



**Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**January 18, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting (In person attendance limited to invitees:  
Commissioners (5) and Administrative Staff (5) at FM-C and  
call in option for public)**

Toll-Free Number: 877-853-5257 US

Meeting ID: 258 476 6248

Passcode: 12345

**AGENDA**

- I. Introductions**
- II. Approval of Agenda (1)**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. December 21, 2020 (Regular Meeting)\* **(2-4)**
- IV. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence**
- V. Reports:**
  - a. Operations Report (G. Scherer) **(5-9)**
  - b. Superintendent's Report (J. Petersen) **(10)**
    - 1. Update on Vaccine Plan (Rich Elliott, KVFR/Anna Scarlett, KVH)
    - 2. Introduction of Tricia Sinek, Strategic Projects Coordinator
  - c. Ancillary Report (R. Holden) **(11)**
  - d. Finance Report, Approval of Expenses\* (S. Olander) **(12-23)**
  - e. Station 99 Updates (R. Kaiser/R. Urlacher)
- VI. Old Business**
- VII. New Business**
  - a. Vacancy, Commissioner Position #5 (S. Olander) **(24)**
  - b. AHA Rural Health Care Leadership Conference – Virtual Conference
  - c. Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2021
- VIII. Adjournment**

Note: Upcoming Agenda Items

Open Door Clinic Quarterly Report

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Key:

\*Action Item



# Kittitas County Public Hospital District #2

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Meeting Date: Monday: December 21, 2020  
Minutes of: Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Place: In person/Remote via Zoom/Telephone  
Minutes Submitted By: Scott Olander, Treasurer

### **Call to Order:**

Regular Meeting: Call to order made by Commissioner Rogalski at 6:30 p.m.

### **Introductions:**

Commissioners: Floyd Rogalski, Melissa Becker, Fred Benjamin, Kevin Nicholson and Hartwig Vatheuer. Superintendent: Julie Petersen; Treasurer: Scott Olander; Ancillary Operations; Rhonda Holden and EMS Manager: Geoff Scherer

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Action: A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Commissioner Vatheuer and seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Action: A motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Becker and seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. Motion carried.

Action: A motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Benjamin and seconded by Commissioner Nicholson. Motion carried.

### **Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence:**

None.

### **Operations Report:**

The Commissioners reviewed the written operations report and operating statistics for November 2020. There were 58 transports in November; 6 transports below the monthly budget. YTD Medic One is 49 transports below budget. The ambulances are running well and none of the crew members are positive for Covid-19. Geoff sent a letter of intent to Braun NW committing HD2 to purchase a new RAM ambulance in 2021. Medic One started winter operations with Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Julie provided a verbal report that focused mostly on Covid-19 testing and vaccine administration as noted below. In addition, Julie advised that an exceptionally good Rural Hospital Conference scheduled to be held in Phoenix on February 17 & 18, 2021 would be done remotely via Zoom. Cost for the conference is \$200 per person.

- KVH uses a Biofire test if rapid test results are needed. Test is very expensive and supply of Biofire test kits is currently stable but at times has been unstable. KVH's current Biofire inventory is 1100 test kits.
- KVH has been doing from 20 to 25 Covid-19 tests per day at the Cle Elum Clinic ambulance entrance.
- Medic One and KVH coordinated on the transportation to KVH and back to Cle Elum for infusion of Bamlanivimab experimental medication to three upper county positive Covid-19 patients.
- KVH received 975 doses of Pfizer vaccine on 12/17 and began administering the vaccine on 12/18. Continued administering the vaccine over the weekend until 12/23. Rich Elliot with KVFR is leading the effort to administer the vaccine. Currently, approximately 100 individuals per day are receiving the vaccine. KVH and the KVFR are following CDC guideline to determine priority of who is receiving the vaccine.

Julie expressed appreciation for the good working relationship between Hospital District 1 and Hospital District 2 and the collaboration and cooperation between the districts that occurred in 2020.

### **Ancillary Report:**

The Commissioners reviewed the written ancillary report. Rhonda advised that there is a lot of illness with the KVFR crews. Rhonda provided proposed building signage with pricing for the new ambulance station. Geoff will work with the commissioners on a final signage recommendation.

### **Finance Report:**

The financial statements for November 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. The review included a review of actual versus budgeted revenue and expense variances. November transports of 58 were below budget by 6 transports. YTD transports are 49 transports below budget. Average charges per transport was below budget by \$225 per transport which contributed to the negative revenue variance of \$26,490. November contractual adjustments were below budget by \$20,378 because of lower transport volume and due to the receipt of additional GEMT funds from the Medicaid payers. There were 60 hours of probation Medic training in November which contributed to the negative labor variance of \$15,108. Another factor contributing to the wage variance was due to the budget being spread evenly between the months. The even budget spread did not account for the contracted labor rate increases that occurred beginning in October. Medic One reported a positive Net Income of \$1,675 for November compared to budgeted Net Income of \$6,787; a negative variance of \$5,112. YTD Net Income is \$114,616; a positive variance of \$48,972.

Scott advised that Medic One would be recording a receivable of \$59,008 in December financials for a GEMT cost report settlement.

Action: A motion to approve the checks for November was made by Commissioner Vatheuer and seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. Motion carried.

Scott reviewed the proposed 2021 Hospital District 2 Operating and Capital budget with the commissioners. The revenue and expense assumptions were discussed.

Action: A motion to approve the 2021 Operating and Capital budget was made by Commissioner Vatheuer and seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. Motion carried.

Scott presented a Services Agreement Amendment for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. The Services agreement commits Hospital District 2 to continue a financial subsidy to support the Cle Elum Urgent Care Clinic.

Action: A motion to approve the Service Agreement Amendment for the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 was made by Commissioner Benjamin and seconded by Commissioner Nicholson. Motion carried.

Scott presented an Administrative, Clerical and Management Services Agreement Amendment for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. The management portion of the agreement at \$895 per month covers the Superintendent, Treasurer, Chief Ancillary Officer and Administrative Assistant's time. All other staff devoting time to Hospital District 2 are billed at their hourly rate plus a benefit factor.

Action: A motion to approve the Administrative, Clerical and Management Services Agreement Amendment for the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 was made by Commissioner Nicholson and seconded by Commissioner Becker. Motion carried.

#### **Ambulance Station:**

Julie provided a verbal report that ambulance station construction has been suspended until mid-April. Commissioners asked who was paying for the cost of the large earth moving equipment that is still present at the site. Ron will follow-up and report at the next board meeting.

#### **New Business:**

The next regular meeting date: January 18, 2021 at KVH Family Medicine, Cle Elum or possibly via telephone or Zoom.

#### **Executive Session:**

There was no executive session.

#### **Announcements:**

There being no further business the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Commissioner Rogalski.



## Operation's Manager Report – December 2020

	December 2020	December 2019
Calls for Service	113	123
Patient Count	93	86
Patient Transports	67	66
Patient Refusals	14	10
Year to Date Transports	763	813
Station #73 Transports	31	
Station # 99 Transports	36	
Passed Calls	0	

### PERSONNEL

I have one per-diem EMT out on a 14-day quarantine from an exposure to a positive covid-19 patient. All but 2 full time staff have had their first Pfizer vaccination. We had 96 hours of probationary medic training in November.

### APPARATUS

All apparatus has been working well. M5 has been converted into a Covid-19 positive only rig, with all cabinets tapped off and the box and cab visqueen plastic to slow contamination of the driving compartment. M6 has been going to the pass with one medic for a 12-hour shift on Saturday and Sunday. I will start to work with Braun this month to finalize the specifications for our M9 build, there will be some very minor changes from the M8 build.

Year	Unit	Beg ODO	End ODO	Miles	Location	Comments
2019	M8	14,871	17,549	2,678	Station 99	1 <sup>st</sup> Out
2018	M7	51,118	55,096	3,978	Station 73	1 <sup>st</sup> Out
2016	M6	112,689	113,468	779	Station 73	Backup
2016	M5	133,781	134,164	383	Station 99	Backup
Total Miles				7,818		

### MISCELLANES

- The agency has started winter operations with Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue and has been sending a single resource Medic and ambulance to the Pass on weekends. Snoqualmie Pass has been providing an EMT or Firefighter for use as a driver.
- Will be working with Kittitas County Health Network to provide staffing for patient assessments via the A-Team, it will be on an as needed basis, and billed per patient to the Network.
- December overlapping calls were 31.86%
- December Level Zero - 6:51
- The crews have been helping out daily at the COVID-19 clinic in Cle Elum calling patients with their results and documenting it in their medical record, often there are over 200 calls to be made and documented.

## Kittitas County Hospital District #2

### Patient Transport Count per Destination - 2020

Hospital	YTD	Oct	Nov	Dec
Central Washington Hospital	5	0	0	0
Harborview	29	3	4	6
KVH	551	47	43	46
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital	13	0	0	0
Swedish Issaquah	84	12	6	3
Virginia Mason	4	0	0	0
Yakima Regional	0	0	0	0
Yakima Memorial	24	0	3	4
Childrens	3	0	0	0
University of Washington	5	3	0	0
Valley Renton	4	0	0	0
Overlake	30	3	1	3

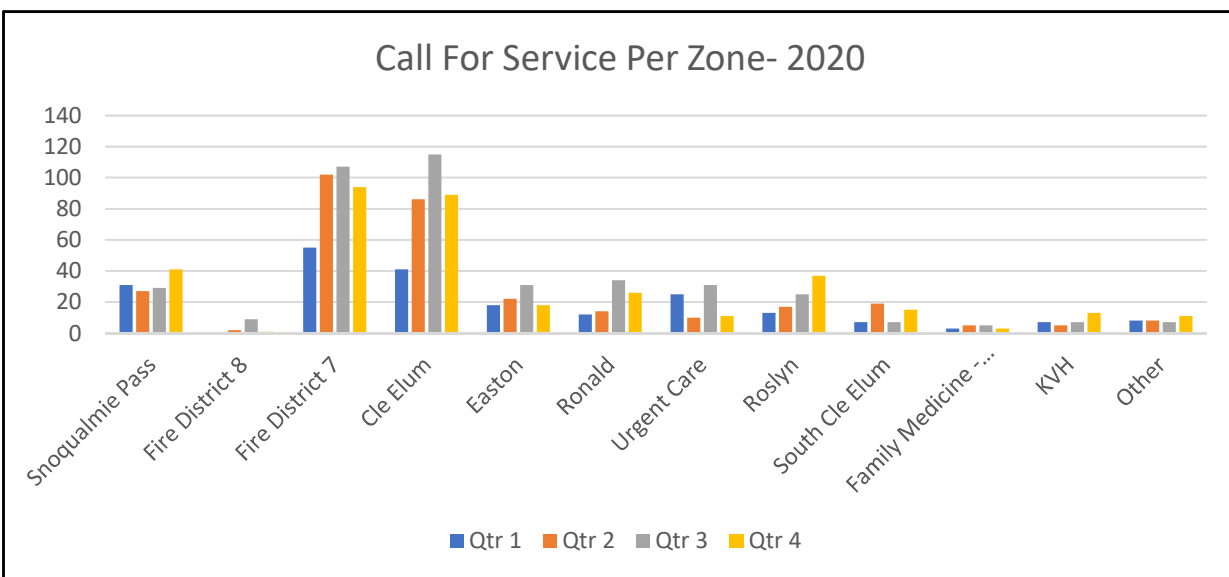
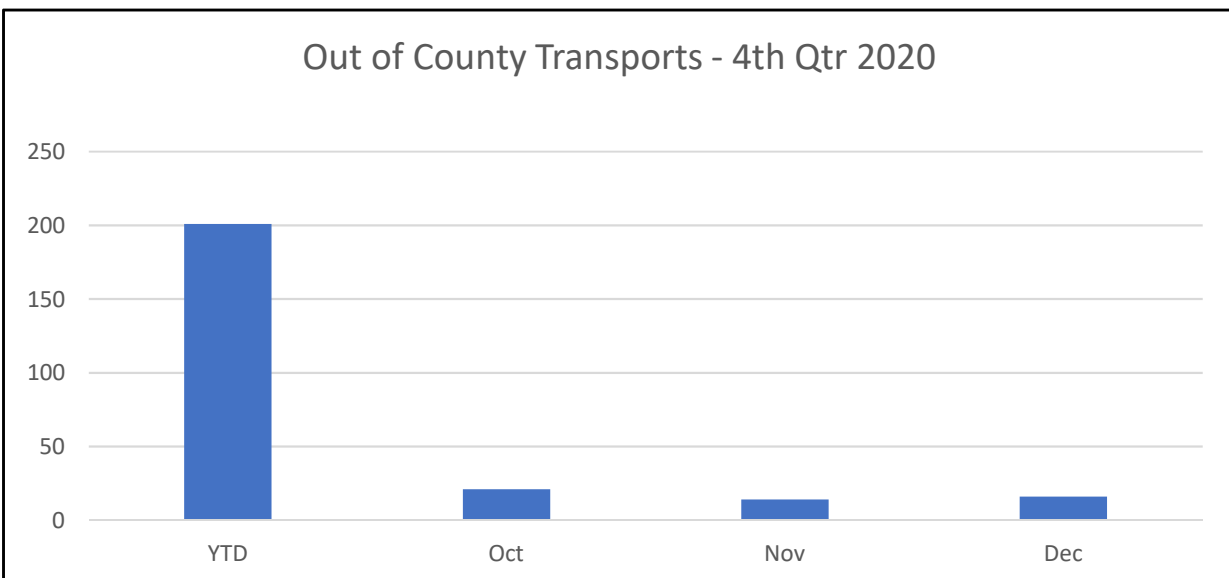
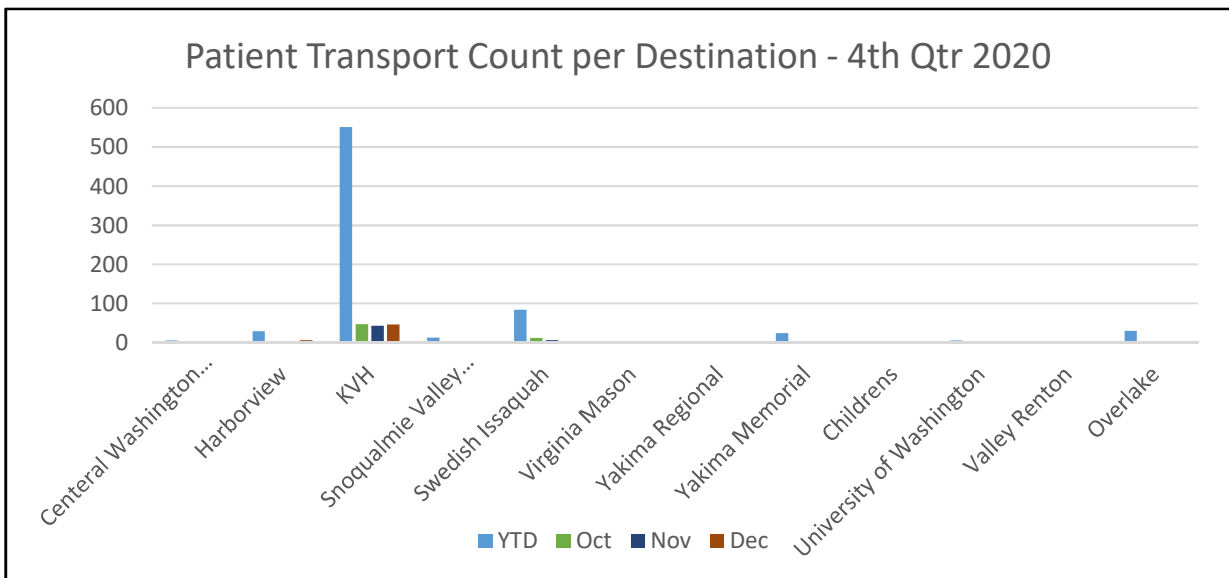
	YTD	Oct	Nov	Dec
Out of County Transports	201	21	14	16

### Call For Service Per Zone

Zone	YTD	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snoqualmie Pass	128	17	13	11
Fire District 8	12	0	1	0
Fire District 7	358	35	33	26
Cle Elum	331	31	28	30
Easton	89	9	5	4
Ronald	86	8	8	10
Urgent Care	77	5	0	6
Roslyn	92	8	23	6
South Cle Elum	48	1	7	7
Family Medicine - Cle Elum	16	1	0	2
KVH	32	2	3	8
Other	34	6	1	4

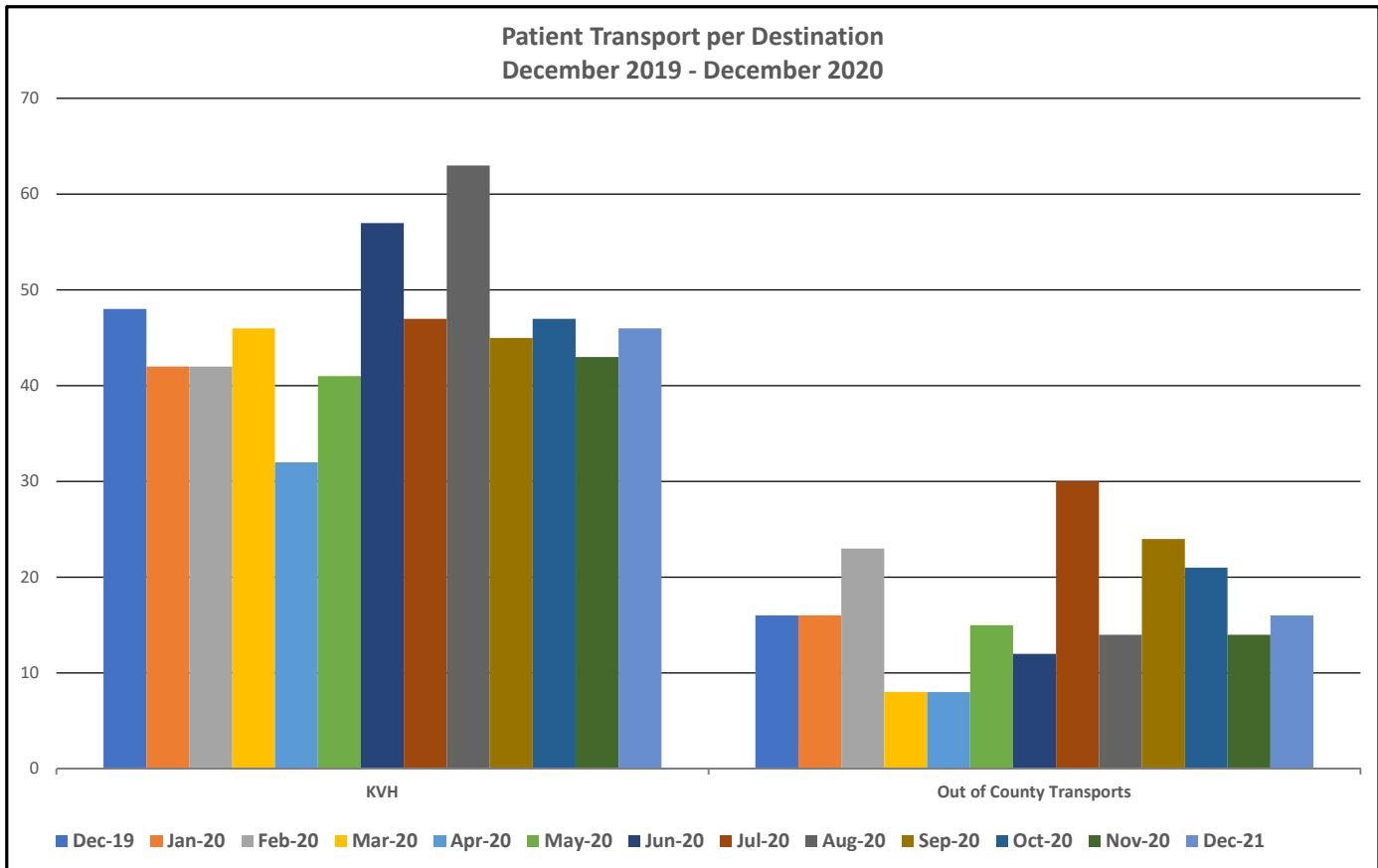
Zone	YTD	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Snoqualmie Pass	128	31	27	29	41
Fire District 8	12	0	2	9	1
Fire District 7	358	55	102	107	94
Cle Elum	331	41	86	115	89
Easton	89	18	22	31	18
Ronald	86	12	14	34	26
Urgent Care	77	25	10	31	11
Roslyn	92	13	17	25	37
South Cle Elum	48	7	19	7	15
Family Medicine - Cle Elum	16	3	5	5	3
KVH	32	7	5	7	13
Other	34	8	8	7	11

Comments:



### Patient Transport per Destination

Hospital	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-21
Central Washington Hospital	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Harborview	2	1	2	0	1	1	3	4	3	1	3	4	6
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital	2	1	8	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Swedish Issaquah	6	7	8	6	3	6	4	13	6	10	12	6	3
Virginia Mason	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Yakima Regional	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima Memorial	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	5	0	3	4
Children's	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
University of Washington	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Overlake	3	3	2	0	2	0	2	4	2	4	3	1	3
KVH	48	42	42	46	32	41	57	47	63	45	47	43	46
Out of County Transports	16	16	23	8	8	15	12	30	14	24	21	14	16

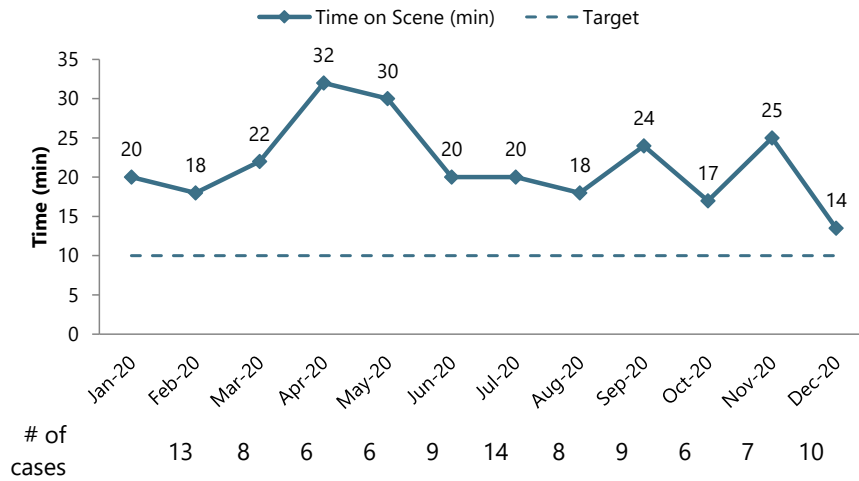


# Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2

## Quality Metrics

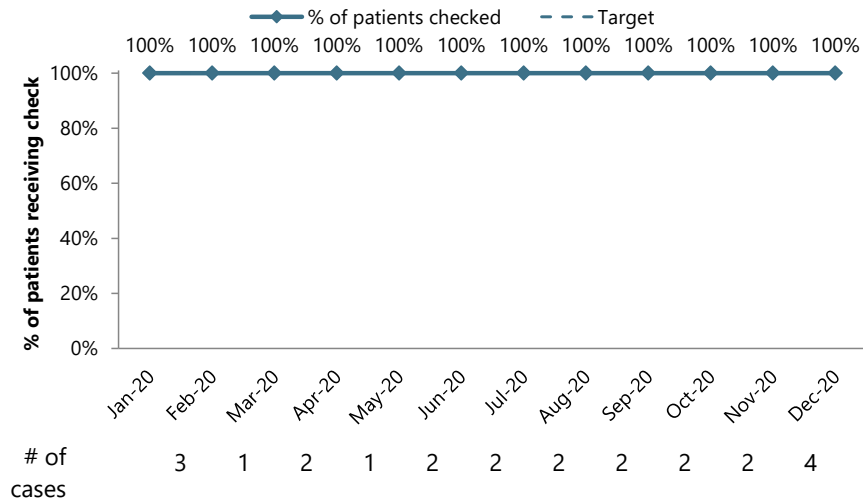
### Time on Scene

for trauma patients



### Glucose Checked

for patients with stroke symptoms





## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Julie Petersen**

**January 2021**

### **COVID 19, Flu Season and a Vaccine**

Kittitas County Incident Command has designated two individuals to coordinate the Vaccine Branch of county activities: Rich Elliott of KVFR and Anna Scarlett of KVH. Either Anna or Rich will be available to update the HD#2 Board on vaccine planning in Kittitas County.

As of this writing, January 14, the Kittitas County focus has been on vaccinating high risk providers and first responders. Our first shipment was of the Pfizer product which arrived in a case of 975 doses. We have received only a couple hundred of the Moderna. The IC Vaccine Branch has done an amazing job of balancing the need to stay within the phase, move quickly to vaccinate and ensure that no doses are wasted. Some high risk providers refused the first allocation and some were simply not available so there will be an ongoing need to get high risk providers through the two cycle process for weeks, if not months to come. At the same time, additional phases will be incorporated into the process.

### **Services in Kittitas County**

The KVH Strategic Plan emphasized the need to build partnerships to expand specialty services in Kittitas County. KVH has had more success recruiting and staffing those programs themselves than in partnering with the large systems. We enter 2021 with specialty services in:

ENT	Suzanne Cleland-Zamudio, MD
Neurology	Andrew Gustavson, MD
Dermatology	Susan Oldenkamp, MD
	Julia Riel, PA-C
Vascular	Michael Zammit, MD

In addition to new specialties, we have added new providers in several of the clinics and seen the return of Orthopedics Northwest to Kittitas County. We look forward to moving forward with these new services in more normal times.

### **Surge Planning**

Throughout the state, hospital bed and staff capacity remains fragile. KVH has made the decision to delay scheduled inpatient surgeries at this time, both to preserve our ability to serve Kittitas County residents, and to aid in decompressing overcrowding at other hospitals. We have not stopped all scheduled procedures and, of course, we can always accommodate emergent and urgent surgical cases. Nurse leadership is monitoring capacity on a daily basis and will make the call to remain open or to close. Again, as of January 14, KVH remains closed to scheduled inpatient surgeries through mid-February but open to scheduled outpatients.

### **Supporting Positive Patients**

Until quite recently, Kittitas County Public Health has been making routine, daily calls to the recovering COVID patients in our communities. KVH feels that these welfare checks have helped reduce the number of unnecessary ED visits by providing reassurance and a friendly voice. KCPHD no longer has the capacity to perform these calls.

Laura Bobovski, KVH Foundation Assistant, has coordinated with her Board, Hospice Friends volunteers and other community members to resume this important work.

## Ancillary Services report to Hospital District #2 Board of Commissioners January 2021

### **Ancillary Service Operation Report:**

#### **Tree Stumps on Davis Street Boundary Line:**

At the December meeting, Commissioners were asking why the stumps were left tall at the boundary line on Davis Street instead of being cut flush to the ground. This was done at the request of Belsaas & Smith, who plan to pull the stumps at a future date.

#### **Covid-19 Clinic Testing:**

Patient volume in the Ellensburg Covid-19 Testing clinic peaked in December with 180-190 tests per day. The volume has been a bit lighter as we have moved into the second week of January. Testing in Cle Elum has been 15-20 on weekends and 25-30 on weekdays. KVH lab has 1,437 rapid test kits available to use for patients at KVH or staff/first responders who need a rapid test at the request of Public Health or Employee Health.

Washington State Department of Health provided 600 BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests to KVH. We have passed these on to Public Health to use in Covid-19 testing in the schools. A second supply of these test kits will also be given to Public Health.

#### **Treatment for Covid-19:**

KVH has a good supply of monoclonal antibodies that can be given to patients prior to becoming ill enough to require oxygen or hospitalization. These medications are given as an outpatient IV infusion at KVH. We also have IV Remdesivir in good supply, this is a medication given to hospitalized patients with Covid-19 and we can obtain Covid-19 Convalescent Plasma from the Red Cross. All of these drugs/therapies have Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration.

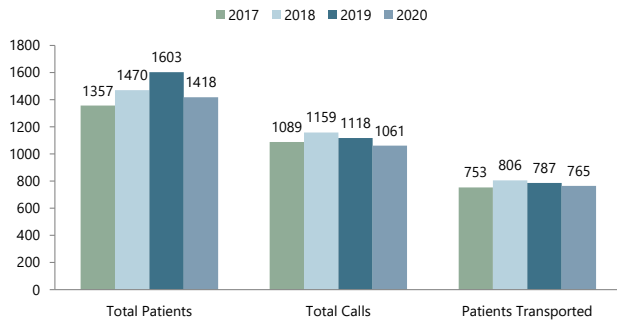
#### **Cle Elum Physical Therapy:**

We have a PT traveler working in the Cle Elum Clinic to cover paternity leave for Joe Smith.

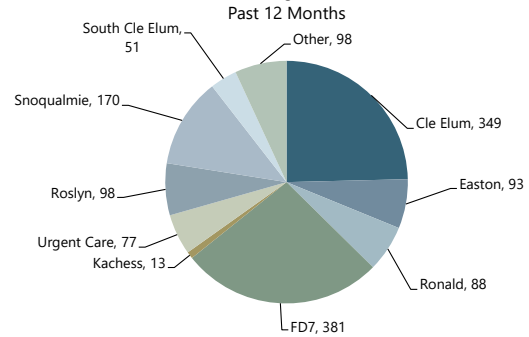
Respectfully submitted by Rhonda Holden, MSN, CENP

## Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2

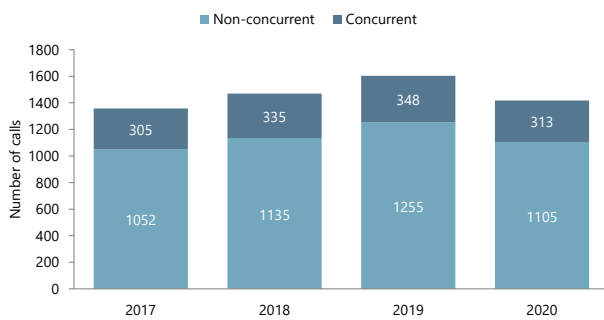
### Volumes, YTD



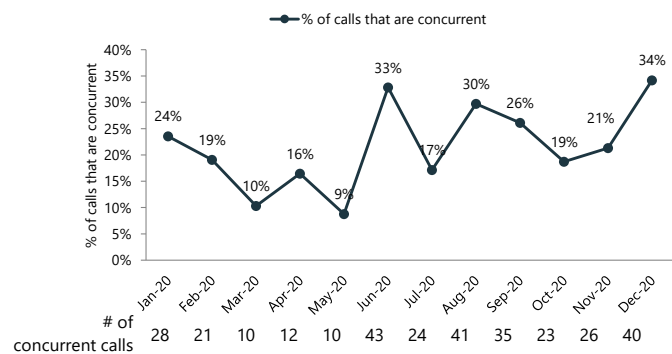
### Calls by Zone



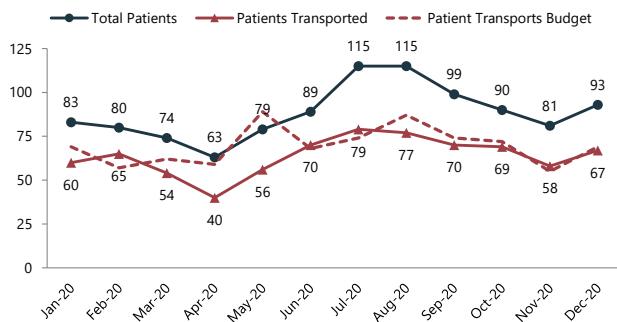
### Concurrent Calls, YTD



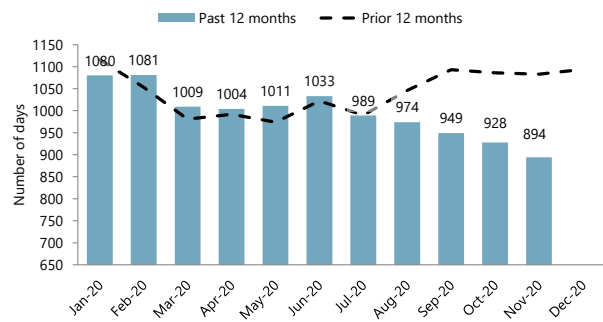
### Concurrent Calls



### Patients and Transports



### Days Cash on Hand





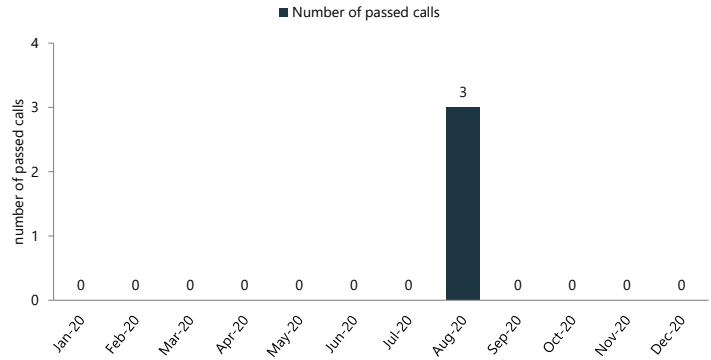
## Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2

### Turnout Time - Dispatch to Enroute

1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

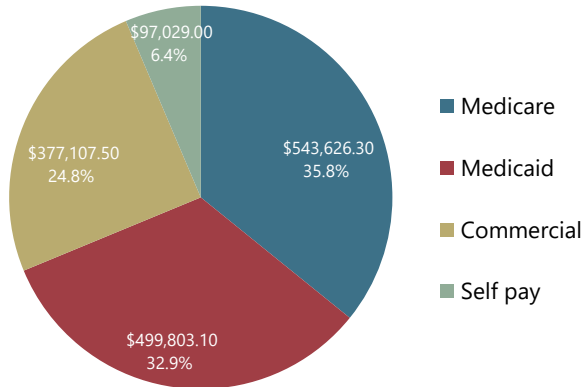
Apparatus	Responses	Turnout Time
A511 (CEFD)	1	4:57
<i>CEFD Overall</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4:57</i>
A731 (FD7)	1	0:34
<i>FD7 Overall</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0:34</i>
M931(HD2)	556	2:13
M932 (HD2)	5	1:10
M991 (HD2)	736	2:05
M992 (HD2)	35	4:21
<i>HD2 Overall</i>	<i>1332</i>	<i>2:12</i>

### Passed Calls



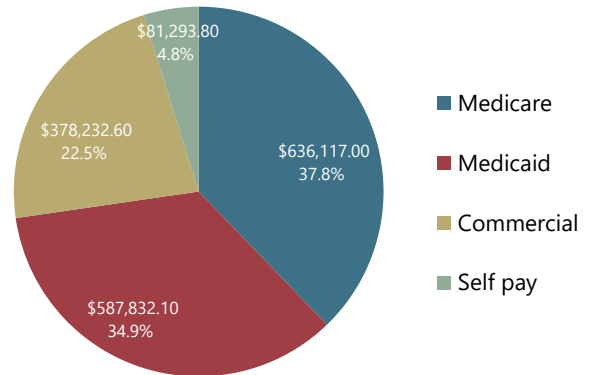
### Payor Mix by Charges

10/1/2019 to 9/30/2020



### Payor Mix by Charges

7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019



## **Finance Report**


*To be delivered at meeting*



**Process for Appointment of New Member  
Kittitas County Public Hospital District #2 (KCPHD#2)  
Position #5 'at large'**

Proposed Schedule  
January - February 2021

KCPHD press release	January 20
Email letter to KCPHD#1 and 2 employees	January 20
KCPHD website information activated	January 20
Ads / Legal Notification and FaceBook posting of open position (Tribune 1/21 & 1/28 send on 1/19)	January 21 – February 6 with request for Letters of Interest
Follow-up article as needed	To be determined
Deadline for receipt of Letters of Interest	February 5
Screening of Applicants	Week of February 8
Finalist Candidate Interviews and Selection of Board member	Week of February 15
Swearing in and Board Meeting	March 15
Orientation of New Board Member	March/April

A photograph of a wind farm on a rolling hill at sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and red near the horizon. A full moon is visible in the sky. Several white wind turbines are silhouetted against the colorful sky. One turbine is prominently featured in the foreground on the left, while others are scattered across the horizon.


**Welcome, 2021. We've been  
waiting a long, long time.**



Kittitas Valley Healthcare

*Your Home for Health*

**Here's to fresh starts and  
healthy homes for all of us.**

A photograph of a wind farm on a rolling hill at sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and red near the horizon. A full moon is visible in the sky. Several white wind turbines are silhouetted against the colorful sky. One turbine is prominently featured in the foreground on the left, while others are scattered across the hill in the background.

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## Senior Center

"Working with Seniors & Community"  
719 E. Third St., Cle Elum, WA  
509-674-7530  
www.centennial-center.org

Free meals available on Fridays  
Call 509-933-3333 to make arrangements.

Anyone over 60 years of age  
qualifies for a free meal, Regardless  
of income, Open to the public.

# Don't put off skin cancer screening

By Dr. Susan Oldenkamp  
Dermatologist at  
Kittitas Valley Healthcare



KITTITAS COUNTY – It seems unusual to be writing about skin cancer in November, but 2020 has been an unusual year.

When the COVID-19 epidemic first hit we advised patients to postpone nonessential visits to the clinic, but now that we have effective safety measures in place at KVH, we have resumed regular skin cancer screenings. Who should be screened?

First, anyone with a family history of malignant melanoma, and those with a large number of atypical moles, should be screened on a regular basis.

Second, anyone with a personal history of skin cancer should be screened.

In addition, anyone with a history of precancerous lesions, called actinic keratosis, needs to be screened.

Regular skin cancer screening helps us catch skin cancers early, when they are the smallest and most easily treated.

Even if you don't receive regular skin cancer screenings, watch for a flesh colored, or translucent bump that bleeds and does not heal. That may be a basal cell carcinoma.

A thickened, red, scaly patch that persists and may bleed can be a sign of squamous cell carcinoma.

Those two types of skin cancer, sometimes lumped together and called 'non-melanoma skin cancer,' almost always occur on chronically sun-exposed skin. They are not usually life threatening but will continue to get larger until they are removed.

When evaluating a pigmented spot or 'mole', look for the ABCDE's. A is for asymmetry, B is for irregular borders, C is for more than one color, and D is for diameter greater than 6mm, the size of a pencil eraser. More recently, E was added. E is for 'evolving' or changing. Any pigmented spot that changes should be pointed out to your Primary Care Physician or dermatologist.

You may also hear the term 'ugly duckling.' This refers to a spot that stands out as different from your other pigmented spots.

Melanoma can occur anywhere on the skin. It's a serious type of cancer and it is important to diagnose and treat it as early as possible.

Although we need to continue to remain vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we can and should attend to our other health needs as well, including taking care of our skin.



## REGIONAL NEWS

### Mobile broadband coverage expanding in remote areas of Chelan and Kittitas Counties

**CENTRAL WASHINGTON** – Intelsat and Inland Cellular are expanding 4G LTE broadband coverage to rural and remote areas of Washington State. The areas, mainly in Chelan and Kittitas counties, will serve the Liberty Campground, portions of Swauk Creek and William Creek,

Hwy 970/97, and some of the Teanaway Community Forest.

Due to rugged terrain and expensive installation of fiber cables, mobile coverage has never before been available in this area. By using satellite technology, the ability to dependably use a smartphone will be beneficial for drivers,

hikers and campers who need emergency assistance, access to area trail and road maps or to simply upload pictures and information to social media.

This area is also home to mining and construction, offering work crews the ability to connect with teams at a remote home base.

### New COVID Clinic opens in Cle Elum

**CLE ELUM** – To best meet the needs of our communities, Kittitas Valley Healthcare (KVH) has opened a second COVID testing clinic in Cle Elum located behind KVH Family Medicine. - Cle Elum, the clinic is open daily\* from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If you are exhibiting symptoms that you feel require immediate medical attention, please call 9-1-1. If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but do not require emergent care, a KVH COVID clinic might be the right place for you. At our COVID clinics you can have your questions answered and receive information about the COVID-19 virus. Providers and clinical staff will be available to complete the

exam and sample collection right there on site.

COVID testing at KVH COVID Clinics is available to anyone, regardless of insurance, for no out of pocket costs. If insurance is available, we will bill the insurance company for the cost of the test. Individuals should not receive a bill for a co-pay or deductible. If you have any questions you may call KVH Patient Financial Services at 509.933.8657.

\*KVH COVID Clinics are open daily with these exceptions: closed on Thanksgiving Day (and the Friday after in Cle Elum only), Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. For additional information, visit [www.kvhealthcare.org/coronavirus/](http://www.kvhealthcare.org/coronavirus/).

### Drive-thru 'Holiday Light Fest' begins Saturday in Yakima

**YAKIMA** – State Fair Park is getting into the holiday spirit by transforming the fairgrounds into a drive-thru light festival for the first time this year.

This drive-thru experience will feature 12 festive and fun holiday-themed scenes, nearly 20 miles of lights illuminating buildings and trees. Some of the themed scenes include Candyland with a festive gingerbread house, the North Pole with two of Santa's reindeer – Dasher and Comet, a mailbox for letters to Santa, and the big man himself.

The Holiday Light Fest begins on Nov. 28 and runs through Dec. 6, from 5-9 p.m.

To enter the event, vehicles can turn North on 18th Street from Nob Hill Blvd and enter at Gate 15, located on Pacific Ave.

Admission will be charged per vehicle, limos and buses.

To enhance the festival experience, guests will be encouraged to tune to radio station 100.9 Cherry FM.

"This has been an extremely difficult year for everyone, and we hope this event will bring some joy to the community," said Kathy Kramer, President, and CEO. "The staff, our Board, and volunteers at State Fair Park have worked really hard to make this event something special that we will build upon for years to come."

Enjoy the Holiday Light Fest - a festive, safe, drive-thru holiday experience with your family and friends! Get lost in the magic, fun, and enchantment that only the holiday season can provide.

All staff will practice safety guidelines set by the Yakima County Health District.

I'm just really advocating for everyone to be safe, take personal responsibility in doing what you can, and take care of yourself and those close to you.

My number one message is to be safe and do what you can. It's very important to do what you can for yourself and for others, whatever that looks like.

Exercise when you're able. And stay connected with each other via technology, but be careful: social media is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family, yet it's also a fact that increased consumption of social media and news will increase your stress load.

## Trusted Voices On COVID-19



*Auren O'Connell*  
DNP, PMHNP

KVH Family Medicine - Cle Elum





We haven't had an ER shift without COVID patients for a while. It's changed how we do everything, from wearing protective glasses, goggles, shields, masks, and now we wear special ambulatory protective devices called PAPRs when we go into known rooms, just to protect ourselves and have a little more comfort.

COVID has changed our mentality of coming to work. It's stressful, it's tiring, and never have ER providers felt nervous for our own health other than maybe during H1N1 and when Ebola was active. One ER provider I know got COVID at work and got very sick. She's doing well now, thankfully. There are ER providers in the state of Washington who have died from COVID. Trying to convince some in the community that it's real and not a joke or a hoax or a political ploy has been challenging, but we keep on caring for all, no matter their beliefs, the best we are able.

About a month ago, one of the nurses asked me, "When is this going to be fun again?" That's very profound, and an accurate description of the ways that practicing in the acute care environment has transitioned with COVID.

## Trusted Voices On COVID-19



*Ken Lindsey, MD*  
KVH Emergency Department



"I'd heard that people my age and younger often don't even know they have COVID, that symptoms are pretty mild, so I was like, 'Oh, I'll be fine.' And then for two and a half weeks, it was just miserable."

- Mitch Engel



Read Mitch's COVID story on Facebook or at [kvhealthcare.org](https://www.kvhealthcare.org)



[kvhealthcare.org](http://kvhealthcare.org)

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