

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

Commission Attendance:

(☐ not present ☒ present)

☒ Jordana LaPorte ☒ Lori Withrow, Chair	☒ Mary Murphy, Secretary ☒ Doug Gibson, Vice Chair	☒ Len England
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Staff Participants: A. Edwards, J. Barich, B. Fields, A. Benegas, Jim Cussins, Dr. Rothmeyer, Dr. Freed, M. Miller, R. Montgomery, L. Sahlinger, A. Benegas, T. Lautiki, S. Ottley
Community Members: Manuel Navarro

Recorder: Wendy Kenck

Agenda Item	Topic/Action
Call to Order Chair Report	L. Withrow called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and recited the Mission statement. - Chair Report: L. Withrow chair recognized EMS for achieving its 15th year of Lighthouse Recognition. Noted that July was a busy month and expressed appreciation to staff and administration for their efforts, dedication, and support during this month's fire incident.
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda <i>Edits to the June 23rd meeting minutes first Exec Session adjust ending time to 2:01pm</i> <i>L. England motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with edits, seconded, and motion approved.</i>
Chief of Staff Report	Chief of Staff Report: Dr. Rothmeyer reported continued progress in defining staff duties and responsibilities and remains on track to finalize the updated Medical Staff bylaws by year-end. Noted a strong group of ER providers currently on staff and positive growth within the nursing team. Implementation of the neurology consult service has begun. Dr. Rothmeyer noted challenges and concerns related to transitioning OB triage responsibilities to the ED when an OB nurse is unavailable. The need for specialized OB skills and experience among available staff remains a significant concern, creating ongoing training, competency, and staffing challenges that need to be addressed to ensure safe patient care.
Executive Session	L. Withrow, Chair announced an Executive Session at 1:40 pm for 15 minutes, scheduled to end at 1:55 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. L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 5 minutes L. Withrow announced Executive Session ended at 2 pm. The Board returned to the open meeting. - Action Following Executive Session: <i>D. Gibson , after reviewing the medical recommendations from the</i>

	<i>Medical Executive Committee (MEC), motioned to approve the Initial appointment of Natalie Bonthius, MD (Emergency Medicine), Brett Teodoro, CRNA (Anesthesia), Hope Opara, MD (Tele-neurology), reappointment of rent Lyman, PA-C (Physician Assistant), Michelle Pappy, MD (Family Medicine), Harsh Patel, MD (Tele-neurology), Tarvinder Singh, MD (Tele-neurology), Binod Wagle, MD (Tele-neurology), Arlene Sussman, MD (Tele-radiology), Blake Poleynard, MD (Tele-radiology), Cathleen Ivy, MD (Tele-radiology), Alison Haimes, MD (Tele-radiology), Benjamin Strong, MD (Tele-radiology), Cynthia Tortorelli, MD (Tele-radiology), Deborah Conway, MD (Teleradiology), Dennis DeJesus, MD (Tele-radiology), Joshua Morais, MD (Tele-radiology), Kay Lozano, MD (Tele-radiology), Mary Alfidi, MD (Tele-radiology), Megan Hellfield, MD (Tele-radiology), Nicholas Dickson, DO (Tele-radiology), Tariq Rashid, MD (Tele-radiology), William Whetsell, MD (Tele-radiology), and</i> ▪ <i>Liam O'Sullivan, MD (Emergency Medicine), Carson Van Sanford (Tele-neurology) chose not to renew their privileges, seconded, motion approved.</i> • <i>D. Gibson motioned to accept the delineation of privileges for Rheumatology, seconded, motion approved.</i>
Reports	• Medical Staff Report: Dr. Freed reported continued improvement in the MSU, with a steadily increasing case mix index, enhanced diagnostic and cardiology services, and rising specialty clinic volumes. He noted positive progress in the general surgery program with 24/7 coverage. Ongoing challenges with OB diversion were discussed, including labor and delivery admissions during diversion status, highlighting the need for a defined ED process and concerns regarding insurance coverage when care is provided while on diversion. • Finance: ○ J. Cussins reviewed the CFO financial summary for June ○ J. Cussins reported on the Revenue Cycle for May. ○ ERP selection has begun with demos being scheduled over the next 2 weeks. ○ <i>J. LaPorte motioned for Aaron Edwards to sign the letter of participation for the Health Trust GPO, seconded, motion approved</i> • CEO Report: A. Edwards provided updates on several strategic initiatives, including a UW Residency funding application submitted by Dr. Harberd for \$250,000 to be shared between LCH and CVCH. He also discussed potential technology funding opportunities that could help support ERP implementation efforts. Additionally, recruitment is underway for a service development position focused on grants and philanthropy, and a grant was awarded to fund an additional Community Health Worker. A. Edwards also noted LCH's participation in the state SNAP funding program, with funds expected to be distributed back to participating hospitals at the end of the year. ○ M. Marcus reported that a finalized Epic quote is expected soon, with implementation now targeted for December. • Grand Opening EMS: • Initial internal EMS Building planning meetings have been completed, with follow-up discussions held with Board members and final event planning underway. Discussions also included naming the building and establishing a dedicated address

	for the facility. • OB Task Force: Met with the CVCH CEO and two Board members to discuss obstetrics-related challenges facing both organizations. The group agreed to continue discussions and engage regional partners for guidance on potential solutions. • Medical Malpractice: Discussed rising malpractice claim costs, particularly related to surgical and obstetric services. Concerns were raised regarding increasing OB settlements and the resulting impact on insurance premiums, which could potentially double current costs. Increases in D&O and EPL insurance rates were also noted following the transition to a single carrier providing coverage in the state. • Community Connection Opportunities: L. Withrow and S. Ottley attended a city planning meeting where a proposed change to designate the former hospital as a long-term care facility was presented. No objections were raised during the meeting.
Old Business	• Strat Planning: A. Edwards has requested IT leadership to facilitate an IT strategic planning session. • Philanthropy: L. Withrow and M. Murphy met with both Guilds over the past several weeks to better understand their organizations and provide education and support regarding the hospital, EMS, and other local healthcare organizations. Guild Y is raising funds for EMS gym equipment, while Guild B is launching a fundraising campaign to support the Epic implementation.
New Business	• Board Education: Board members participated in a roundtable discussion and shared key insights and lessons learned from the WSHA Conference held in June. • Resolutions: <i>D. Gibson motioned to approve Resolution 2026-14 and Resolution 2026-15, seconded, motion approved.</i> ○ <i>Resolution 2026-16 was not approved at this time.</i>
Public	• No Public Comment
Executive Session	• L. Withrow announced an Executive Session at 5:45 PM for 40 minutes to end at 6:25 PM citing RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the performance of a public employee. An Action could be anticipated. ○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 20 minutes ○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 20 minutes ○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 20 minutes ○ L. Withrow extended the Executive Session 5 minutes ○ Executive Session ended at 7:30 pm and the Board resumed in open meeting.
Action Items	• A. Edwards to connect with city council in regard to LCH presence in the valley • Board to review proposed strategic goals and provide feedback by Friday Aug 7th • L. Withrow and D. Gibson to attend the foundation meeting Aug 6 @ 5pm • S. Ottley to Identify 4 attendees to the Guild B event October 5th by the end of the week. • Executive Assistant to coordinate the web posting of the Board Bio sketches
Adjournment	• Roundtable discussion • L. Withrow adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm

Attest:

Mary C Murphy

Mary C Murphy (Sep 12, 2026 12:34:41 PDT)

Mary Murphy, Secretary

Aaron Edwards

Aaron Edwards (Sep 14, 2026 06:59:21 PDT)

Aaron Edwards, CEO

Wendy Kenck

Wendy Kenck, Executive Assistant

Board Minutes 7.28.26

Final Audit Report

2026-09-14

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