

July 30, 2026

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for Island Health was called to order by Commissioner Lang at 7:30 am on July 30, 2026, in the Cypress Room of Island Health.

A Webex option was available for the Regular Board Meeting.

Those present were: Commissioner Lynne Lang, PhD, Commissioner Jan Iversen, Commissioner Warren Tessler, Commissioner James Tangaro, and Commissioner Joseph Mulcahy, MD.

Also present were: Elise Cutter, CEO; Jason Hogge, MD, CMO; Paul Hammer, MD, COS; Galina Gandy, CIO, Jennifer Graham, CNO Colin Walker, CAS, Paul Vachek, CFO, Jim Smith, Interim CFO and Kim Graf, Executive Business Manager

Public Comment, if any:

Adrian Fewing made a public comment regarding the nursing profession.

Action Items Completed

None

July Spotlights:

Introduction: Elise Cutter, CEO, was pleased to introduce Paul Vachek to the Commissioners. Paul has joined the Senior Leadership Team and will serve as the Chief Financial Officer. Paul brings with him over 20 years of healthcare finance leadership and has experience with financial turnarounds with several healthcare systems. All welcomed Paul to the Island Health Leadership team.

Elise thanked Jim Smith, Interim CFO, for his work during his time serving as Interim CFO with Island Health.

Patient Experience:

Jennifer Graham, CNO shared a patient experience story regarding personalized care and compassion to patients.

Board Quality & Patient Safety:

Commissioner Tangaro briefly remarked on the recent Quality Management Organization where MQI, dashboard tracking and policies were discussed.

Jennifer Graham, CNO reported that Island Health recently was the recipient of the following patient safety and quality awards:

- Rural Stroke Silver Award-American Heart Association
- Achievement of Quality Award-Gold Washington State Hospital Association
- Outstanding Patient Experience Award-Healthgrades

Jennifer reviewed current designations which have recently re-certified:

- Trauma Level III
- Cardiac Level II
- Stroke Level III

Medical Staff:

Medical Staff Report:

Dr. Hammer provided an update on the following Medical Staff Committees meetings:

- Quality Insurance
- Credentials & Bylaws
- Department of Surgery
- Department of Anesthesia
- Department of Obstetrics and Pediatrics

Reports/Discussion:

Galina Gandy, CIO provided an update on the following Information System initiatives and Diagnostic Imaging:

- Suki: Ambient AI used for provider documentation. Suki is now fully integrated into our Meditech Expanse EMR.
- Meditech's expansion with using AI to assist with ambient listening, "Ask Expanse" search feature, claim denials agents and MyHealth Assistant.
- Claude: AI assistance tool which is currently being used for non-PHI work such as Policy & Governance documents, RFP development, service line profitability analyses, leadership slide decks, dashboards & business summaries
- Acknowledged the Island Health Foundation for their support with funding for a new 3D mammography system

Colin Walker, CAS, provided an ambulatory services update highlighting the following:

Expanding Access to Care:

- Orthopedics-Addition of Kristen Roberts, PA-C and Jonathan Seavey, DO spine surgeon
- Island Surgeons will now be called Island General Surgery & Gastroenterology to better describe the services provided
- Primary Care-Addition of Kay Kay Gambs, MD family medicine, Ryan Wisler, MD internal medicine, Sheena Wisler, MD OB/GYN and Paula Whitmire, MD family medicine for Island Primary Care Orcas
- Cardiology-Addition of Matt Grisso, PA-C and national recruiting efforts for a general cardiologist

Elise Cutter, CEO, provided updates on the following:

- Advocacy efforts at local, State and Federal levels
- The recent visit to Island Health by the Washington State Healthcare Committee
- Efforts towards sustainability with revenue cycle initiatives, supply cost reductions and inventory management, labor management and leveraging partnerships
- Overview of the Island Health Ideas into Action Program
- Office of Talent Management will transition back to Human Resources
- Upcoming staff sessions for Inside Scoop sessions, retirement resources, tuition assistance opportunities and remarked on the new Richard Iversen Rising Stars Memorial Scholarship.

Consent Agenda:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Iversen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Tangaro seconded the motion. Commissioners Lang, Iversen, Tessler, Tangaro and Mulcahy all voted aye, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Succession:

Commissioner Lang shared that Commissioner Iversen has announced her retirement from serving as Commissioner Position #1 for Island Health. Commissioner Iversen will step down effective August 27, 2026.

Commissioner Iversen briefly remarked on her 20 years of service as a Commissioner and shared that she will not be stepping away from Island Health and will continue her work with the Island Health Foundation with the Richard Iversen “Rising Stars” Memorial Scholarship and Iversen Scholarship.

There was review of the process for filling the vacated Position #1:

Step 1: June 26, 2025, Regular Board Meeting: Board will nominate candidates for consideration to fill position #3 on the Board of Commissioners.

Step 2: July 30, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: Commissioner Lang will outline the succession plan & nominate one or more candidates to fill Position #1.

Step 3: July 31-August 14: Post the nominated name for 15 days in three (3) public places which can include our website. Accept any applications that are sent to Island Health for Position 1.

Step 4: August 17-21: Board reviews candidate applications.

Step 5: August 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: Board will take **ACTION** to appoint candidate to fill Position 1.

It was shared that the appointed individual will attend the September 24th Regular Board Meeting and be sworn in as Commissioner to Position 1 at the beginning of the meeting. The appointee will immediately become Commissioner sitting in Position 1 beginning September 24, 2026 and serve through the certification of the November 2027 General Election. If the appointed is elected, they will continue to serve in Position 1 through December 31, 2029. If the appointee is not elected, the elected candidate will immediately begin to serve in Position 1 after the November 2027 General Election is certified and will serve in Position 1 through December 31, 2029

Executive Session:

Commissioner Lang called for an Executive Session to review the qualifications of a candidate for appointment as a District Commissioner RCW42.30.110 (1)(h).

The session is expected to last 30 minutes and ACTION will be taken therefore the board will reconvene.

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:00 am.

The Board reconvened at 9:45 am.

Commissioner Lang announced pursuant to applicable provisions of RCW 42.12.080, Board of Commissioners nominates Jan Hendrickson for consideration to serve as Commissioner of the Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 2 (Island Health) Position #1. This is an unexpired term and not on the ballot during the year of the vacancy. The appointed will remain in the position through the next Special Purpose General Election for Public Hospital Districts in November 2027. If the appointee is elected, they will serve in position 1 through December 2029. If not elected, the candidate elected will immediately begin serving in Position 1 after the election is certified and remain in position through December 2029.

Commissioner Lang, made a motion to nominate Jan Hendrickson to fill Position #1 on the Island Health Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Tessler seconded the motion. Commissioners Lang, Bogosian, Tessler, Iversen and Maughan all voted aye, and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

- CARES Champions attend June Board Meeting for recognition-May Board Meeting
- Referrals and Authorization Process Improvement Project Presentation-April Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Lang called for the meeting to be adjourned at 9:50am.

Lynne Lang, PhD, President/Commissioner

Jan Iversen, Commissioner

Warren Tessler, Secretary/Commissioner

James Tangaro, Commissioner

Joseph Mulcahy, MD, Commissioner