <li>○ Action Following Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ D. Gibson motioned to approve the Delineation of Medical Privileges for Endocrinology Services, seconded, motion approved.</li> <li>▪ <i>D. Gibson, after reviewing the medical recommendations from the Medical Executive Committee (MEC), motioned to approve the Initial appointment of Pelbreton Balfour, MD (Tele cardiology); Nicholas Belanger, ARNP (Urology); Suzette Sutherland, MD (Urology), Trenton Overall, MD (Tele neurology) and the reappointment of Christopher Davis, MD (Emergency Medicine); Brandon Golden, MD (Emergency Medicine); Nicholas Mandelis, MD (Emergency Medicine); Jeremy Smith, MD (Emergency Medicine); Vanessa Ratcliff, CRNA (Anesthesia); Karen Caldemeyer, MD (Tele radiology); Christina Geatrakas, MD (Tele radiology); Jennifer Gutierrez, MD (Tele radiology); Lynn Ivey, MD (Tele radiology); James Manwill, MD (Tele radiology); David Moon, MD (Tele radiology); Surinder Rai, MD (Tele radiology); Joshua Sokol, MD (Tele radiology); Peter Verhey, MD (Tele radiology); Gerald Yutzy, MD (Tele radiology); Jeffrey Zorn, MD (Tele radiology), and noted Johnathon Bold, MD chose not to renew their privileges, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medical Staff Report:</b> Dr. Freed reported positive feedback indicating staff satisfaction with performing more complex cases and the benefit of more community members able to access care locally. He also noted plans to begin a pre-anesthesia clinic.</li> <li>• <b>Finance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ B. Truman provided highlights to the unaudited March 2026 finance report.</li> <li>○ B. Fields reported that Revenue Cycle achieved a historical high in billing and cash collections. Efforts are focused on patient satisfaction and strengthening community relationships. Additional staff were hired, resulting in an increase in the phone answer rate from 17% to 78% for the month.</li> <li>○ Brant presented the 2025 EMS profit and loss report and highlighted the continued need for EMS levy funding to support the service line.</li> <li>○ <i>D. Gibson motioned to approved Resolution 2026-6 Disposal of Whirlpool Freezer, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CEO Report:</b> A. Edwards reported that the Emergency Department remodel is underway, along with the conversion of Conference Room 1212 to support echocardiography and stress testing. He noted that the cardiology team is leaving Ellensburg, which has resulted in an increase in patient calls to schedule cardiology services locally. Planning has begun for the downtown clinic remodel. He also shared that an analysis is underway regarding a potential GPO transition and associated</li> </ul>

	<p>cost savings, as well as the evaluation of an ERP system for procurement and accounting that would integrate with the electronic medical record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L. Sahlinger, shared an overview of the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) and its role in reviewing patient navigation of healthcare services, systems, and facilities. Recruitment efforts are underway, with an informational session scheduled for May 27 at 5:00 pm and a goal of 5-7 community members joining this year.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strat Plan:</b> S. Ottley reported that work continues on the final strategic plan.</li> <li>● <b>Community Connection Opportunities:</b> Community connection activities in April included participation in the Earth Day event, hosting fifth grade students on site for CPR skills training, and conducting a mass casualty incident drill. May activities include a presentation at the Manson Community Council meeting by members of the ELT, participation in the Apple Blossom Parade in Manson alongside EMS, and recognition of Hospital Week from May 11 through May 15.</li> </ul>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>EMS Capital Project Update:</b> S. Ottley provided an update on the status of the ongoing EMS/Admin capital project.</li> <li>● <b>CHNA:</b> <i>J. LaPorte motioned to approve the CHNA Implementation plan with edits, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Board Training:</b> Board members participated in UKG payroll training and received an informative presentation from Matt Ellsworth, AWPMD Executive Director, that focused on roles and responsibilities of a Board member and understanding their distinct role and responsibilities with constituents and employees.</li> <li>● Discussion regarding moving the regular scheduled Board Meeting in May to accommodate staffing processes and timeliness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>D. Gibson motioned to approve Resolution 2026-7 Authorizing a change to a previously scheduled regular board meeting date, seconded, motion approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● M. Miller provided an update on the Specialty Clinic and related improvements.</li> <li>● R. Montgomery presented the CNO report, noting a change in OB leadership that reallocates the manager role to floor staffing and combines the ED and OB manager positions. She also reported that there are currently 16 open OB shifts, reflecting a reduction of open shifts from earlier this year.</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 4:10 PM for 60 minutes to end at 5:10 PM citing RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price and RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the performance of a public employee. An Action could be anticipated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 20 minutes</li> <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 5:50 pm and the Board resumed in open meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Action Items	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. LaPorte motioned to approve the organizational chart as presented, seconded, motion approved.</li> <li>● Roundtable discussion</li> </ul>

- L. Withrow adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm

Attest:

*Mary C Murphy*

Mary C Murphy (May 29, 2026 09:59:19 PDT)

Mary Murphy, Secretary

*Wendy Kenck*

Wendy Kenck, Executive Assistant

*Aaron Edwards*

Aaron Edwards (May 29, 2026 00:46:00 PDT)

Aaron Edwards, CEO










# Board Meeting Minutes 4.28.26

Final Audit Report

2026-05-29

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