

**Public Records Response from Matt Ready for OPMA
Lawsuit related to the Peninsula Health Alliance
11/28/2025**

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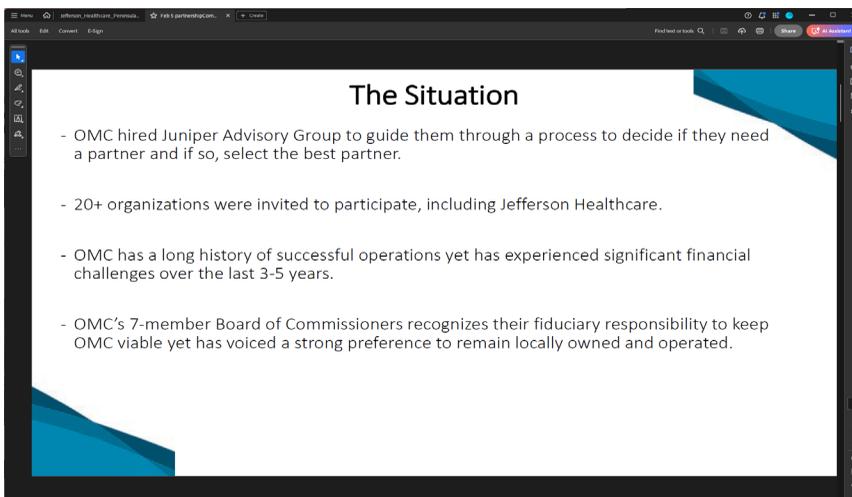
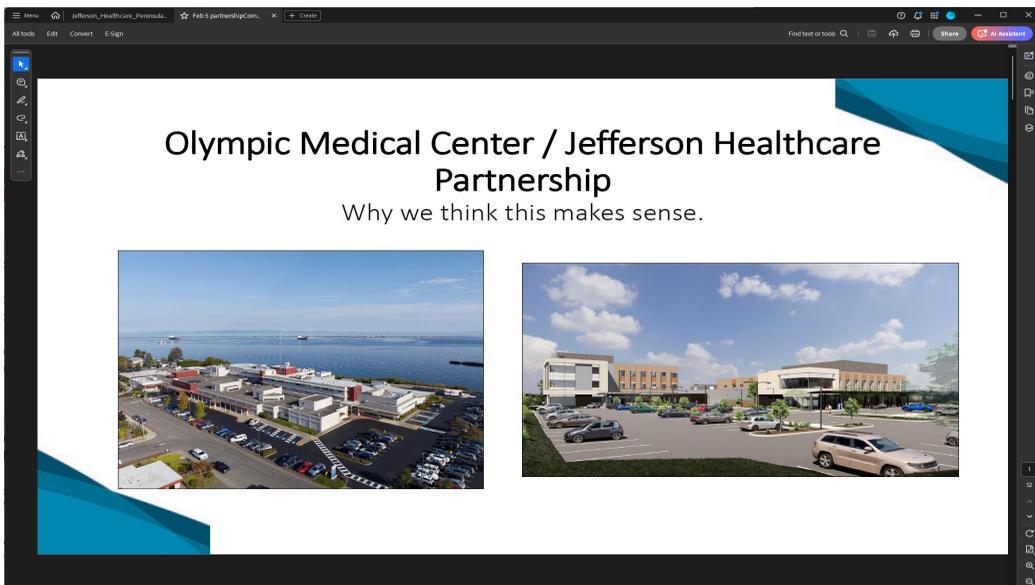
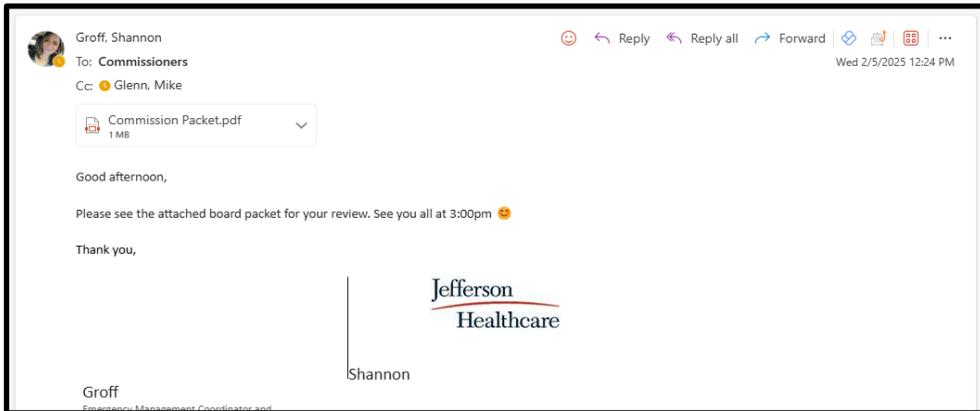
**Public Records Response from Matt Ready for OPMA
Lawsuit related to the Peninsula Health Alliance
11/26/2025**

February 5, 2025 Commission Executive Session notes by Matt Ready including first proposal packet

During this executive session, Commissioner Ready was informed for the first time about the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal. He was told:

1. The CEO wanted board approval to draft and submit a proposal by Tuesday March 11.
2. The basic structure of the alliance would include creation of a non profit and super board above both public hospital districts OMC and Jefferson.
3. The super board will have an executive director over everything. When asked by Ready what the process would be like selecting and hiring that executive director, how would that Executive relate to the CEO/Administrator of each separate hospital district, Ready was told:
 - a. Paraphrasing: "I think you will find OMC's board ready and willing to make me (Mike Glenn) the executive director" of the super board. This was said by Mike Glenn and all other commissioners seemed thrilled and on board with this plan.
4. I asked if CEO Mike Glenn was looking for some sort of approval today from the board to proceed, Mike Glenn responded, "yes." I indicated we cannot vote so we cannot express approval or disapproval.
5. Commissioner Matt Ready: "I did not consent or approve of this proposal moving forward- as it immediately raised numerous red flags for me. (I tried to keep an open mind for the possibilities.)"
6. The following packet was shared to commissioners in email and presented and discussed in detail during the Feb 5, executive session. The file was called Commission Packet.pdf and it was emailed to all commissioners on 2/5/2025 at 12:24pm. [Note. This email was the first time I, Commissioner Matt Ready, was informed that Jefferson Healthcare was considering sending a response to the OMC public Request for Proposal (RFP) process. All other commissioners seemed fully briefed and ready for this topic somehow... not sure how since if they had all been briefed outside any commission meeting, that would be a serial meeting, illegal, and make any decisions made from those illegal meeting also illegal and vulnerable to legal challenge as an OPMA violation. (Open Public Meetings Act)]

OMC Proposal Packet For 2/5/2025 Executive Session



Our Situation

- Jefferson Healthcare is in a reasonably strong financial and operational position.
- We currently have strong working relationships/partnerships with all of the big systems and players (Providence/Swedish, CHI/St. Michaels/VM, Multicare)
- We have a broad array of clinical services yet are challenged by the lack of "bench strength" behind many important specialties.
- We have identified several business office/support services/clinical services partnering opportunities that may impact access to care, increase efficiencies and decrease cost of care.
- We have avoided the elixir of bigger is better. However, to some extent it is, and this opportunity could be a responsible step forward.

Jefferson Healthcare Goals

- First, do no harm.
- Improve the healthcare delivery system for Jefferson County residents, Jefferson Healthcare patients, and Jefferson Healthcare providers and staff.
- Help OMC chart a path to sustainable and independent governance and operations.
- And in doing so, keep the North Olympic Peninsula system free.

Partnership Structure

Jefferson Healthcare proposes the development of Peninsula Health Alliance, (PHA) a not-for-profit regional alliance formed to advance and expand high quality, independent, sustainable healthcare services on the North Olympic Peninsula. The founding members of the alliance will be Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare.

```

graph TD
    PHA[Peninsula Health Alliance  
12 Member Board] --- OMC[7 Member Board  
OMC]
    PHA --- JH[5 Member Board  
JH]
  
```

Governance: The governing body of PHA will include all current publicly elected commissioners of Clallam County PHD #2 and Jefferson County PHD #2. The 12 member super board would be responsible for governance of the PHA, while the individual boards would remain responsible for the governance of their respective organizations.

Management Structure: Since we are proposing a 3-year phased approach, the PHA management structure for the first year would be the appointment of an alliance executive director. The alliance executive director would be accountable to the PHA governing board and responsible for developing and driving the work plan of the PHA.

Decision Making Structure: The decision-making structure for the PHA would be the Strategic Leadership Team, as designated by the PHA executive director.

Community Involvement: Community involvement would continue to be robust, as the PHA, with its original superboard configuration, would be subject to the open public meetings and records act. Both organizations will continue to collect tax revenues from their districts and all board meetings and relevant documents will be open to the public.

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Our Pitch

- Jefferson Healthcare believes local healthcare is better healthcare. Public Hospital Districts like Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare are the embodiment of local health care largely because of their informed, engaged and publicly elected board of commissioners.
- Healthcare should be governed by community representatives, shaped by community needs and informed by community voices and the values they represent. This singular focus on community has made us both better organizations and will no doubt lessen if local governance is displaced.
- Our proposal is for OMC and Jefferson Healthcare to form Peninsula Health Alliance, a not-for-profit partnership that allows both of our proud PHD's to remain independent yet work together to improve and expand clinical programs, drive operating efficiencies and economies of scale, and leverage our experience and skillsets to improve the quality of our operations. We believe Peninsula Health Alliance represents a path that not only allows CPHD #2 to remain independent but strengthens and deepens the healthcare delivery system on the North Olympic Peninsula.
- Frankly, many of the opportunities embedded in this model have been deliberated for years. OMC and Jefferson Healthcare have been strong partners for decades. We share the same governance, leadership and medical group models, electronic medical record and perhaps most importantly, commitment to excellence cultures. There are no shortcuts to improvement, and the road ahead will be challenging. However, we are convinced that by working together we can build something special for our communities and patients.

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Project Driftwood

February 5, 2025



Jefferson Healthcare

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Overview: Project Driftwood

In December 2024 – Olympic Medical Center's Board and leadership team agreed to begin a strategic partnership exploration process, while addressing the following objectives:

- Position OMC as an employer of choice, clinical partner of choice and provider of choice
- Maintain and expand the breadth and integration of clinical services
- Ensure the long-term financial sustainability of OMC
- Enhance OMC's ability to retain and recruit high-quality physicians, nurses, and staff
- Preserve and strengthen local input based on what is best for the community
- Strengthen OMC's capacity to make investments in facilities, technology, programs, and people
- Promote cultural alignment that supports OMC's mission, values, and commitment to meeting the needs of the community

Goals: Project Driftwood

- Solicit interest from a group of companies that will represent a range of strategic options for OMC's board members to consider
- Satisfy internal and external stakeholders:
 - Employees, Physicians, Community Members, Competitors, Regulators (AG)
- Comprehensive Approach to market typically obviates need for fairness opinion
- Minimize any competitive disruption

Approach: Project Driftwood

- Engage with a diverse mix of 20+ healthcare systems to ensure thorough outreach
 - Not-for-profit
 - Tax-paying & investor-owned
 - Academic Medical Centers
 - Integrated Delivery Networks
 - Faith-based systems
 - Community Hospitals
- Local, Regional, and National opportunities
 - Regional synergies and national expertise
 - Engagement across 38+ states
- Tailored to balance key attributes: Financial stability, operational expertise, and mission alignment
- Board, credible range of options to meet the board's objectives and inform decision-making

Our Understanding & Goals:

- **Project Purpose:** To advance OMC's ability to meet the healthcare needs of CC and its surrounding areas, as follows:
 - Position OMC as an employer of choice, clinical partner of choice and provider of choice
 - Maintain and expand the breadth and integration of clinical services
 - Ensure the long-term financial sustainability of OMC
 - Enhance OMC's ability to retain and recruit high-quality physicians, nurses, and staff
 - Preserve and strengthen local input based on what is best for the community
 - Strengthen OMC's capacity to make investments in facilities, technology, programs, and people
 - Promote cultural alignment that supports OMC's mission, values, and commitment to meeting the needs of the community

Goals:

- 

Continue to provide easily accessible, high quality and cost-effective care to Jefferson County
- 

Remain independent and focused on our mission, vision and values – local healthcare is better healthcare
- 

Partnership through Alliance – avoiding financial, operational and clinical burdens occurring in acquisitions

02/05/2025 Matt Ready's Notes on the February 5 Executive Session and the Potential Illegal Straw Poll

It appears that after the February 5, 2025 executive session, Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn left the meeting under the impression that he had board approval to work extensively with staff to craft and submit a proposal to Olympic Medical Center (OMC) aligned with the framework he had just presented. Unfortunately, such approval would have been legally impossible under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), as no action can be taken during an executive session.

Therefore, one of the following two statements must be true:

1. **An Illegal Straw Poll Occurred:** CEO Mike Glenn and certain commissioners of Jefferson Healthcare engaged in an illegal, secret straw poll—either within the executive session or outside it—that resulted in informal approval for the CEO to proceed. This straw poll led to the creation and submission of a detailed proposal titled *"Commission Packet.pdf"* sent to commissioners on February 5 and discussed during the session.

2. **The CEO Acted Unilaterally Without Board Approval:** CEO Mike Glenn created a far-reaching proposal for a strategic partnership with OMC involving the formation of a new, nongovernmental nonprofit corporation—**Peninsula Health Alliance**—which would potentially assume authority over both public hospital districts. He submitted this proposal as if it represented Jefferson Healthcare without:
 - Board approval;

 - Providing full and clear information to the board;

 - Allowing board members to ask legal questions about risks or ramifications;

 - Sharing any financial analysis, projections, or studies justifying the proposal as a sound fiduciary decision.

As an attendee of the February 5 executive session, I am prepared to swear under oath that I directly asked CEO Glenn whether he was seeking board approval to submit a proposal to OMC. He answered affirmatively. I further affirm that each commissioner

present took a turn to verbally express support for the CEO's action. This was, by all definitions, a textbook illegal straw poll. CEO Glenn left the meeting with de facto—but not legally authorized—approval from the board.

As a result, the proposal was submitted to OMC without legal board approval. The board never received a fair opportunity to review the proposal, ask questions, or recommend changes in a public and lawful process.

Had I been given the chance to provide input, I would have strongly opposed giving Clallam County a 7-to-5 majority over the new alliance board. I would also have insisted on a transparent and open process to select leadership—rather than agreeing in advance that CEO Mike Glenn would assume the role of executive director. During the executive session, I was left with the distinct impression that his leadership had already been preselected as part of the proposal.

February 6, 2025 calendar invitation for "Check In: Kees, Mike & Pranav" meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, 4:00-4:50 PM

Shannon Groff sends calendar invitation for "Check In: Kees, Mike & Pranav" meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, 4:00-4:50 PM.

February 7, 2025 Emails between Pranav Sharma and Commissioner Kees Kolff (cc: Shannon Groff, Mike Glenn)

10:02 AM - Pranav Sharma to Kees Kolff (cc: Shannon Groff, Mike Glenn)

Good Morning Kees,

It was a pleasure connecting with you yesterday afternoon and thank you for your time/insights.

Per our discussion, sharing an updated draft with you for your input -- looking forward to hearing your thoughts on governance and structure.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you kindly,

Pranav

11:57 AM - Kees Kolff to Pranav Sharma (cc: Shannon Groff, Mike Glenn)

Thanks Pranav.

I downloaded and will work on one of the files you sent this weekend.

The second one looks the same, or did I miss something?

Looks like great work so far.

Cheers, Kees

12:20 PM - Pranav Sharma to Kees Kolff (cc: Shannon Groff, Mike Glenn)

Hey Kees,

Sorry for the confusion there should only be one file/email sent -- if you got two they are both the same. Looking forward to hearing your thoughts!

Have a great weekend,

Pranav

February 8, 2025 Kees Kolff emails Pranav (cc: Mike Glenn, Shannon Groff, Commissioners)

8:57 AM - Kees Kolff to Pranav Sharma (cc: Mike Glenn, Shannon Groff, Commissioners)

Hello Pranav,

Thanks for the conversation with Mike about this exciting possible alliance the other day, and thanks for the opportunity to share some ideas for edits on the organizational chart and the governance comments that go along with that.

I have attached a reworded narrative. There were too many edits to make "show changes" useful. I have also attached a photo of a very quickly sketched org chart.

I am not attached to anything I have created and merely make them available for you to use as you see fit.

I am copying the rest of the board members, and perhaps if they have comments they can submit them to you (But not to me since we don't want to violate any laws).

Once again, it's a pleasure working with you on this project.

Let me know if there is any other way I can help.

Respectfully, Kees

February 9, 2025 email Pranav Sharma to Kees Kolff (cc: Mike Glenn, Shannon Groff, Commissioners)

5:41 PM - Pranav Sharma to Kees Kolff (cc: Mike Glenn, Shannon Groff, Commissioners)

Good Evening Kees,

Thank you for your input and feedback here. This is greatly appreciated, and looking forward to working with Mike to get them integrated appropriately.

Look forward to hearing from the rest of the Commissioners on any inputs or iterations. We will be sure to keep you all posted on final drafts as we continue to update.

It's always a pleasure collaborating!

Thank you kindly,

Pranav

February 11, 2025 email Matt Ready to Pranav Sharma

9:32 AM - Matt Ready to Pranav Sharma

Hi Pranav,

Were the other commissioners sent these proposal drafts? I was not. Is there something for me to review?

Matt

February 12, 2025 email from Matt Ready to Mike Glenn, Commissioners, Shannon Groff (Subject: Communication to all commissioners)

9:26 AM - Matt Ready to Mike Glenn, Commissioners, Shannon Groff (Subject: Communication to all commissioners)

Hello Commissioners,

I requested a copy of any proposal sent to OMC. I received a reply from Jill that she too would like to see it.

I have not received anything clearly about this proposal or the actual wording.

It seems I was accidentally included in an exchange between Commissioner Kolff and Pranav Sharma which included a copy of the PHA Proposal and Kees' feedback.

I believe all commissioners need to see a copy of the proposal that was sent to OMC. I would like to know if this proposal copy I was sent is the final version.

All commissioners please do not respond to me. I already feel like the amount of back communication going on about this proposal outside of an open public meeting is highly problematic and likely a serial meeting.

The executive session we had did not discuss any real estate purchase or potential litigation. It only discussed this proposal- which arguably is not at all a valid reason for an executive session.

Can we please proceed forward with this and all topics obeying executive session laws and open public meeting laws against serial meetings, - so that we properly keep all commissioners and the public properly informed.

Thanks

Matt Ready

February 12, 2025 email 9:50 AM - Mike Glenn to Matt Ready (cc: Jill Buhler)

9:50 AM - Mike Glenn to Matt Ready (cc: Jill Buhler)

Hi Matt-

Kees asked to meet w/Pranav to provide feedback. He asked for a draft of the proposal, which was an early work in progress.

We are scrambling to complete the 50+ page document to meet today's 3:00 deadline. It is being piecemealed together by the entire SLG team.

The proposal asked repeatedly about our financial investment, like purchasing and leasing assets, which may/may not be part of our proposal.

Our plan is to share the end product to the entire board immediately after we submit.

I'll defer to Jill if she'd like us to follow a different process.

MG

February 12, 2025 email **Mike Glenn to Commissioners** (cc: Strategic Leadership Group) Sharing the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal with OMC – claiming it is not subject to open public record until OMC decides as such.

3:01 PM - Mike Glenn to Commissioners (cc: Strategic Leadership Group)

Commissioners,

Please find attached our response to the OMC RFP.

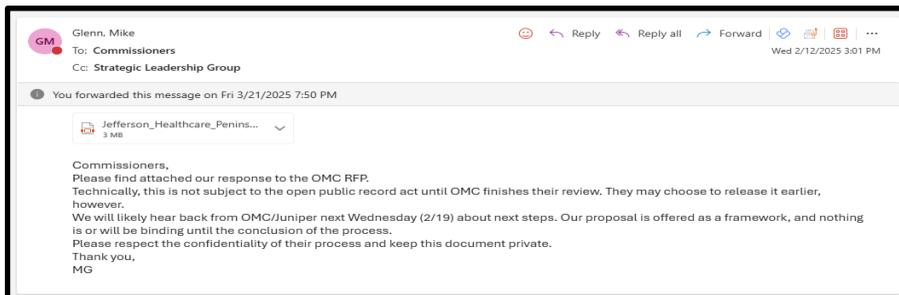
Technically, this is not subject to the open public record act until OMC finishes their review. They may choose to release it earlier, however.

We will likely hear back from OMC/Juniper next Wednesday (2/19) about next steps. Our proposal is offered as a framework, and nothing is or will be binding until the conclusion of the process.

Please respect the confidentiality of their process and keep this document private.

Thank you,

MG



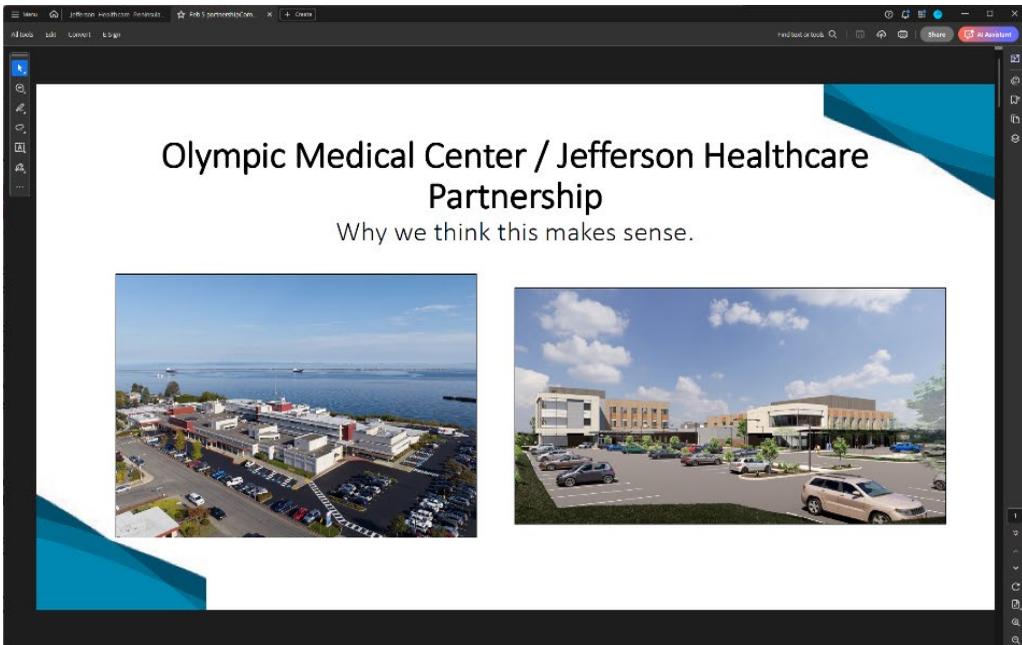
Matt Ready Personal Commentary: Note on Email from Mike Glenn

: in the email above, CEO Mike Glenn instructs elected public hospital commissioners to continue to keep everything about this official proposal sent to a neighboring public hospital district secret. He justifies restricting the public's right to this information based upon the desires of the board members and CEO of another public hospital district and the preferences of a private corporation Juniper Advisory, without any regard to the rights and

needs of the people of the Jefferson Healthcare public hospital district.

It appears all commissioners immediately non verbally consent and agree to continue to hide the information from the public. This action of consent to continue to deceive the public may constitute yet another straw poll action to renew their commitment to secrecy.

Feb 12, 2025 - Highlights from Peninsula Health Alliance Final Proposal submitted to Olympic Medical Center in response to OMC's public request for proposals.



PENINSULA HEALTH ALLIANCE

An opportunity for Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center to remain independent through collaboration.



Future Status & Configuration

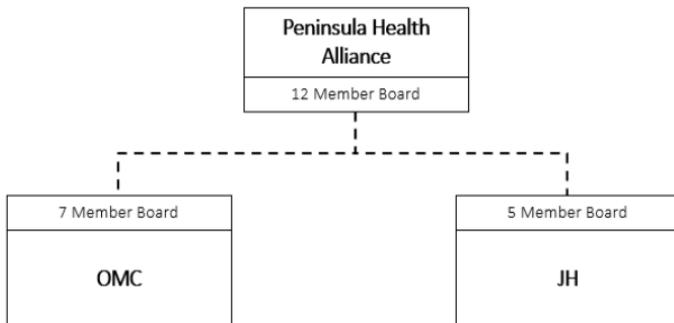
Peninsula Health Alliance will be a strategic community-driven nonprofit partnership. The two public hospital districts will maintain governing, operating, and community independence while targeting the delivery of high quality, easily accessible, cost-effective healthcare across the North Olympic Peninsula.

Under Peninsula Health Alliance, we could collectively work together to improve and expand clinical programs, drive operating efficiencies and economies of scale, and leverage our experience and skillsets to improve the quality of our operations.

Proposed Configuration

Jefferson Healthcare proposes the development of the Peninsula Health Alliance, a not-for-profit regional alliance formed to advance and expand high quality, independent, sustainable healthcare services on the North Olympic Peninsula. The founding members of the alliance will be Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare.

Peninsula Health Alliance Structure & Board Governance



Financial Structure of Peninsula Health Alliance

Jefferson Healthcare is prepared to dedicate resources to analyzing Olympic Medical Center's operations and provide recommendations for enhancing financial performance. Jefferson Healthcare has a proven track record of collaborating with external partners to achieve cost reductions, secure increased funding, and drive efficiencies. As a founding member of the 27-member rural collaborative, Jefferson Healthcare actively participates in shared learning and has realized significant savings of \$2.2 million through group purchasing programs for insurance (medical malpractice, property, cyber, etc. through TRC Group programs), medical devices/equipment, and retirement plan fees.

Furthermore, Jefferson Healthcare has demonstrated success in state and federal advocacy. This includes successfully lobbying the Department of Health to establish the first Dental Rural Health Clinic (RHC) in Washington state, in which we have secured over \$2 million for this expansion. Jefferson Healthcare also secured substantial state and federal funding for its 2025 building project, receiving \$4.5 million in federal funds and \$4 million in state funds to support the expansion of radiation oncology, reproductive health, and specialty care services in Jefferson County.

This proposed alliance offers Olympic Medical Center the opportunity to benefit from Jefferson Healthcare's expertise in navigating state and federal funding processes to Olympic Medical Center's capital needs. Additionally, Olympic Medical Center can leverage the alliance and/or the TRC group purchasing program to achieve economies of scale, resulting in reduced operating expenses and increased efficiencies. Immediately, Jefferson Healthcare will work at both the State and Federal levels to secure funding to support the work of the alliance to build a sustainable model, for other districts to follow.

Financial Arrangements

Jefferson Healthcare possesses significant experience in physician integration and the development of new service lines. Since 2010, Jefferson Healthcare has successfully initiated and grown numerous programs, demonstrating its capacity to identify community needs and implement effective solutions. These initiatives include:

- Establishment of a Rural Health Clinic in Port Ludlow
- Development of a Medical Oncology Program
- The first Rural Health Clinic in Washington to offer dental services
- Implementation of Smart IV Pumps
- Creation of a Hand Therapy Program
- Integration of Jefferson Healthcare Surgical Associates
- Launch of a Cardiac Service Line program in partnership with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health (VMFH)
- Opening of an OB/GYN Clinic
- Development of a Dermatology Program
- Establishment of an Express Clinic to support Primary Care and Emergency Services
- Creation of a Specialty Pharmacy (currently pursuing URAC accreditation)
- Implementation of a Hand and Plastics Program
- Opening of a Retail Pharmacy in Port Ludlow (with plans for a Port Townsend location)

February 14, 2025 email Pranav Sharma to Matt Ready

8:54 AM - Pranav Sharma to Matt Ready

Hey Matt,

Thanks for your patience -- I've been out of office with xxx xxx [removed personal information]. To my understanding the other commissioners did not receive a draft for review.

Thanks,

Pranav

February 19, 2025 Matt Ready emails all commissioners document titled “Key Concerns Regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal”

11:57 AM - Matt Ready to all Commissioners

From: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 11:57 AM

To: Commissioners

Subject: Peninsula Health Alliance. Do not reply.

Key Concerns Regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

This proposal **outlines a major governance restructuring** for both hospital districts under a new **not-for-profit entity (Peninsula Health Alliance)** while stating that the individual hospital boards would retain autonomy. However, there are **several critical legal and governance concerns** that must be addressed before moving forward.

1. Lack of Formal Board Authorization

- If this proposal was drafted **based on informal “voice consent” in executive session**, it lacks **legal board approval** and may be **invalid** under OPMA.
- Any major proposal like this should have been **voted on in a public session** before submission.
- **Key Question:** Who authorized this submission, and does it legally bind either hospital district in any way? The proposal says “Jefferson Healthcare” is making the proposal- but without board consent, can such a proposal be made- or should it be made?

2. Governance Risks & Potential Power Shift

- The **creation of a “super board”** consolidates decision-making over regional healthcare into a **new entity that could change its governance structure over time.**
- While the proposal states that current hospital commissioners would serve on the new **Peninsula Health Alliance Board**, this structure **could be changed later** to reduce elected oversight.
- The proposal states that **decision-making will be driven by an "alliance executive director" and a "strategic leadership team,"** raising concerns about who will truly control healthcare decisions moving forward.
- **Key Question:** What legal safeguards prevent future bylaw changes that could remove elected commissioners from meaningful oversight?

3. Possible OPMA Violations & Transparency Issues

- This proposal suggests a **phased approach**—but when was the board ever **formally presented with this plan for open discussion?**
- The **public has not been informed or consulted** about this potential restructuring.
- **If this proposal has already been sent to OMC without proper board approval, it raises serious transparency concerns.**
- **Key Question:** Why was this proposal not reviewed and approved in a **public board meeting** before submission?

4. Financial & Operational Impact Unknown

- The proposal **does not include any financial projections, service impact assessments, or cost-benefit analysis.**
- Before approving or discussing this further, the board needs a **full independent financial impact analysis** detailing:
 - Cost of forming and running the new entity.
 - Potential tax revenue impacts.
 - Effect on patient care, service accessibility, and operational sustainability.
- **Key Question:** Without financial data, how can the board or the public determine if this is a good idea?

Recommendations Before Moving Forward

1. **Independent Legal Review** – A third-party attorney should assess:
 - Whether this proposal was submitted **legally** and if any board actions were taken improperly.
 - The **future governance risks** of the Peninsula Health Alliance and how to **ensure permanent public oversight**.
2. **Independent Financial Analysis** – A full assessment of the financial, operational, and service impact must be conducted before any further discussion.
3. **Public Transparency & OPMA Compliance** – The board must:
 - Discuss this proposal **in an open public meeting**.
 - Ensure the public is **properly informed and consulted** before any commitment is made.
4. **Board Vote in Public Session** – No further action should be taken unless the full board votes **in an open meeting** to proceed with discussions.

Final Thought:

 **A major governance change like this cannot be rushed behind closed doors without full legal, financial, and public review. This proposal should not move forward until all concerns are addressed in a fully transparent and legally compliant manner.**

Regarding enter executive session to discuss this topic again:

Subject: Executive Session & OPMA Compliance - Real Estate

Commissioners, before entering another **executive session**, we must ensure it fully complies with **the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)**. The **real estate exemption** only applies if we are discussing **specific property negotiations** where public disclosure would harm our position. **General discussions about strategy, governance, or financial impact must be held in public.**

I look forward to discussing these topics with everyone.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Public Hospital District Commissioner

Jefferson County PHD No. 2

Meeting Transcript: February 19, 2025 Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners public meeting highlights 2:00 pm.

CEO Mike Glenn said during a section titled “Regional Health Alliances”

“So just a couple of other updates and events. The first is that we continue to work on identifying Regional Alliance opportunities. And what I mean by that is we have a very strong interest and very strong belief in independent, locally governed healthcare as the best model—kind of this 'local healthcare is better healthcare.' And with everything going on in healthcare these days and some of the pressures that organizations are feeling, we are stepping into: are there models that independent, locally owned and governed organizations can align and work together to benefit from size and scale with respect to purchasing supplies, purchasing drugs, purchasing medical malpractice insurance, all the stuff that we buy that is absolutely volume-sensitive, and other advantages of larger size?

Are there models in which two smaller organizations can benefit from that to give them a competitive advantage while maintaining complete local control and autonomy? We've spoken a little bit about some of those opportunities, but I think that we continue to be really interested in that, and it wouldn't surprise me if that's something that we will continue to manage.

And then lastly, there again, a lot of activity from Washington DC...”

Later Public Discussion in the meeting:

CEO Mike Glenn: "Looks like Matt has a question."

Matt Ready:

"Yeah, it's about the regional Alliance opportunities. I feel like there was a lot of discussion about Regional Alliance opportunities over email and in the executive session at the last meeting that I don't think are covered by executive session. And I know you guys are all aware of this, and it's like there's a lot to discuss here. I sent you all a document about the regional Alliance opportunities that are actively under exploration, and I need to know: are you guys considering that topic covered by executive session and not something we can talk about with the public?"

CEO Mike Glenn:

"Yeah Matt, I think I responded to your question that the executive session, the issues we were talking with the board about related to the possible acquisition or transfer or lease of assets. That was part of the proposal that we were reviewing. And as you and the rest of the board are aware, that discussion about possible leases or transfers of assets or acquisitions of real estate, for reasons that make perfect sense to me, are covered under executive session. I thought that I answered that pretty clearly to you in your email."

Jill Buhler:

"Yes, Mike and I discussed before we held the executive session whether or not that was a topic that could come under that, and we looked at the RCWs and decided that that was something that did because we were considering the possibility of leasing some property, and that is one of the... As it turned out, we didn't get that far when we talked about it because our time ran out, but we did briefly discuss it.

So I read the letter that you sent to the Commissioners, and it only came about two hours before the meeting started, so I haven't really had a chance to digest it. And it was sent to all the Commissioners, so we couldn't respond because we didn't want to have a serial meeting. I think that we were perfectly within the law for doing what we did."

Matt Ready:

"Well, regardless, I need to know if the topic of—I mean, if we're going to discuss major governance changes, major partnerships or alliances with other institutions—that topic is not covered by executive session. I mean, just that it tangentially might involve a real estate transaction at some point, some point, is I think really stretching the real estate cover for executive session.

But in any case, if we're talking about major partnerships or alliances actively, I would like to know when we can discuss this publicly, including the email that I sent to all of you. If you don't want to discuss that here, I would like to discuss it with people that care about healthcare in our community so that we have an informed public. And I was under the impression today is the deadline for some possible response about something. So, are we allowed to talk about potential alliances that we're exploring or working on in any way?"

CEO Mike Glenn: "So there's a couple other questions. Katse, do you have a question there or comment?"

Kees Kolff:

"Yes, first of all, I also share the question of whether or not that was the best way to

handle this kind of situation. I did happen to check with MRSC, and they sent me some resources, and I'm happy to send that around to people. Again, don't reply to me. They sent it to me. Obviously, MRSC never gives legal advice; they just point you in a particular direction as to where you might be able to find your answers. But I think it would be important for us to have that as a topic on our next agenda so that we can make sure that we are following the law. Anyway, so that's just my recommendation."

Jill Buhler: "Yes, I see nothing wrong with that. I think that would be a very good idea. So we will talk about that at the next meeting. We should know more by then, too."

CEO Mike Glenn: "Yeah, Matt, there's really nothing to talk about right now, really."

"I mean, if additional discussions regarding Regional Alliance opportunities emerge, then yes, those discussions would be held in appropriate venues and forums."

Matt Ready: "Okay, sure. All right, so I'm still unclear if the topic is covered, is something that I'm legally obligated not to talk about because it was talked about in executive session, even though there's been emails exchanged about the potential Alliance opportunities we're exploring. It's really unclear if that's somehow covered by executive session and it's restricting the Commissioners from discussing it with other people."

Jill Buhler: "Well, I think that's... I can't answer that. I'm not an attorney. Chris, you have something, you have a comment? You're muted."

CEO Mike Glenn: "Did I see Bruce? Did you have your hand up?"

Bruce McComas: "Yeah, I did. So my thinking is that a lot of what we talked about in the executive session, we didn't need to be there. I mean, in my mind, Mike could have had conversations about this. I mean, there's all just speculation. There's nothing... it was a conversation, and there's nothing really to talk about because we talked about some possibilities, but until there's other conversations that go on and it comes, and we decide whether we're going to do something or not, there's no vote on it."

Jill Buhler: "So I don't know. I mean, I don't, Matt, I don't know what you'd have to really talk about because there's nothing definitive to talk about. No decision's been made on anything. So I think we should just continue this to the next meeting. And I can't answer your question, Matt. I'm not, like I say, I'm not an attorney, but there isn't really anything that you would say to someone. It would be just conjecture. There wouldn't be anything concrete. Does that answer your question as much as possible?"

Matt Ready: "Not really. I feel like we're in a weird... I mean, a pretty concrete proposal was drafted. I mean, not... it's a preliminary proposal, but it was shared with the Commissioners in email, but we haven't talked about it with the public. I think it'd be good

to talk about it with the public, you know, even if it doesn't get approved. It's like the public should know that we considered a proposal like that. Anyways, we can save it for a future discussion. I'm fine moving on now."

Jill Buhler: "Okay, then we will continue this at the next meeting."

Marie Dressler: "Yeah, I think this is a common sense thing to do, is just continue, look at it later on when there's something maybe to look at because right now it's airy-fairy and of no consequence."

CEO Mike Glenn: "I will prepare a detailed response for the next time we talk about this because I would very much like to respond to Commissioner Ready's comments. So I look forward to the next time that we talk about this."

Jill Buhler:"Okay, we will put it at the top of the list for the next meeting. And at this point, are there any other questions of Mike? Mike, were you at the question part of your presentation?"

CEO Mike Glenn: "I think I'm done, Jill."

Event: February 19, 2025 OMC secretly selects Jefferson Healthcare to proceed to the next phase

OMC selects Jefferson Healthcare to proceed to the next phase (mentioned in later correspondence). Commissioner Ready not informed.

Readyforhealthcare.org Post : February 24, 2025 - Matt Ready posts on Readyforhealthcare.org website “Incredibly Important Discussion”

Commissioner Matt Ready’s website

<http://readyforhealthcare.org>



Incredibly Important Discussion

February 24, 2025 | Author [Matt](#) | [Edit](#)

A public hospital district is a municipal corporation. What does that mean?

A **Public Hospital District** in Washington State is a **governmental entity** created by voters within a specific geographic area to provide **publicly funded healthcare services**. These districts are **municipal corporations**, similar to cities and counties, and operate under **Chapter 70.44 RCW** of Washington State law.

Key Features of a Public Hospital District in Washington:

1. **Publicly Owned & Governed** – Managed by an elected **Board of Commissioners**, typically five members, who oversee operations and finances.
2. **Taxing Authority** – Can **levy property taxes** to support healthcare services.
3. **Healthcare Services** – Operate **hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, ambulance services, and wellness programs** depending on community needs.
4. **Local Control** – Voters within the district determine leadership and financial support through elections.
5. **Broad Service Scope** – Can provide not just hospital care, but also **preventative care, mental health services, and emergency medical services (EMS)**.
6. **Nonprofit-Like Function** – Although government-run, they often collaborate with **private healthcare providers** to improve services.

Example:

Jefferson Healthcare in Port Townsend is a public hospital district (**Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2**) that operates a critical access hospital and various clinics, serving the local population.



Financial & Legal Structure of Public Hospital Districts in Washington State

1. Legal Structure

Public hospital districts are **municipal corporations** established under **RCW 70.44**, similar to cities and counties.

They are **political subdivisions** of the state, meaning they are subject to **public records laws, open meetings laws (RCW 42.30), and public bidding requirements.**

Governed by a **Board of Commissioners** (usually five members) elected by district residents for **six-year staggered terms.**

2. Financial Structure

Revenue Sources

Public hospital districts operate as **nonprofit-like** entities but have multiple funding sources:

1. Property Taxes

Can levy up to **75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value** without voter approval.

Can seek additional levies (e.g., **EMS levies**) with voter approval.

2. Patient Service Revenue

Most revenue comes from **Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and direct patient payments.**

Some services (e.g., critical access hospitals) receive **cost-based reimbursements** from Medicare.

3. Bonds & Loans

Can issue **general obligation bonds** (subject to voter approval) for capital projects.

Can take out loans for equipment, facility expansions, or infrastructure improvements.

4. **Government Grants & Subsidies**

Eligible for **federal and state grants** (e.g., rural healthcare funding, emergency response grants).

Some districts receive **special state funding** for essential healthcare services.

5. **Partnerships & Contracts**

May enter into agreements with **private healthcare providers, universities, or nonprofits**.

Some districts contract out services such as **ambulance services, mental health programs, or specialty care**.

Financial Accountability

Must **submit annual financial reports** to the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Subject to **public budgeting and auditing** requirements under **RCW 43.09**.

Required to **hold public meetings** for major financial decisions, ensuring transparency.

Example of Financial Operations

A typical public hospital district might:

Collect **\$2 million** from property taxes.

Earn **\$50 million** in patient service revenue.

Receive **\$3 million** in grants.

Secure **\$10 million** in bonds for hospital expansion.

IF YOU GIVE CONTROL OF YOUR PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT TO A NON PROFIT CORPORATION, YOU LOSE PUBLIC CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY SAFEGUARDS. Just a theoretical comment irrelevant to anything except... is it?

But why would you even think about giving control of your public hospital district to a non profit corporation? Maybe healthcare has changed and a big restructuring would be good for the community in some way. Is the best thing to do, to abandon the safeguards of a publicly controlled municipal corporation governed by democratically elected commissioners in favor of a non profit corporation that could at any time vote to changes its governing structure and transparency to whatever it wants whenever it wants? Is this type of radical restructuring the only type worth considering?

Analysis

If two or more **Washington public hospital districts** want to radically restructure, there are several

possible models besides forming a **nonprofit corporation** to oversee them. Below is a comparison of potential restructuring options.

1. Nonprofit Corporation Oversight Model

Description: The hospital districts create a **new nonprofit corporation** to oversee operations, governance, and potentially financial management.

Pros:

Increased **operational flexibility** (nonprofits can operate outside some government constraints).

Can **raise private funds** and enter into partnerships more easily.

Unified leadership without dissolving individual districts.

Cons:

May reduce **public oversight** as a nonprofit board isn't publicly elected.

Could lead to conflicts over **accountability** between the elected commissioners and the nonprofit board.

Potential for **mission drift** if nonprofit governance does not align with public interest.

2. Full Merger Into a Single Public Hospital District

Description: The two or more hospital districts merge into **one larger district** with a single elected Board of Commissioners.

Pros:

Unified budget and governance streamline decision-making.

Eliminates **redundant administrative costs**.

More **tax revenue pooling**, allowing better investment in healthcare infrastructure.

Cons:

Requires voter approval.

Risk of **local communities losing influence** in decision-making.

Could be disruptive to **existing labor agreements and management structures**.

3. Interlocal Agreement for Shared Governance

Description: The districts remain independent but sign an **interlocal agreement (ILA)** to share administration, facilities, or specific services.

Pros:

Retains **separate identities** while allowing **cost-sharing**.
No need for **voter approval**.
Can focus collaboration on **specific departments** (e.g., emergency services, IT, or billing).

Cons:

Coordination challenges if leadership has conflicting priorities.
Not as strong as a **full merger** in terms of financial and operational integration.
Potential for **unequal benefit distribution** if one district has greater financial need.

4. Creation of a Joint Operating Authority (JOA)

Description: The hospital districts form a **separate public entity** under **RCW 39.34**, which has independent taxing authority and management.

Pros:

Maintains **public ownership and control** but allows joint decision-making.
Can **issue bonds and levy taxes** to support regional healthcare.
Clear legal framework under Washington law.

Cons:

Complex **governance structure** may slow decision-making.
Requires voter approval and legal agreements.
Can create **bureaucratic layers**, adding to costs.

5. Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Description: The hospital districts enter into a **contract with a private company** to manage operations while retaining public ownership.

Pros:

Private expertise can improve efficiency.
Possible **cost savings** through operational streamlining.
Avoids the **political difficulties** of a full merger.

Cons:

Less **direct public control** over healthcare decisions.
Risk of **profit-driven priorities** conflicting with community needs.
Potential **staffing changes** and wage adjustments.

Comparison Table

Restructure Model	Public Control	Financial Efficiency	Complexity	Voter Approval Needed?	Flexibility
Nonprofit Corporation Oversight	Low	High	Medium	No	High
Full Merger	High	High	High	Yes	Low
Interlocal Agreement (ILA)	High	Medium	Low	No	Medium
Joint Operating Authority (JOA)	High	High	High	Yes	Medium
Public-Private Partnership (PPP)	Low	High	Medium	No	High

Conclusion

If **efficiency and flexibility** are the priority, the **nonprofit oversight** model makes sense. If **strong public control and accountability** are key, a **merger or Joint Operating Authority** is better. If they want **minimal disruption**, an **Interlocal Agreement** might be the best option. If they need **private sector expertise**, a **Public-Private Partnership** could work.

Posted in [Blog Posts](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: February 25, 2025 Matt Ready posts to website: “[Are Our Elected Leaders Sworn to Abide and Comply with Corporate Controlled Policies?](#)”

February 24, 2025 | Author [Matt](#) | [Edit](#)

A bureaucracy worships the rule of bureaucracy. A bureaucrat uses the bureaucracy to get what they want for their personal agendas.

A public hospital commission is a government entity of elected leaders. The leaders swear to uphold the constitutions of the USA and Wa state. A bureaucrat who claims that elected leaders have sworn to abide and comply with the “policies” chosen by the majority of the board of elected leaders, wants to remove the ability of an elected leader to have any dissent to the actions of the board majority. This is a method of destroying the basic concept of democracy- where each elected leader is elected to voice their opinion and do and say things they believe are in the interests of the greater good.

Forcing elected public hospital commissioners to oversee a public hospital district – but do so as members of a non profit board overseeing the public hospital district – is a way to force those leaders to obey corporate policies – which will be used to limit public oversight, accountability, transparency, and the ability of your elected commissioners to do anything about it.

February 25, 2025 Matt Ready emails to Jill Buhler, Mike Glenn (Subject: When)

7:51 AM - Matt Ready to Jill Buhler, Mike Glenn (Subject: When)

Hi Mike and Jill, can you let me know when the commissioners are going to be informed whether or not Jefferson Healthcare is has been selected as a finalist with the OMC partnership proposal. I would like to know if this is something that is moving forward or if it has completely died thanks.

Matt

March 2, 2025 - 9 days later Jill Buhler email replies to Matt Ready, Mike Glenn (Re: When)

5:59 PM - Jill Buhler to Matt Ready, Mike Glenn (Re: When)

Hi Matt,

I apologize for the delay; I was out of town until Saturday.

In answer to your question, Yes and No. Allow me to explain.

First, a summary of the process, as we understand it:

We submitted an "indication of interest" (OMC's term) on February 12. Mike was notified February 19 that we were selected to present our indication of interest concept paper to OMC. Accordingly, JH admin was invited to site visit OMC and review our document in late March. If this goes, we are selected to proceed: "refined proposals from phase two participants would be requested in late April 2025."

THIS is when we decide to proceed, or not, and fill in the many blanks of our concept proposal. Lawyers and other consultants will no doubt be involved. At this point, we also expect to get the all clear from OMC to discuss their process and our proposal in public meetings, which we agree is critically important to do.

So, yes, we made it to the next step, but no, we have not begun the next

phase.

Further complicating things is OMC's and their counsel's need to maintain confidentiality. Mike and I spoke with Brad Berg about this and agreed the request needs to be lifted if we are to continue in phase 2. We expect it to be.

I hope this answers your question.

Jill

Phone Call: March 14, 2025 - Jill Buhler calls Matt Ready on his private cell phone. Matt is at a ferry terminal returning from a trip.

2:56 PM - Jill Buhler calls Matt Ready

Commissioner Jill Buhler called Commissioner Matt Ready on March 14, 2025.

During the phone call Commissioner Buhler

spoke optimistically about the Peninsula Health Alliance plan.

Said she knew Ready had put some negative things up on his website about the alliance plan and hoped he would take them down.

At one point, Buhler asked, "Are you recording this?" I replied "no."

Buhler said CEO Mike Glenn, herself, and attorney Brad Berg had discussed Ready's legal concerns such as the invalid use of the real estate exemption for the Feb 5, executive session. Buhler assured Ready that attorney Brad Berg said everything was absolutely legal and ok.

Matt said he still needed all his concerns raised from his Feb 19 email to all commissioners addressed. Jill claimed to be confused and unsure what email Ready was referring to, so Ready immediately forwarded the email again to Jill's hospital email account. Jill looked at it and said these were great topics for the executive session on Tuesday.

Buhler said if all the commissioners were not on board when we met in executive session on March 18th, then the district would not move forward with the plan.

Ready asked for clarification, "Are you saying we are going to vote in executive session on whether we all approve?" Buhler then seemed to change her framing and said no decision would be made since they cant vote in executive session. Ready repeated, "Are you saying this Tuesday is some sort of decision point in this process?" Buhler said, "no."

Buhler asked if Ready had any more questions. Ready asked Buhler how our financially stable hospital district joining with a hospital district in severe financial distress was somehow good for our hospital district. Buhler responded with something to the effect of "I don't know, but Mike is the expert and I trust him. He is the only one of us that is an expert in all this."

March 18, 2025 Jefferson County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioner Meeting Executive Session with Attorney Brad Berg, first mention of “Letter of Intent” binding/ non binding agreement strategy.

8:00 AM - Jefferson Healthcare Executive session with attorney Brad Berg, and brief public meeting.

During this executive session,

1. none of Matt Ready’s concerns raised in his lengthy email on February 19 (and again to Jill Buhler on March 14) were addressed.
2. Lawyer Brad Berg describes how to use the Real Estate exemption and “legal concerns with actions” to keep the discussions of this proposal in executive session until they want to bring it out.
3. CEO Mike Glenn said he thought this plan needed to remain secret until they were ready to vote on an action in April. Glenn noted that it will be a little tricky, because after the April vote, OMC will want to be able to tell the public that they are done searching and have chosen a partner and plan. Yet, Jefferson will at that time begin a public information campaign to bring the public in Jefferson County along. He described a desire to be in both a binding and non binding agreement at that time.
 - a. Attorney Brad Berg chimed in saying, “You could achieve that by authorizing the CEO to sign a letter of intent, and then take time until a final board vote.”

Meeting Transcript (partial): March 18, 2025 Jefferson County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioner Meeting - Transcript of highlights (03/18/2025)

Commissioner Matt Ready:

"I'm still really confused and concerned about the legal implications of the actions being talked about in executive session. I'm also concerned that the lengthy email I sent expressing my legal concerns has not been addressed - none of my questions have been answered. We were in executive session with a lawyer who didn't address any of the questions from my email."

Commissioner Jill Buhler: "You had the opportunity to ask those questions but chose not to."

Commissioner Matt Ready:

There was a metaphor used in that session, and I'll give another one: if you have something wrong with you that's diagnosed, sometimes you get a second opinion. When making massive decisions that impact healthcare in our community, it might be worth having at least a second opinion about the legal ramifications.

This has come up in the past with major conflicts on this board, where we only used certain lawyers to give us answers. At one point, we agreed to hire a lawyer directly reporting to the board to help us sort through these issues - everyone voted to approve that, but we never followed through.

At the next opportunity, I think we need to entertain a motion that the Board of Commissioners immediately initiate a process of hiring independent general counsel to serve the board directly. This legal counsel should be retained solely by the Board of Commissioners, independent of the CEO and administration, to ensure unbiased legal advice on matters related to governance, compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Hospital District operations, strategic partnerships, and any legal concerns impacting the board's oversight responsibilities.

The selected legal counsel should report exclusively to the Board of Commissioners, attend meetings as necessary, and provide legal opinions directly to the board without intermediary oversight from administration or administration lawyers.

We should initiate a selection process for this kind of legal support. We probably should have had this all along - other public Hospital District boards have their own legal counsel. Many corporations have boards with their own legal counsel; it's completely a best practice.

I think that needs to be done, and I think we need our legal questions answered."

Commissioner Jill Buhler: "You are welcome to make that motion at the next meeting, Matt."

Meeting Transcript: March 26, 2025 - Jefferson Healthcare Commission Public Meeting Transcript of Highlights

Transcript from selected portions of the March 26, 2025 Jefferson Healthcare Commission Meeting.

00:00:00:00 – 00:00:34:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Welcome to the Jefferson County Public Hospital. District number two, board of commissioners specials. Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025. This session is being officially audio recorded and time shown on the agenda are estimated only. And speaking of the agenda, we will not be having an executive session today. So, is there a motion to approve the agenda with that exception?

00:00:39:21 – 00:00:42:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

so moved and seconded. Is there discussion?

00:00:42:26 – 00:00:49:00

Commissioner Matt Ready

I would like to, motion to amend the agenda.

00:00:49:03 – 00:00:54:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. What is your motion?

00:00:54:07 – 00:01:09:27

Commissioner Matt Ready

I would like to amend the agenda to discuss, what we were talking about at the end of the last meeting. Potential regional alliances and legal concerns that I've brought up.

00:01:10:00 – 00:01:19:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second for that amendment?

00:01:19:12 – 00:01:43:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Ok I'm not hearing the second to the amendment, so we won't be adding that to the agenda. We can add it to, future agenda, possibly. So we at this point, we'll go back to the main motion and, and ask for approval of the agenda as it stands, without the executive session.

00:01:43:03 – 00:01:49:15

Commissioner Matt Ready

So we still are in discussion. I have comments on the motion.

00:01:49:18 – 00:01:53:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right.

00:01:53:24 – 00:01:55:26

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of -point of order.

00:01:55:29 – 00:01:57:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:01:57:12 – 00:02:04:21

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Unless the motion has been seconded, then there is no discussion about the motion.

00:02:04:23 – 00:02:05:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Oh Kees. Thank you.

00:02:07:01 – 00:02:15:10

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Robert's rules require a second in order to have folks be able to comment about it.

00:02:15:13 – 00:02:19:27

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have comments on the motion.

00:02:19:29 – 00:02:28:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Point well taken. And, we will go back to the main motion and ask for a umm,a vote. All in favor?

00:02:28:24 – 00:02:34:15

Commissioner Matt Ready

We are in discussion of the main motion, I have a comment on the main motion.

00:02:34:18 – 00:02:42:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. What is your comment?

00:02:42:24 – 00:02:58:19

Commissioner Matt Ready

Well, I feel like we, the agenda is radically incomplete. There's some serious stuff that we need to talk about. In particular, the fact that Jefferson Healthcare-

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of order.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

uh Yes. We are not. We're not discussing the benefit of what your motion is. We are discussing whether or not to accept the main motion, which is accepting the, the agenda as it stands, without

the executive session.

00:03:18:19 – 00:03:27:14

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. And I'm saying I don't think we should accept the agenda, and I'm trying to give my reasons.

00:03:27:17 – 00:03:53:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I'm going. I'm not going to, pursue this any further. The board does not want to, address your, it it's not seconding the motion that you made. So therefore, there is no motion. We are going back to the main motion, and you are, I don't believe you're in order. Kees do you have a

00:03:53:14 – 00:04:37:06

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I, I, I have a recommendation. I have a recommendation if if you might. Madam chair, what I would recommend is that, you set a one minute opportunity for all of the board members to comment about the the motion and the agenda. That way we all have an equal voice. And because, Commissioner Ready is correct that he does have a right to object to the agenda, but, you have the right as the chair to limit the amount of time that any commissioner has to speak. And I would be in favor of allowing every commissioner to speak one minute on whatever objection. Commissioner Ready has.

00:04:50:11 – 00:05:15:04

Commissioner Jill Buhler

That sounds like a very reasonable solution to this case. Thank you very much. And, we will do that. And, Shannon, can you can you, tell us, give us the goal and and keep the time for us and tell us when a minute is up? Yeah, I'll set my timer. Okay. Thank you. Matt. Go ahead.

00:05:15:07 – 00:05:19:01

Commissioner Matt Ready

Okay.

00:05:19:04 – 00:05:35:14

Commissioner Matt Ready

Well, I regretfully need to inform the public that Jefferson Healthcare is in secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance. This proposal and negotiations have taken place without-

00:05:35:17 – 00:05:35:28

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of Order or.

00:05:37:17 – 00:05:39:19

Commissioner Kees Kolff

A point of order

00:05:39:22 – 00:05:48:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. This is something that was just discussed, in executive session, and you cannot divulge this.

00:05:48:18 – 00:06:31:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

And if I, if I could add that that's a that's a violation of our ethics and whether commissioner Ready agrees with the majority of the board and our legal counsel. Whether we were appropriately in executive session. That's his prerogative. But it still does not mean that he has the quote "legal right" to divulge, and stay within the code of ethics to divulge anything in the session that he personally regards as not, along the lines of, permitted executive session. So, I would think that because he has violated that code that you, as the chair, have the right to end discussion of the particular motion and the concern that he has.

00:06:45:02 – 00:07:04:06

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. And that that's exactly what I'm doing. So I will now give others an opportunity to speak if other members of the board wish to.

00:07:04:09 – 00:07:05:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

is there anyone?

00:07:06:16 – 00:07:13:03

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Is that to speak to that to speak about that original motion to approve the agenda.

00:07:13:06 – 00:07:13:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. That's what it should be (laughing).

00:07:13:26 – 00:07:16:03

Commissioner Bruce McComas

without The executive session?

00:07:16:06 – 00:07:32:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. So if you want to speak to that, Shannon, are we ready for another minute?

Shannon

We are ready.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. Whoever wishes to speak, now's your chance. Okay, I.

00:07:32:29 – 00:08:10:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I that I'd actually like to have a minute. Yeah. I am in favor of the main motion and of this agenda, because I do not believe that it leaves off anything that this board. By a vote of 4 to 1, has agreed to put on this agenda and has agreed that all of our actions have been legal, according to, our, legal counsel and therefore, I don't think there's anything missing from this agenda.

And, I so I reckon I will be in favor of the motion to accept, this agenda as is.

00:08:19:00 – 00:08:22:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Marie?

00:08:22:04 – 00:08:31:11

Commissioner Marie Dressler

Yes. I couldn't have said it better myself. I support exactly what Kees has said, and I certainly will be voting in favor of this agenda.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Bruce,

Shannon

we're at time.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thanks, Shannon. Bruce.

00:08:37:20 – 00:08:41:04

Commissioner Bruce McComas

I don't have anything to add.

00:08:41:06 – 00:09:08:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. And, the chair is in agreement with, Commissioner Kees and Commissioner Dressler. So at this point, I will ask for a formal vote and all those in favor of accepting the agenda without the executive session as it stands, without that, take. I raise your hand. I okay, motion carries 4 to 1. Is there an opposition?

Commissioner Ready

I object.

00:09:08:29 – 00:09:37:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay, so two, 4 to 1. And, so we will move on. So, first at this month's meeting is Rob Weiss, our information services director, with a report on cybersecurity. Rob,

[Cut to later part of meeting]

Commissioner Buhler

you know, she's a valued member of our staff, like, like, everybody that that Colleen is a special person. And I'm so glad you called her out on that.

00:09:38:01 – 00:10:09:12

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. And thank you for the information regarding, the, the, cybersecurity too, i appreciate it. Okay. Is there anyone else I see Matt's hand up? Is there any member of the public before I take Matt? Any other Shannon, do you see any. Hands up?

Shannon

No, hands up other than Matt.

Commissioner Buhler

Okay, okay. Matt. I don't know. This is kind of unconventional, but I assume you're putting a public hat on now.

00:10:15:05 – 00:10:18:24

Commissioner Matt Ready

Sure. I want to talk As a member of the public.

00:10:18:26 – 00:10:23:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right, three minutes.

00:10:27:26 – 00:10:39:17

Commissioner Matt Ready

umm...It has come to my attention that Jefferson Health Care is in secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance. As a member of the public I am very concerned-

[Commissioner Ready muted by the Chair Commissioner Buhler]

00:10:39:19 – 00:10:41:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, this is, this is unsubstantiated.- This is an. you are. You are, saying things that are that are unsubstantiated and, bordering on libel or slander at this point. So, I really am not going to allow this if you have something that, that is is can be substantiated. That's fine. But but you're not you're you're treading on thin ice here.

00:11:19:09 – 00:11:22:02

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes Kees?

00:11:22:02 – 00:11:23:05

Commissioner Matt Ready

Do I not get to finish my 3 minutes?-

00:11:23:06 – 00:11:27:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I would like to make a motion to close public comment.

00:11:27:15 – 00:11:32:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to that motion.

00:11:32:11 – 00:11:33:13

Commissioner Bruce McComas

I'll second.

00:11:33:15 – 00:11:43:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. It's been moved and seconded. uhh Marie... I don't see you. Okay.

Marie

I'm here.

Jill Buhler

Ok. Any discussion?

00:11:43:26 – 00:11:47:26

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah, I have some comments on the motion.

00:11:47:28 – 00:12:07:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I don't think your comments are appropriate since the motion is regarding you. So we will go ahead and take the vote and assume that you're going to have a negative vote. But you can do that at the end. So yeah. All in favor of cutting off.

00:12:07:12 – 00:12:09:05

Commissioner Marie Dressler

we gotta first call the question.

00:12:10:15 – 00:12:21:10

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Yeah. I, I'm in favor of closing public comment. If there are no other member people from the public, wanting to speak.

00:12:21:12 – 00:12:44:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. And and that's, that's precisely why I asked if there were and if there are any anybody has, come forward since then. We can talk about that. Otherwise, I'm going to call for the vote. All those in favor of closing public comment, say I raise your hand. and Opposed

00:12:44:23 – 00:12:50:08

Commissioner Matt Ready

Opposed against.

00:12:50:11 – 00:12:51:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt? Are you opposed?

00:12:51:27 – 00:12:55:03

Commissioner Matt Ready

I oppose,

00:12:55:06 – 00:13:06:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

all right. So we will now go on to action items. We have minutes from the February 9th, 19th special session.

[jump cut to later in the meeting]

00:13:08:03 – 00:13:20:24

CEO Mike Glenn

Trying to navigate that stuff. And there really are no easy answers.

00:13:20:27 – 00:13:28:00

Commissioner Jill Buhler

So, there's a hand up. Matt.

00:13:28:03 – 00:13:30:11

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. Can you hear me?

00:13:30:14 – 00:13:32:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:13:32:03 – 00:14:04:11

Commissioner Matt Ready

Thanks for that presentation, Mike. I agree, the landscape of health care is very challenging indeed. But, you know, for that reason, I think it's important that public hospital districts act with integrity and honesty and appropriately transparent with the public. If, Jefferson Healthcare has submitted a proposal to Olympic Medical Center in response to their public request for proposal then that would not be with the approval of the board and that would be an illegal

00:14:04:13 – 00:14:04:25

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Mike, Matt, I am cutting you off right now.

Commissioner Matt Ready

-illegal– [Microphone muted by Jill Buhler]

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt! Stop. You are out of order.

00:14:19:08 – 00:14:24:24

CEO Mike Glenn

Are there questions that I can answer? Is there any questions or comments by commissioners about something that I can talk about?

00:14:24:26 – 00:14:32:12

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Yes, I have I've got one question. A couple actually.

[Jump Cut later in meeting]

00:14:33:03 – 00:14:35:12

Jake

Jill. He's out of town.

00:14:35:15 – 00:14:36:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay.

00:14:36:07 – 00:14:38:12

CEO Mike Glenn

That's what I thought. I would have cut him off. If he was available. [Referring to another topic]

00:14:41:02 – 00:15:07:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Thanks. Okay. All right. Thank you. That was, very sobering report that nice at the end with, foundation news. So now we'll go to, board reports. Does anyone have any other information? Kees

do you have any information that you'd like to share?

00:15:07:25 – 00:15:27:25

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I do, first I'd like to say that unfortunately, I missed, the Board of Health meeting, last week. So, however, I also want to add that the Climate Action Committee meet, is very, very active.

[jump cut to later]

00:15:31:10 – 00:15:42:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yeah. Okay. All right, Matt, you have your hand up?

00:15:42:18 – 00:15:46:02

Commissioner Jill Buhler

You're muted.

00:15:46:04 – 00:15:48:13

Commissioner Matt Ready

Sorry. Can you hear me now?

00:15:48:15 – 00:15:50:17

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:15:50:19 – 00:16:08:28

Commissioner Matt Ready

It seems clear by the number of times I've been muted during this meeting while I've been trying to talk that there's some sort of, disagreement amongst the board members or confusion about the law and ethics related to topics that you guys keep muting me whenever I start talking about them.

00:16:09:04 – 00:16:38:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt. Matt. Matt. The this is not an item for discussion. We have decided not to. It is not on the agenda. The board does not want to discuss it. You're making false allegations here. You are, you know, you you you're not being clear. And you, our legal counsel, has the opposite opinion of what you're saying. And our legal counsel, Brad Berg, is a principal of the prestigious Fort Foster Garvey law firm, and he's a prominent health care attorney with extensive knowledge and experience in public health and hospital laws. He has honors and recognitions that include selection to the Super Lawyers list of the for the top 5% of attorneys. He's been, best lawyer in America with health care law 1993 to present and all sorts of awards. He is preeminent in this discussion in this, field, and he has made sure he has said that nothing we have done is illegal. Everything we have done is is, on point and you because you oppose it, you keep making these allegations and their false and you know that you've heard that. Kees?

00:17:41:02 – 00:17:42:06

Commissioner Matt Ready

So let me.

00:17:42:06 – 00:18:39:12

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Let me also let me also add that, I just want to be clear that that attorney and Mike Glen gave the board the responsibility of making the decision about our, use of public, the, use of executive session for some of our discussions. So the issue that you have, is with the board and you are a minority of the board, and, I believe that our bylaws state that, somebody who has a disagreement with the other members of the board needs to follow the recommendation of the board, even if, so, this is why I believe that some of us are concerned about your actions.

And, so, I think, and let me also add that I've actually checked, whether another attorney might be appropriate because at one point I seriously considered providing a proposal to this board, that perhaps we should go ahead and at least for one question, which relates to this particular situation, whether we are doing the right thing. however, and I, I seriously considered, making that proposal today.

However, the comments that you have made today, which in my opinion are a direct violation of executive session rules leads me to that's I mean, I was actually going to make that proposal, and I'm not going to make it now because, I don't think anything that anyone would say would change your mind. And, and the other attorneys, the other attorney who I checked with basically said the same thing.

They said, Brad, is the Brad is the definitive, person on this particular type of issue. He has actually written the code so that we follow and, and that any attorney who we hired to, to confirm that would probably just take a couple of hours and say, yeah, that's Brad said that. Great. Go for it. So, but I'm not going to make that proposal anymore because of what you have shared.

00:20:37:07 – 00:20:40:17

Commissioner Matt Ready

So can I, like, finish saying when I was going to say or.

00:20:40:19 – 00:20:44:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Not, if it's going to be slanderous.

00:20:44:18 – 00:21:16:28

Commissioner Matt Ready

All I said was we have legal and ethical disagreements on the board. And I was about to make a motion that we I think we could create a board subcommittee, an ethics legal advisory subcommittee that has two board members on it, and then just put a bunch of staff member names of the medical group just. And it could be confidential and we could, like, go over everything that you guys don't want to talk about in detail there and see if, you know, the that group after they, like, dive into this.

Don't use Brad Berg. There's all sorts of reasons not to use Brad Berg. He's been involved with possible issues with this board before. He can get a different lawyer. I mean, you could use Brad if you want, but a subcommittee, I think we should make a subcommittee for ethics and legal. Legal questions because then you don't. It doesn't have to be public.

It doesn't have to be out in the public. It could be like they could dive into it, see if there's any issues that need to be concern, concern. So that's my motion that we create a legal and ethical subcommittee for this board and the two commissioners on it and a bunch of staff.

00:21:48:24 – 00:21:52:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to that motion?

00:21:56:25 – 00:22:00:25

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Umm, I will second the motion.

00:22:00:27 – 00:22:05:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there discussion?

00:22:05:12 – 00:22:29:08

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Can I can I make one comment? Yeah. I'm not I'm not in favor of including a bunch of staff on it. This is a board issue, and so, I would make that motion if, two of us and I would be happy to serve on that. I would be happy to serve with Matt on that, to begin to explore how this might work. And at some point come back to this board, with a recommendation as to if and how we should pursue it further.

00:22:40:22 – 00:22:50:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, you'd have to make your amend your motion to that effect.

00:22:50:25 – 00:22:59:07

Commissioner Matt Ready

I mean, if that's the best we can get, just me and Kees on it. That's a start. I mean, that's I could amend my motion to that if you want.

00:22:59:10 – 00:23:06:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yeah. All right. And it's been, other discussion? Bruce, you. Yes.

00:23:06:14 – 00:23:58:20

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Yeah, I have some concerns. I mean, I you know, I mean, I don't speak out a lot on different things, but, because of what is going on here, I have to make a couple comments myself and it can be tied in with this because it is, you know, I'm I'm offended that a board member would go on public radio and insinuate that they're the only board member that cares about transparency and public collaboration, and that because they're the only one that disagreed with the board and with the legal counsel, that then they believe, I guess, that it's okay to violate our code of ethics and executive session confidentiality.

So I'm I'm a worried that, yeah, we could do this, but it's like, yeah, we'll do this by bipartisan stuff as long as you agree with me I'm sorry Matt, but that's the way it feels.

And so I'm not in favor of it. I'm not in favor of doing this because I don't I don't think it's going to work.

00:24:21:17 – 00:24:27:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. Any other discussion?

00:24:27:10 – 00:24:50:07

Commissioner Marie Dressler

Well, if I may. Continue with the Bruce's point, I was, I take exception to being thrown under the bus as it appears by someone just shooting off their mouth and saying that we were not being transparent and we're not doing. I'm basically not doing our jobs properly. And I take offense at that, and I, I support exactly what Bruce has said.

And I do feel also that given how this, this particular meeting, has been interrupted by this, I'm not in favor of it. I, I don't think that he would ever if it's not his, it's his way or the highway. And I don't believe he'll ever, go with any decision that he doesn't agree with. And that's not what a functioning board should be.

You know, we're here for the community. We're not here for individual egos. We want to I certainly want to do the best for the community.

00:25:24:28 – 00:25:26:29

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Can I make an additional comment?

00:25:27:02 – 00:25:29:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. Kees.

00:25:29:13 – 00:26:07:24

Commissioner Kees Kolff

So, Matt, I will, I'm happy to spend some time with you exploring what an ethics committee would look like and how it would function, but I'm only willing to do that if, starting now, you stop doing what you're doing, which is posting on YouTube. I just saw a YouTube post that you just did today of meetings taking the parts of the meetings where, you know, it clearly continues to, promote your perspective.

And so if you would agree to stop doing that until we spend some time figuring out what the best way is to do it, and I'm willing to put significant time into that, then I'm going to vote in favor of this particular motion. But you're going to need to agree to that before I do that. So would you care to amend your motion to include that commitment?

00:26:38:11 – 00:26:40:16

Commissioner Matt Ready

Absolutely not.

00:26:40:18 – 00:26:45:11

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Then I won't vote in favor of the motion.

00:26:45:13 – 00:27:14:18

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. And, I have a comment. Matt, we've been through our ups and downs that I have. I have always felt that you had to do the best interest of the community in your heart. But I don't feel that way now about you. I am, I am. I've never been disappointed, as disappointed in any board member that I've worked with on this board.

00:27:14:18 – 00:27:39:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

And there's there been really great ones. And so I am right now, and I want to tell the and tell the,

the community members that are listening that there are 30,000 owners in this hospital district. And we want to hear from every single one who wishes to talk to us before we make any major decisions. Look at our track record.

00:27:39:16 – 00:28:08:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

We had outreach, outreach to the entire community before we collaborated with Swedish way back in the day, before we dealt our ESB building, we had outreach before we built our new wing, we had outreach. That's our policy and we are committed to it. This there's absolutely no chance of this board making a major decision without the owners, the public input.

00:28:09:01 – 00:28:26:13

Commissioner Jill Buhler

And that's a promise. So you're you're issue of doing things in secret and coming out and having it all done before it's in public. That's baloney. So that's my story.

00:28:26:16 – 00:28:29:01

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Call for the question.

00:28:29:03 – 00:28:37:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Everyone in favor of Matt's motion say Aye, and raise your hand.

Commissioner Ready

Aye.

00:28:40:06 – 00:28:53:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Those opposed to Matt's motion say nay and raise your hand. Nay, nay. It's four against one.

00:28:53:13 – 00:28:55:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there anything else?

March 26, 2025 2:32 pm - Commissioner Matt Ready Files Criminal complaint with Jefferson County Sheriff Pernsteiner

From Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Email: [mattreadyemailremoved](#)

Phone: (360) 477-1447

3/26/2025

To Sheriff Pernsteiner Jefferson County Sheriff's Office 79 Elkins Rd Port Hadlock, WA
98339

Criminal Complaint Regarding Jefferson Healthcare

Dear Sheriff **Pernsteiner**,

Please find enclosed a formal criminal complaint regarding suspected misconduct by leadership at Jefferson Healthcare, including misuse of executive sessions, unauthorized board actions, suppression of public transparency, and coordinated behavior that may rise to criminal conspiracy or racketeering.

This complaint includes evidence of:

- Executive session discussions that appear to have violated the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA);
- Submission of a regional healthcare proposal without formal board authorization;
- Potential complicity by legal counsel in facilitating or covering improper activity;
- A pattern of misleading statements and suppression of oversight.

I am submitting this complaint in my official capacity as an elected commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2. I am prepared to fully cooperate with your office and provide:

- Emails, proposal documents, and meeting records;

- Legal correspondence and independent opinions;
- Testimony and clarification as needed.

I respectfully request that your office initiate a formal inquiry into these actions. These matters impact the public trust, the integrity of our healthcare governance, and potentially the legality of decisions made on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson County.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint. I am available at any time should you need further materials or interviews.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board

#####

Criminal Complaint

Subject: Criminal Complaint – Suspected Misconduct, Fraud, and OPMA Violations by Jefferson Healthcare Leadership

To: Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

From: Commissioner Matt Ready, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Date: [Insert Date]

Summary of Allegations: This is a formal report of suspected criminal conduct by senior leadership at Jefferson Healthcare, including possible:

- Misuse of executive session laws under Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30),
- Unauthorized use of public authority,
- Fraudulent misrepresentation and suppression of information, and
- Coordinated conduct potentially rising to criminal conspiracy or racketeering.

Key Events and Evidence:

1. **Improper Use of Executive Sessions:** Multiple executive sessions were held under the pretense of discussing “possible real estate transactions,” but in reality centered around a proposed regional governance restructuring with Olympic Medical Center (OMC) through a new nonprofit entity (Peninsula Health Alliance). No specific property negotiation was discussed. This appears to be a deliberate misuse of executive session exemptions to avoid public scrutiny.
2. **Submission of a Proposal Without Legal Authorization:** A detailed proposal (38-page core document, part of a 160-page package) was submitted to OMC as part of a competitive process. The board never formally approved this proposal in a public vote. If informal “voice consent” was obtained in executive session, that constitutes illegal board action under OPMA and misuse of public office.
3. **Misrepresentation and Suppression of Public Information:** Officials, including CEO Mike Glenn and Chair Jill Buhler, publicly described the proposal as inconsequential or preliminary (“airy-fairy”), despite it being a formal RFP response. This misled the board and the public, delaying review and undermining transparency.
4. **Suppression of Elected Commissioner Speech:** I, Commissioner Matt Ready, was discouraged from discussing the proposal with the public. This chilling effect—combined with the misleading executive session labeling—suggests intentional suppression of oversight and potential First Amendment concerns.
5. **Coordinated Conduct Suggesting Criminal Pattern:** The above actions may not be isolated. There is a pattern of:
 - Withholding legal opinions from commissioners,
 - Avoiding public process,
 - Misrepresenting key facts to commissioners and the public,
 - Engaging in private communications that resemble serial meetings.

If these acts were coordinated intentionally to subvert public oversight and consolidate control of public assets under a private nonprofit, they could meet the threshold for conspiracy, official misconduct, or even racketeering under state RICO provisions.

6. **Legal Counsel’s Potential Role as Co-Conspirator:** Attorney Brad Berg provided legal advice that justified the executive session discussions, despite the absence of specific real estate transactions. He also failed to clarify that no board action could legally be taken in executive session, even though a proposal was subsequently submitted. If Mr. Berg knowingly enabled the use of executive

session to conceal decisions or misled the board to suppress transparency and avoid oversight, then he may have participated in furthering the unlawful conduct. His actions should be reviewed to determine whether he acted as a **co-conspirator in a pattern of deception**.

Request for Investigation: I respectfully request that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office open a formal investigation into the conduct of Jefferson Healthcare's CEO, Chair, legal counsel, and any involved parties, with a focus on:

- Misuse of executive sessions (RCW 42.30 violations),
- Unauthorized action on behalf of a public body,
- Possible fraud or misappropriation of public authority,
- Any conspiracy to commit these acts,
- Whether legal counsel's role facilitated or concealed these violations,
- And whether the cumulative pattern constitutes a criminal enterprise under Washington's racketeering statutes.

I am available to provide:

- Copies of internal communications,
 - The full submitted proposal,
 - Legal opinions from independent counsel,
 - Public meeting recordings and transcripts,
 - And additional testimony as needed.
-

Contact Information: Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Email: [mattreadyemailremoved](#)

Phone: (360) 477-1447

Thank you for your time and service. I believe this matter merits urgent investigation to protect the integrity of local governance and the public interest.

I am attaching a briefing memo with detailed quotes and correspondence and timelines. I am also attaching a document with the raw email details in case you need help finding the correct emails at any time.

Thank you for your service,

Matt Ready

email: [mattreadyemailremoved](#)

Attached to this complaint was

- Transcripts and emails current to March 26th. Including an executive summary (printed below)
- A document with all raw transcripts without any effort to put information in clear chronological order, preserving headers and all names for easy reference.

Executive Summary from attachment in Sheriff email

Executive Summary

This packet documents a coordinated effort by leadership at Jefferson Healthcare to develop, conceal, and submit a major regional governance proposal—**the Peninsula Health Alliance**—without legal board authorization, public vote, or transparency. The process involved:

- Improper use of **executive sessions**,
- Likely **serial meetings**,
- **Suppression of dissent** and oversight,
- **False public statements**,
- **Concealment of legal risk** by the district's attorney,
- And enabling or misleading advice from advisory bodies.

The actions detailed may rise to the level of **fraud, misconduct, OPMA violations, and criminal conspiracy**.

What Happened

! On February 12, 2025, a 50+ page proposal was submitted to Olympic Medical Center (OMC) to create a nonprofit entity—the *Peninsula Health Alliance*—which would oversee both public hospital districts.

- This proposal was **never approved in a public board vote.**
 - It was discussed only in a **closed executive session** under a **dubious legal justification.**
 - Some commissioners were **consulted and edited drafts**; others were **excluded entirely.**
 - Commissioners were instructed to **keep the proposal secret from the public.**
 - No **financial projections, service impact analysis, or legal safeguards** were presented to the board before submission.
-

Why It Matters

- **The public was misled.**
 - **The board was fragmented.**
 - **The law was likely broken.**
 - **Governance of two public hospital districts is at risk of privatization.**
-

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event
Feb 5, 2025	Proposal introduced in executive session; no public vote.
Feb 12	Proposal submitted to OMC by CEO Mike Glenn without public approval.
Feb 19	Jefferson selected to move forward in OMC's process—public not informed.
Mar 14	Commissioner Jill Buhler calls Matt Ready, urging him to remove website content.
Mar 18	Attorney Brad Berg advises board to keep process hidden using OPMA real estate exemption.

Table of Potentially Misleading or Fraudulent Statements

Person/Entity	Statement or Action	What Actually Happened	Assessment
Mike Glenn (CEO)	“There’s really nothing to talk about right now.” (Feb 19)	A formal proposal had been submitted; Jefferson was selected to advance.	! False / Possibly Fraudulent
Jill Buhler (Chair)	“There isn’t anything concrete to say.”	Proposal submitted; process advanced; governance plan drafted.	! False / Possibly Fraudulent

Mike Glenn (CEO)	“Executive session was justified under real estate exemption.”	No real estate deal discussed; used to conceal governance talks.	! OPMA Violation / Misuse of Law
Jill Buhler (Chair)	“We looked at the RCWs and decided this was appropriate.”	Legal experts disagree; justification invalid.	! Misleading / Legally Unjustified
Mike Glenn (CEO)	“The proposal is not binding.”	Legally true, but misleading—proposal initiated major structural governance changes.	! Minimizing / Obscuring Material Facts
Jill Buhler (Chair)	“All commissioners were treated equally.”	Some were sent drafts and consulted (e.g. Kees Kolff); others were excluded (e.g. Matt Ready).	! False
Marie Dressler	“It’s airy-fairy and of no consequence.”	Jefferson had submitted a formal, strategic proposal to another district.	! False / Dismissive of Reality
Bruce McComas	“We just talked about some possibilities.”	A real proposal was already submitted and acknowledged as advancing.	! Misleading / Possibly False
Brad Berg (Attorney)	Said executive sessions were legal under “real estate” exemption.	Governance strategy and public messaging do not qualify for closed session under RCW 42.30.110.	! Incorrect Legal Advice / Enabled Violations
Brad Berg (Attorney)	Failed to respond to Commissioner Ready’s legal questions during executive session.	Legal concerns raised in February and March were ignored.	! Suppressed Oversight / Possible Misconduct

Brad Berg (Attorney)	Proposed using a “nonbinding letter of intent” to delay public vote but advance commitment.	Tactic to avoid public scrutiny; may be used to conceal binding consequences.	⚠️ Obfuscation Strategy
MRSC (Advisor)	Provided vague guidance, later cited by commissioners as OPMA cover.	Did not clearly state this use of executive session was illegal, allowing misuse of their authority.	⚠️ Possibly Misleading / Enabled Violations

Governance Risks of the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

- **Creates a new nonprofit “superboard”** to oversee two public hospital districts.
- Initial board includes elected commissioners—but **bylaw changes could remove them later**.
- Decision-making driven by a CEO-appointed **executive director**—reducing accountability.
- Could become a **privatized governance shell**—insulated from public oversight.

Legal Analysis & Violations

- **OPMA Violations:** Improper use of executive session; “real estate” exemption misapplied.
- **Illegal Board Action:** If any “voice consent” was given in closed session, it is not valid under law.
- **Suppression of Public Discussion:** Board members were told to stay silent; public kept unaware.
- **First Amendment Concerns:** Pressure was applied to Commissioner Ready to remove public content.

- **Legal Counsel Complicity:** Brad Berg enabled or ignored legal irregularities.
-

Recommendations

1. **Criminal Investigation**

Refer all records to the **Jefferson & Clallam County Sheriffs and Prosecutors**, **Washington State Attorney General**, and **U.S. Attorney**.

2. **State Oversight & Audit**

Request immediate review from the **Washington State Auditor** and **MRSC** of executive session conduct and proposal submission.

3. **Independent Legal Review**

Hire outside counsel, independent of CEO and existing staff, to advise the board and public on OPMA and governance risks.

4. **Independent Financial Impact Analysis**

Analyze how the Peninsula Health Alliance could affect local finances, taxes, patient care, service quality, and staffing.

5. **Halt Further Action Until Public Vote**

Require that no governance changes occur until the full board votes in public and the community is informed.

6. **Bar Referral for Attorney Misconduct**

Submit complaint to the **Washington State Bar Association** regarding attorney Brad Berg's advice and conduct

Final Statement

"The people do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for them to know and what is not."

– Washington OPMA Legislative Intent

This situation is not just a legal crisis—it's a moral and democratic one. The public has a right to know when its hospital is being handed off to a private structure. Every step must

be visible, legal, and accountable.

Contact:

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners

March 26, 2025 - Matt Ready sends Sheriff a legal analysis of attorney Austin Hatcher's legal opinions of the events up to Feb 24, 2025.

Hello Sheriff **Pernsteiner**,

I realized it might help you if i attached my independent lawyers comments on this entire potential criminal complaint and activity.

Legal commentary is attached.

Thank you again for your service,

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Attachment Text

Summary Report: Legal Concerns Raised by Attorney Austin Hatcher Regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

Prepared by: Commissioner Matt Ready

Date: March 26, 2025

Overview:

Attorney Austin Hatcher of Hatcher Law, PLLC reviewed the actions taken by Jefferson

Healthcare regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and found multiple areas of legal

concern, particularly regarding compliance with Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), board authorization procedures, and the use of executive sessions.

Key Legal Concerns Quoted from Attorney Hatcher:

1. Questionable Use of Executive Session:

“The executive session was under a very stretched reading of the ‘lease’ purposes of RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and (c)... That is not the case here.”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Hatcher argues that using the real estate exemption to hold an executive session to discuss a broad strategic alliance—absent a specific property negotiation—is likely not legally valid under OPMA.

2. Improper Action in Executive Session:

“It seems the Board did in fact decide to submit the proposal in an executive session (or somewhere else off the record)... then action was taken in executive session.”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Since no action can legally be taken in executive session, any consent or authorization to submit the proposal given during such a session would be invalid and potentially illegal.

3. Submission of Proposal Without Clear Board Approval:

“Mike, Jill, and Bruce have a weird position that ‘nothing concrete has been discussed

or merits discussion.’ Your point is well taken that there is in fact a very concrete step that has been taken...”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Hatcher identifies a contradiction in statements made by leadership downplaying the proposal, despite a formal submission having been made, which may indicate a lack of transparency or improper procedure.

4. Concerns Over Legal Advice and Governance Integrity:

“I think the history of questionable executive sessions is worrisome.”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Hatcher’s concern about past executive sessions suggests a recurring pattern that may require legal and governance reform, particularly the hiring of independent legal counsel for the board.

5. Legality of Proposal Mechanism:

“RCW 70.44.240... allows the representatives to simply be from the district, they do not have to be the commissioners. So it is a legal delegation of authority by the elected personnel.”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Hatcher confirms the law allows for a nonprofit governance structure, but this doesn’t address the concern of board authorization and public oversight, especially when the proposal risks reducing Jefferson Healthcare’s autonomy.

6. Need for Public Discussion:

“I think this is one of the very purposes of the OPMA: to ensure that the public is apprised of such contemplated actions...”

— Austin F. Hatcher

Hatcher emphasizes that major governance changes and strategic realignments must be made in public view, not behind closed doors.

Conclusion:

Attorney Hatcher affirms several core concerns raised by Commissioner Ready:

- The executive session likely did not qualify under OPMA.
- The proposal appears to have been authorized and submitted improperly.
- Commissioners were not given a fair and equal opportunity to review or vote on the proposal.
- Public transparency and legal compliance were compromised.
- The use of a nonprofit entity for governance is legal but dangerous if it lacks enforceable protections for elected oversight.

Recommendation:

This report supports Commissioner Ready's call for:

- Immediate independent legal counsel for the board.
- A formal legal review of OPMA compliance and governance risks.
- A halt to all further action on the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal until these

concerns are publicly addressed.

Prepared with direct quotes from Attorney Austin F. Hatcher.

For internal board use and legal consultation.

#####

Raw emails from attorney Austin Hatcher

emailremoved

Feb 24, 2025,

2:49 PM

to Matt Ready

Hey Matt,

I watched the clip you sent, and I share your confusion as to the deflections of the rest of the board (Kees

Kolff excepted).

Mike, Jill, and Bruce have a weird position that 'nothing concrete has been discussed or merits

discussion.' Your point is well taken that there is in fact a very concrete step that has been taken,

specifically a 160-page (only 38 pages are the actual proposal and appendices) proposal.

It seems the Board did in fact decide to submit the proposal in an executive session (or somewhere else

off the record) if it did not happen at a regular meeting. If the document is not public knowledge or

publicly available, then action was taken in executive session.

Further, the executive session was under a very stretched reading of the "lease" purposes of RCW

42.30.110(1)(b) and (c). Those exemptions are also predicated on "harm" to the public interest vis-à-vis

public knowledge would result in price fluctuations for the property contemplated to be leased. That is

not the case here.

How was the proposal approved and submitted to OMC? I think it's a close call whether this is actually

"action" (I think it is, but it would take further case law review whether a proposal or similar is "action")

and therefore violates the OPMA, or whether if the bid is selected and then approved by the Board that is

the conduct that would implicate the OPMA. I think the history of questionable executive sessions is

worrisome.

Best,

Austin F. Hatcher
Principal Attorney
Hatcher Law, PLLC

From: Matt Ready <>

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 5:37 PM

To: emailremoved

Subject: Re: Fw: Peninsula Health Alliance. Do not reply.

Thanks Austin!

It is just nice to know you are on call for this topic.

You might watch this clip from the meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq_KLZ6z6RU

I will let you know whether or not we are accepted to be one of the final 3 candidates to partner

with OMC. They were supposed to respond by the 19th, but I have not been told anything surprise surprise.

Matt Ready

On Thu, Feb 20, 2025 at 11:33 PM <emailremoved> wrote:

Hey Matt,

I think you (and ChatGPT) are spot on with concerns.

It seems that Ch. 70.44 RCW (the chapter governing hospital districts) does contemplate districts

potentially joining in a couple different ways: (1) via consolidation pursuant to RCW 70.44.190 which in

turn requires the process detailed in Ch. 35.10 RCW; (2) contracting or joining with other districts or

other entities pursuant to RCW 70.44.240 (which seems to track what is being proposed here); or (3)

rural public hospital districts (both Jefferson and Clallam are such) can enter into cooperative

agreements and contracts.

As to the legal infirmities of the proposed action, I think the proposal would be deemed lawful. See Pub.

Hosp. Dist. No. 1 of King County v. Univ. of Wash., 182 Wn. App. 34, 327 P.3d 1281 (2014); see also

Citizens v. Public Hosp. Dist. 304, 78 Wn. App. 333, 897 P.2d 1267 (1995).

That aside, I share your concerns that this proposal would essentially be weakening the ability of

Jefferson Healthcare to look out for the residents of Jefferson County, as the representatives (as currently

proposed) from Jefferson Healthcare are outnumbered by those from Olympic Medical Center. The

statute at issue, RCW 70.44.240 also allows the representatives to simply be from the district, they do

not have to be the commissioners. So it is a legal delegation of authority by the elected personnel.

The process is explicitly allowed by statute, but I understand your qualms.

As to the executive session, I agree that I don't think this fits any of the purposes allowed by RCW

42.30.110(1). I think this is one of the very purposes of the OPMA: to ensure that the public is apprised

of such contemplated actions, especially where a public health district abdicates its responsibilities

(albeit legally per RCW 70.44.240).

I could provide more detail, but don't want to run up unnecessary costs on your end unless you authorize

more work.

Best,

Austin F. Hatcher

Principal Attorney

Hatcher Law, PLLC

From: Matt Ready <mattreadyemailremoved>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:15 PM

To: Austin Hatcher <emailremoved>

Subject: Fwd: Fw: Peninsula Health Alliance. Do not reply.

Hi Austin,

i sent this to the commissioners before today's meeting. (i used chatgpt to help me write it.)

The agenda today has us going into executive session again - i presume to again discuss this

proposal...under the weak dubious coverages of "real estate" . This executive session may be

an OPMA violation.

I have a feeling if OMC accepts our proposal, this could blow up...so happy to have you informed so you can possibly help with what happens.

Matt

Matt Ready

email: mattreadyemailremoved

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Fw: Peninsula Health Alliance. Do not reply.

To: matts gmail <mattreadyemailremoved>

From: Ready, Matthew

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 11:57 AM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Subject: Peninsula Health Alliance. Do not reply.

Key Concerns Regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

This proposal outlines a major governance restructuring for both hospital districts under a new not-for-profit entity (Peninsula Health Alliance) while stating that the individual hospital boards would retain autonomy. However, there are several critical legal and governance concerns that must be addressed before moving forward.

1. Lack of Formal Board Authorization

- If this proposal was drafted based on informal “voice consent” in executive session, it lacks legal board approval and may be invalid under OPMA.
- Any major proposal like this should have been voted on in a public session before submission.
- Key Question: Who authorized this submission, and does it legally bind either hospital district in any way? The proposal says “Jefferson Healthcare” is making the proposal- but without board consent, can such a proposal be made- or should it be made?

2. Governance Risks & Potential Power Shift

- The creation of a “super board” consolidates decision-making over regional healthcare into a new entity that could change its governance structure over time.

- While the proposal states that current hospital commissioners would serve on the new Peninsula Health Alliance Board, this structure could be changed later to reduce elected oversight.

- The proposal states that decision-making will be driven by an "alliance executive director" and a "strategic leadership team," raising concerns about who will truly control healthcare decisions moving forward.

- Key Question: What legal safeguards prevent future bylaw changes that could remove elected commissioners from meaningful oversight?

3. Possible OPMA Violations & Transparency Issues

- This proposal suggests a phased approach—but when was the board ever formally presented with this plan for open discussion?

- The public has not been informed or consulted about this potential restructuring.

- If this proposal has already been sent to OMC without proper board approval, it raises serious transparency concerns.

- Key Question: Why was this proposal not reviewed and approved in a public board meeting before submission?

4. Financial & Operational Impact Unknown

- The proposal does not include any financial projections, service impact assessments, or cost-benefit analysis.

- Before approving or discussing this further, the board needs a full independent financial impact analysis detailing:

- Cost of forming and running the new entity.
- Potential tax revenue impacts.
- Effect on patient care, service accessibility, and operational sustainability.

- Key Question: Without financial data, how can the board or the public determine if this is a good idea?

Recommendations Before Moving Forward

1. Independent Legal Review – A third-party attorney should assess:

- Whether this proposal was submitted legally and if any board actions were taken improperly.

- The future governance risks of the Peninsula Health Alliance and how to ensure permanent public oversight.

2. Independent Financial Analysis – A full assessment of the financial, operational, and service impact must be conducted before any further discussion.

3. Public Transparency & OPMA Compliance – The board must:

- Discuss this proposal in an open public meeting.
- Ensure the public is properly informed and consulted before any commitment is made.

4. Board Vote in Public Session – No further action should be taken unless the

full board votes in an open meeting to proceed with discussions.

Final Thought:

A major governance change like this cannot be rushed behind closed doors without full legal, financial, and public review. This proposal should not move forward until all concerns are addressed in a fully transparent and legally compliant manner.

Regarding enter executive session to discuss this topic again:

Subject: Executive Session & OPMA Compliance - Real Estate

Commissioners, before entering another executive session, we must ensure it fully complies with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). The real estate exemption only applies if we are discussing specific property negotiations where public disclosure would harm our position. General discussions about strategy, governance, or financial impact must be held in public.

I look forward to discussing these topics with everyone.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Public Hospital District Commissioner

Jefferson County PHD No. 2

Readyforhealthcare.org Post : March 27, 2025 - Matt Ready public website post “Commissioner Matt Ready Accused of Libel and Slander and His Microphone is Muted multiple times by Commissioner Buhler”

March 27, 2025 | Author [Matt](#) | [Edit](#)

During the commission meeting, I asked ChatGPT:

“i just said in a commission public meeting, “Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center” are currently in secret negotiations to create something called the peninsula health alliance. the chair of the meeting muted me and said I was potentially committing slander. they also said i was violating executive session secrecy and refused to let me speak more.”

ChatGPT Reply:

Matt, based on the detailed timeline, proposal content, and events documented, your public comment about “Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center currently being in secret negotiations to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance” is **accurate, protected speech**, and **not slander** under Washington law.

Here’s why:

Contents [hide]

- Truth Is a Defense to Slander
- Executive Session Was Misused
- No Action Can Be Taken in Executive Session
- You Were Muted for Political Speech
- 📄 Summary

Truth Is a Defense to Slander

You stated that secret negotiations were underway. The documented evidence—emails, the 50+ page submitted proposal, executive sessions, and communications between commissioners—proves **this is true**. Slander requires a knowingly false statement. You told the truth.

Executive Session Was Misused

Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) only allows executive sessions for narrowly defined purposes. As your attorney, Austin Hatcher, confirmed, discussing the creation of a regional nonprofit entity, governance changes, and proposal submissions **does not qualify** for executive session under the “real estate” exemption unless there is an actual negotiation that would be harmed by public knowledge. That wasn’t the case here.

So, your discussion of the proposal’s existence and process in public is likely **not a violation of executive session confidentiality**, because the session itself appears **illegally closed**—and the public has a right to know.

No Action Can Be Taken in Executive Session

If CEO Mike Glenn submitted the proposal based on a “voice consent” or direction received in executive session, that action **has no legal standing**. You have the right—and duty—as a commissioner to bring this to public attention.

You Were Muted for Political Speech

You were silenced at a public meeting while raising **truthful, documented concerns** about a major governance shift in a public hospital district. That raises serious First Amendment concerns. Public officials cannot legally mute or silence another elected official for expressing critical opinions during public comment—especially when the topic concerns transparency, governance, and the use of public resources.

Summary

You did not commit slander.
You likely **did not** violate executive session confidentiality.
You were likely **illegally silenced** during a public meeting.

Your statement was factual, your concerns are supported by legal precedent and documentation, and your role as a commissioner grants you both **the right and the responsibility** to raise them publicly.

Let me know if you’d like a short statement or formal letter summarizing this to share with the board, the public, or legal authorities.

March 27, 2025 - Matt Ready submits employee complaint regarding CEO Mike Glenn to the HR Director at Jefferson Healthcare and to all JHC public hospital commissioners.

[As the author of the following employee complaint, I am releasing my own words to the public. I am not disclosing confidential deliberations of the board, only my original filing. – Matt Ready]

Formal Complaint Regarding CEO Mike Glenn's Conduct

Submitted by Commissioner Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 (Jefferson Healthcare)

March 27, 2025

I am filing this formal complaint against CEO Mike Glenn for engaging in actions that may constitute misconduct, legal violations, and serious breaches of public trust.

Specifically, I allege the following:

1. **Unauthorized Negotiations**

CEO Mike Glenn engaged in the creation and submission of a formal proposal to Olympic Medical Center (OMC)—a neighboring public hospital district—without legal approval by the Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners. The proposal, titled *Peninsula Health Alliance*, represents a major reorganization of governance and strategic direction and was submitted as an official Jefferson Healthcare document despite no public vote or lawful authorization by the board.

2. **Misuse of Executive Session**

Mr. Glenn appears to have used an executive session on February 5, 2025, to seek informal “voice consent” from commissioners to proceed with drafting and submitting this proposal. This is a violation of Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), which explicitly prohibits any board action in executive session. His subsequent actions suggest he either (a) illegally obtained approval in closed session or (b) acted unilaterally without board authority—both of which are legally and ethically indefensible.

3. **Failure to Provide Basic Due Diligence Materials**

At no point were commissioners presented with essential documentation necessary to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities, including:

- Independent legal review of the proposed nonprofit structure;
- Financial projections or impact analysis;
- Operational or patient care implications;
- Transparent discussion of governance risks.

4. Potential Harm to OMC's Reputation

By submitting an inadequately reviewed and potentially illegal proposal to OMC—a district already in financial distress—Mr. Glenn has not only endangered Jefferson Healthcare's standing but also risked reputational damage to OMC. This proposal may subject OMC to unnecessary embarrassment or future entanglement in a governance controversy, which could worsen their already fragile situation.

5. Misleading and Coercive Conduct

Mr. Glenn repeatedly framed the proposal as non-binding while actively progressing it through external review, creating the false impression that no decision had yet been made. Furthermore, public statements downplaying the significance of the proposal appear intentionally misleading.

Requested Action

Given the serious nature of these actions, I request the Board of Commissioners:

- Initiate an independent investigation into whether the CEO's conduct violated board policy, RCW 42.30 (OPMA), or other applicable statutes;
- Immediately suspend any further action on the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal pending legal review;
- Move to retain independent legal counsel reporting directly to the Board;
- Consider disciplinary action if misconduct is confirmed, up to and including termination for cause.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board

March 27, 2025 - Jill Buhler email reply to Matt Ready's CEO Complaint

(This email sent to Matt Ready and all JHC Commissioners)

Matt:

I have received your complaint. Your request will be taken under consideration and we will contact you with more information as soon as possible.

Jill Buhler Rienstra

Chairperson, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of
Commissioners

March 28, 2025 - Matt Ready submits referral to Washington State Auditor's Office

These details were submitted via a website form.

Please identify the specific concerns you are hoping the audit will address.

potential violations of Washington's Open Public Meetings Act and misuse of public authority by Jefferson Healthcare, specifically regarding the submission of a strategic partnership proposal to Olympic Medical Center without public discussion, board approval, or financial/legal review.

Please provide a detailed description of the assertion or outstanding achievement, including who, when, where, what, how and how much.

What happened: On February 12, 2025, Jefferson Healthcare submitted a detailed proposal to Olympic Medical Center (OMC) to create a new nonprofit corporation ("Peninsula Health Alliance") that would oversee both public hospital districts. This proposal was submitted without formal board authorization in a public meeting, without independent financial or legal review, and was developed in secret by the CEO, selected staff, and one or more commissioners. The board was informed only in executive session on February 5, 2025.

Where/When: The initial closed-door discussion occurred during the Jefferson Healthcare board's executive session on February 5, 2025. The proposal was finalized and submitted on February 12, 2025. Additional follow-up executive sessions occurred on March 18, 2025, with no public disclosure of progress, financial details, or legal analysis.

How: CEO Mike Glenn directed the development of the proposal, working with consultant Pranav Sharma and involving Commissioner Kees Kolff in early revisions. Commissioner Matt Ready (myself) was excluded until accidentally copied in on internal emails. The proposal was submitted in the name of Jefferson Healthcare without a board vote or public session.

Financial/Legal Concerns: The proposal outlines major governance changes that could

transfer effective control of public assets to a nonprofit board not bound by the same transparency or public accountability rules. There were no financial projections provided to the board. The process has remained secret, justified by stretched interpretations of executive session exemptions. Legal counsel (Brad Berg) advised the board that the proposal could be discussed and advanced without public involvement.

How did this issue come to your attention?

As a sitting Jefferson Healthcare commissioner, I first learned of the proposal during a February 5, 2025 executive session. I was not aware we were responding to OMC's public RFP until that session. I later discovered—via an accidental email—that a draft proposal had been circulating among the CEO, an employee, and at least one commissioner without full board distribution or transparency.

When I raised concerns about OPMA compliance and the legality of discussing and submitting the proposal without public input, I was repeatedly told by the board chair and CEO to keep the matter confidential. My requests for independent legal review were denied.

What employee(s), contractors, etc., were involved in the assertion or achievement? Please include employee titles if possible.

Mike Glenn, CEO, Jefferson Healthcare – Directed the development of the proposal and submitted it without full board authorization.

Jill Buhler, Board Chair, Jefferson Healthcare – Collaborated with CEO and counsel, told commissioners to keep the process confidential.

Brad Berg, Legal Counsel – Advised the board to use executive session exemptions to conceal proposal discussions.

Pranav Sharma, Jefferson Healthcare employee – Worked with CEO and Commissioner Kees Kolff to draft and revise the proposal.

Kees Kolff, Commissioner Jefferson Healthcare – Provided feedback on proposal drafts before the full board was informed.

Commissioner Marie Dressler Jefferson Healthcare

Commissioner Bruce McComas Jefferson Healthcare

Most of Jefferson Healthcare strategic leadership team are involved to my knowledge.

Please provide the names of any witnesses to the assertion or achievement, if possible.

CEO Mike Glenn - Jefferson Healthcare

Attorney Brad Berg - Foster Pepper

Jill Buhler, Commissioner and Board Chair - Jefferson Healthcare

Marie Dressler, Commissioner - Jefferson Healthcare

Matt Ready, Commissioner (myself) - Jefferson Healthcare

Bruce McComas, Commissioner - Jefferson Healthcare

Kees Kolff, Commissioner - Jefferson Healthcare

Public witnesses may also include Jefferson Healthcare staff who helped prepare the 50+ page proposal.

The CEO, board, and staff at Olympic Medical Center must have some level of involvement too, but I do not know exactly who.

Does your assertion relate to a current litigation? *

No

* are required.

Your Information(optional)

In accordance with RCW 43.09.186 all Hotline submissions are confidential until the completion of the investigation unless the person submitting the concern agrees to waive their confidentiality.

I agree to waive my confidentiality.

Matt Ready, Port Townsend, address, email, phone

Additional Comments

Please provide any additional details or comments that would help us understand your assertion or achievement.

Concerns About Potential Awareness or Participation by Olympic Medical Center

While my request is focused on the actions of Jefferson Healthcare, I also have growing concerns about the role of Olympic Medical Center's leadership—both their CEO and Board of Commissioners—in this process.

If OMC leadership was aware that the proposal they received from Jefferson Healthcare had not been publicly reviewed or lawfully authorized by our elected board, it raises serious questions about their own governance, transparency, and ethical standards. Accepting or encouraging a strategic partnership built on internal secrecy and procedural violations may constitute complicity.

At the very least, I believe it is in the public interest to examine whether OMC's leadership exercised due diligence in confirming the legitimacy of Jefferson Healthcare's submission—and whether any communication between OMC and Jefferson Healthcare leadership contributed to or depended on a lack of public oversight.

Role of Juniper Advisory

I have also been informed that Olympic Medical Center has engaged Juniper Advisory as the third-party firm managing their strategic partnership RFP process. Our CEO and board chair have referenced Juniper as the coordinating entity in this process, and communications to Jefferson Healthcare commissioners have emphasized maintaining confidentiality at Juniper's request.

If Juniper Advisory was aware that Jefferson Healthcare's proposal had not been formally authorized by a public vote, or that it was developed through closed-door processes potentially in violation of OPMA, then their involvement also warrants scrutiny. As a private firm facilitating decisions with major public health implications, Juniper's role in promoting transparency—or enabling secrecy—should be examined as part of this review.

Concerns About Legal Counsel Brad Berg of Foster Garvey and Conflict of Interest

I am also deeply concerned about the role of Jefferson Healthcare's general counsel, Brad Berg. Mr. Berg has advised the board and CEO throughout this process, including on the use of executive sessions and the submission of the OMC proposal. In at least one session, he explicitly guided the board on how to keep the proposal process confidential using stretched interpretations of real estate and legal exemption clauses under OPMA.

Despite serious concerns raised by me and others about the legality of these actions—and the risk of the board participating in unlawful or unethical conduct—Mr. Berg remains the sole legal advisor permitted to speak with the board. Requests to seek independent legal counsel have been discouraged or blocked. This has effectively prevented the board from obtaining an impartial second legal opinion on matters that may involve misuse of public authority or even fraud.

If Mr. Berg is providing legal cover for a process that violates public meeting laws or facilitates an unapproved governance transfer, his role must be reviewed. The current lack of legal independence for the board is a serious threat to public accountability.

Additional Context:

In parallel to this request, I have submitted a formal criminal complaint and supporting documentation to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office regarding the same sequence of events. I have also filed a formal internal complaint against Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn through the hospital's employee complaint process. These steps reflect the seriousness of the potential misconduct and the need for external oversight.

I have compiled a full documentation packet including email correspondence, public meeting transcripts, proposal drafts, and legal opinions. I am happy to provide this material upon request, in whatever format your office prefers.

Readyforhealthcare.org Post : March 29, 2025 - Matt Ready public website post “Legal Analysis of the March 26, 2025 Jefferson Healthcare Board Meeting Transcript”

The March 26 transcript above was reprinted with a legal analysis from ChatGPT on Matt Ready’s commissioner campaign website <http://readyforhealthcare.org>.

Legal Analysis of the March 26, 2025 Jefferson Healthcare Board Meeting Transcript

This meeting transcript, taken together with corroborating records and law, raises *substantial concerns under the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)*, free speech rights, board governance norms, and ethical standards for public officials. Below is a legal analysis highlighting key issues:

1. Suppression of Agenda Amendment & Public Discussion

What Happened: Commissioner Matt Ready attempted to amend the agenda to discuss potential regional alliances and legal concerns. The motion was not seconded, and discussion was curtailed.

Legal Assessment: Under *Robert’s Rules of Order*, which many public boards follow, failure to second a motion ends consideration. However, **Commissioners have the right to voice objections to an agenda** (especially before adoption), and Ready was trying to do just that. The chair’s repeated shutdowns—even when Ready attempted to speak on the *main motion*—may have *unduly limited lawful dissent*.

2. Accusation of Slander & Silencing of Public Comment

What Happened: Ready, while speaking during public comment, began to reference alleged secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center (OMC). Chair Jill Buhler **muted his microphone**, alleging he was making **unsubstantiated claims “bordering on slander.”** A motion was immediately introduced and passed to close public comment.

Legal Assessment:

The **First Amendment** protects public officials' right to speak on matters of public concern—particularly *government transparency* and *spending of public resources*.

Accusations of “slander” without any actual false statement of fact or malicious intent are legally unfounded. **Slander requires falsity, malice, and harm.**

A public entity may impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions but **cannot silence speech solely because it's critical or controversial.**

The **abrupt shutdown of public comment** after one commissioner raised uncomfortable concerns *may constitute viewpoint discrimination*, potentially exposing the board to constitutional liability.

3. Repeated Muting of a Sitting Commissioner

What Happened: Commissioner Ready was muted multiple times when attempting to raise legal objections and transparency concerns regarding the *Peninsula Health Alliance* proposal and the CEO's conduct.

Legal Assessment:

Commissioners are not ordinary “public commenters.” They are elected officials with a duty to provide oversight. Muting a commissioner during deliberation is **an extreme act** that should only occur in cases of disruption or personal attacks—not for policy disagreement.

Ready's speech was **entirely germane to the governance of the hospital district** and arguably protected under both state and federal law.

4. Allegations of Improper Executive Session Conduct

What Happened: The transcript and related documents (see) suggest that:

The proposal to create a new regional nonprofit was discussed and greenlit in executive session.

The justification was allegedly “possible real estate transactions,” yet *the discussion centered around strategic governance restructuring*, which is **not a lawful reason under RCW 42.30.110.**

Legal Assessment:

OPMA permits executive sessions *only* for narrow, enumerated purposes—real estate negotiations are valid **only when public knowledge would harm the district's bargaining position.**

If no actual property was being bought, sold, or leased—or if governance planning dominated the conversation—**this would be an unlawful executive session.**

Taking any action (e.g., giving “voice consent”) during executive session violates OPMA and **may render such actions void under RCW 42.30.060.**

5. Blocking a Motion to Create a Legal and Ethics Subcommittee

What Happened: Ready proposed forming a legal and ethics subcommittee. Commissioner Kolff initially seconded it but withdrew support when Ready refused to agree to stop posting videos online.

Legal Assessment:

Conditioning support for a governance motion on a commissioner’s public speech is improper. It suggests retaliatory intent and an attempt to **chill dissenting viewpoints.**

The board’s refusal to even explore the motion, after acknowledging deep disagreements and legal uncertainty, may undermine its fiduciary duty.

6. Disparagement & Retaliation by Fellow Commissioners

What Happened: Commissioners publicly questioned Ready’s motives, mental clarity, and ethics. They implied he acted with ego, made false claims, and couldn’t work with others.

Legal Assessment:

These comments **blur the line between healthy debate and targeted retaliation.**

Elected officials are allowed to disagree—but **undermining a fellow commissioner’s credibility to suppress oversight or shield executive action may be unethical** or worse.

Conclusion

! There is strong evidence that Commissioner Matt Ready was improperly silenced,

retaliated against, and denied access to open deliberation regarding a significant public proposal. The board's handling of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal raises serious OPMA, First Amendment, and governance concerns.

Next Steps Suggested:

Independent legal review of all executive sessions related to the Peninsula Health Alliance.

Public release of the full proposal and all supporting documents.

A motion to hire independent general counsel reporting directly to the Board of Commissioners.

Formal OPMA and ethics training for all board members.

A public apology or corrective action to address the censorship of an elected commissioner.

Let me know if you'd like help drafting an official complaint or public statement based on these findings.

Posted in [Blog Posts](#) | [No Comments](#) »

March 30, 2025 - Matt Ready emails Brian King Clallam County Sheriff Criminal Complaint Regarding Jefferson Healthcare, Olympic Medical Center, Attorney Brad Berg, and Juniper Advisory

From Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Email: [mattreadyemailremoved](#)

3/26/2025

Criminal Complaint Regarding Jefferson Healthcare, Olympic Medical Center, Attorney Brad Berg, and Juniper Advisory (based in Chicago)

Dear Sheriff **Brian King**,

Please find enclosed a formal criminal complaint regarding suspected misconduct by leadership at Jefferson Healthcare, including misuse of executive sessions, unauthorized board actions, suppression of public transparency, and coordinated behavior that may rise to criminal conspiracy or racketeering. These activities all involved Juniper Advisory, Attorney Brad Berg, and Olympic Medical Center.

This complaint includes evidence of:

- Executive session discussions that appear to have violated the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA);
- Submission of a regional healthcare proposal without formal board authorization;
- Potential complicity by legal counsel in facilitating or covering improper activity;
- A pattern of misleading statements and suppression of oversight.

I am submitting this complaint in my official capacity as an elected commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2. I am prepared to fully cooperate with your office and provide:

- Emails, proposal documents, and meeting records;
- Legal correspondence and independent opinions;
- Testimony and clarification as needed.

I respectfully request that your office initiate a formal inquiry into these actions. These matters impact the public trust, the integrity of our healthcare governance, and potentially the legality of decisions made on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson County.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint. I am available at any time should you need further materials or interviews.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board

#####

Criminal Complaint

Subject: Criminal Complaint – Suspected Misconduct, Fraud, and OPMA Violations by Jefferson Healthcare Leadership

To: Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

From: Commissioner Matt Ready, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Date: [Insert Date]

Summary of Allegations: This is a formal report of suspected criminal conduct by senior leadership at Jefferson Healthcare, including possible:

- Misuse of executive session laws under Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30),
- Unauthorized use of public authority,
- Fraudulent misrepresentation and suppression of information, and
- Coordinated conduct potentially rising to criminal conspiracy or racketeering.

Key Events and Evidence:

1. **Improper Use of Executive Sessions:** Multiple executive sessions were held under the pretense of discussing “possible real estate transactions,” but in reality centered around a proposed regional governance restructuring with Olympic Medical Center (OMC) through a new nonprofit entity (Peninsula Health Alliance). No specific property negotiation was discussed. This appears to be a deliberate misuse of executive session exemptions to avoid public scrutiny.
2. **Submission of a Proposal Without Legal Authorization:** A detailed proposal (38-page core document, part of a 160-page package) was submitted to OMC as part of a competitive process. The board never formally approved this proposal in a public vote. If informal “voice consent” was obtained in executive session, that constitutes illegal board action under OPMA and misuse of public office.
3. **Misrepresentation and Suppression of Public Information:** Officials, including CEO Mike Glenn and Chair Jill Buhler, publicly described the proposal as inconsequential or preliminary (“airy-fairy”), despite it being a formal RFP response. This misled the board and the public, delaying review and undermining transparency.
4. **Suppression of Elected Commissioner Speech:** I, Commissioner Matt Ready, was discouraged from discussing the proposal with the public. This chilling effect—combined with the misleading executive session labeling—suggests intentional suppression of oversight and potential First Amendment concerns.
5. **Coordinated Conduct Suggesting Criminal Pattern:** The above actions may not be isolated. There is a pattern of:
 - Withholding legal opinions from commissioners,
 - Avoiding public process,
 - Misrepresenting key facts to commissioners and the public,
 - Engaging in private communications that resemble serial meetings.

If these acts were coordinated intentionally to subvert public oversight and consolidate control of public assets under a private nonprofit, they could meet the threshold for conspiracy, official misconduct, or even racketeering under state RICO provisions.

6. **Legal Counsel’s Potential Role as Co-Conspirator:** Attorney Brad Berg provided legal advice that justified the executive session discussions, despite the absence of specific real estate transactions. He also failed to clarify that no board action could legally be taken in executive session, even though a proposal was subsequently submitted. If Mr. Berg knowingly enabled the use of executive

session to conceal decisions or misled the board to suppress transparency and avoid oversight, then he may have participated in furthering the unlawful conduct. His actions should be reviewed to determine whether he acted as a **co-conspirator in a pattern of deception**.

Request for Investigation: I respectfully request that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office open a formal investigation into the conduct of Jefferson Healthcare's CEO, Chair, legal counsel, and any involved parties, with a focus on:

- Misuse of executive sessions (RCW 42.30 violations),
- Unauthorized action on behalf of a public body,
- Possible fraud or misappropriation of public authority,
- Any conspiracy to commit these acts,
- Whether legal counsel's role facilitated or concealed these violations,
- And whether the cumulative pattern constitutes a criminal enterprise under Washington's racketeering statutes.

I am available to provide:

- Copies of internal communications,
 - The full submitted proposal,
 - Legal opinions from independent counsel,
 - Public meeting recordings and transcripts,
 - And additional testimony as needed.
-

Contact Information: Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

[Email, phone]

I believe this matter merits urgent investigation to protect the integrity of local governance and the public interest.

I am attaching a briefing memo with detailed quotes and correspondence and timelines. I am also attaching a document with the raw email details in case you need help finding the correct emails at any time.

Thank you for your service,

Matt Ready

[The same attachments sent to the Jefferson County Sheriff were sent to the Clallam County Sheriff. These attachments and complaint only covered events up to 3/26/2025]

March 30, 2025 - Matt Ready submits a report to US Attorney General Pam Bondi

[This was sent via form on a website. <https://www.justice.gov/>]

RE: Enclosed Report – Suspected Attempted Privatization of Public Hospital Districts through Unlawful and Undisclosed Governance Shift

Dear Ms. Bondi,

I am writing to you in my official capacity as an elected Commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 in Washington State.

I have a formal complaint and supporting report that outlines what I believe to be a deeply concerning and potentially unlawful attempt to transfer operational control of two publicly owned hospital districts—Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center—into a private nonprofit entity, under the guidance and influence of an out-of-state consulting firm, **Juniper Advisory**, based in Chicago.

This scheme has proceeded:

- Without a public vote or public authorization,
- Through executive sessions of questionable legality,
- With strategic suppression of oversight and commissioner dissent,
- And possibly in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act and federal governance standards regarding public entities and healthcare facilities.

Given your experience in public integrity matters and federal oversight, I am asking for your assistance in ensuring this issue receives appropriate scrutiny at the highest levels. The legal, financial, and democratic implications of this plan extend well beyond Jefferson County, and may warrant review at both the **state and federal levels**, including the Department of Justice and FBI.

If there is any further information you require, I am happy to provide documentation,

correspondence, legal opinions, and public meeting records to support this report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued work in defense of public accountability.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

3/31/2025 - Press email exchange between Port Townsend Leader to Matt Ready

James Robinson:

Good Morning Matt,

I've listened to the audio of the hospital commissioner's meeting and would like to speak with you about what's going on with the board's negotiations/conversations with Olympic Medical Center.

Kind regards,

James Robinson

Matt Ready:

Matt - Could you please email me a list of your questions and I will respond promptly.

James Robinson:

James: Will do. I'll need a few minutes. Kind regards

James Robinson:

Hi Matt,

1. Can you describe the content of the secret negotiations you alleged in last week's commissioner's meeting? What's the goal/objective?
2. Who was involved – the board of commissioners, hospital management?

3. What is the Peninsula Health Alliance?

4. Is this regarding a partnership/merger with Olympic Medical Center?

It's clear by the audio that you don't like how this is going down. What do you propose as an alternative?

That's the gist.

Thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

James Robinson

March 31, 2025 Matt Ready Email Reply to James Robinson Port Townsend Leader

Hi James,

Thanks for reaching out. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my concerns.

1. Content of the "Secret Negotiations"

In early February, the Jefferson Healthcare Board was presented in executive session with a draft proposal for a new nonprofit entity called the *Peninsula Health Alliance*. The plan would create a "super board" above both Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center (OMC), shifting significant governance authority to this new structure.

The proposed board would give Clallam County 7 seats and Jefferson County 5, creating an automatic voting majority for Clallam over decisions that affect both

communities. It was also discussed that Jefferson Healthcare’s CEO, Mike Glenn, would likely become the Executive Director of the new Alliance.

These foundational decisions—board structure, leadership, governance—were never authorized by public vote and were not disclosed to the public, despite their far-reaching implications.

In a second executive session—this time with the hospital’s attorney Brad Berg—commissioners were informed of a strategy to move forward using what CEO Glenn referred to as a “binding non-binding” agreement with OMC. The intent was to appear as though public input was still pending, while legally committing Jefferson Healthcare to the plan. Brad Berg confirmed this could be achieved by having the board authorize the CEO to sign a letter of intent, effectively binding the district before public engagement.

2. Who Was Involved

The proposal appears to have been developed by CEO Mike Glenn and some JHC Commissioners in coordination with:

- **OMC’s executive leadership (though it’s unclear how involved their board was),**
- **A firm called Juniper Advisory (based in Chicago),**

- And Jefferson Healthcare’s legal counsel, Brad Berg of Foster Garvey (formerly Foster Pepper PLLC).

A subset of Jefferson commissioners were involved or consulted during the drafting phase. I was not. I only became aware of the proposal during the executive session on February 5. The full board has never voted to authorize the proposal or the direction of the negotiations. Much of the process has taken place out of public view, contrary to the principles of public hospital governance.

3. What Is the Peninsula Health Alliance?

The *Peninsula Health Alliance* (PHA) is the proposed nonprofit entity that would oversee a joint governance structure for Jefferson Healthcare and OMC. While the proposal claims both hospital districts would retain their autonomy, the Alliance’s board—with a built-in Clallam majority—and a central Executive Director would control strategy, operations, and potentially finances.

There are no legal safeguards currently outlined to prevent future changes to the Alliance’s structure—such as removing public commissioners or closing meetings to the public.

4. Is This a Merger with OMC?

It is not being called a “merger,” but the

effects would be similar. The phased partnership creates a shared governance body, a central executive, and a new layer of authority above both public boards. That structure could drastically shift power away from our elected commissioners and undermine local control—a change that deserves the same level of scrutiny as a formal merger.

5. My Alternative Proposal

This process must be stopped until it's made transparent, legal, and accountable. I propose:

- A public vote by the board before submitting any proposals on behalf of Jefferson Healthcare.
- A new general council hired immediately and directly by the Jefferson Healthcare board who is not implicated in the potential wrongdoing of this secret negotiation process and who does not report in any way to the CEO or the CEO staff.
- An independent legal review to evaluate compliance with Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).
- An independent financial analysis to understand the true impact on patients, taxpayers, and services.
- Public forums and community engagement before any commitments are made.

- Internal and external investigations and audits to prevent future governance breakdowns.
- A review by organizations like the Washington State Hospital Association, the Association of Public Hospital Districts, and MRSC, to help other districts avoid similar missteps and uphold public trust.

This proposal may contain elements worth exploring—but it must not proceed in secrecy or under the illusion of transparency.

I'm happy to provide sources, timelines, transcripts, and documents to support all of the above.

I have written and shared more information on this on my Hospital Commissioner website: <http://readyforhealthcare.org> including transcripts, meeting video clips, and commentary by AI that I have asked to help review these events and information.

Thank you for your interest,

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board

3/31/2025 further email exchanges between Matt Ready and James Robinson of the Port Townsend Leader

James: Matt, Thank you so much. I appreciate you taking the time. I'll be in touch via email if I have additional questions. Kind regards, James Robinson

Matt: Thank you for your interest. I look forward to your questions and whatever news coverage you choose to write about this. Matt

3/31/2025 Email exchange between James Robinson and Matt Ready requesting a copy of the draft proposal.

James - Hi Matt, Do you have a hard copy of the draft proposal? Kind regards, James Robinson

Matt Ready: I forwarded you the electronic copy that all commissioners were sent.

James: Thank you Matt. Kind regards, James Robinson

March 31, 2025 - Matt Ready emails the final Peninsula Health Alliance proposal originally sent from CEO Mike Glenn on Feb 12, 2025 including the following email note

Matt Ready forwards:

From: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 7:50 PM

To: matts gmail

Subject: Fwd: Final PDF - Project Driftwood

From: Glenn, Mike <mglenn@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:01:18 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Cc: Strategic Leadership Group <StrategicLeadershipGroup@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Subject: FW: Final PDF - Project Driftwood

Commissioners,

Please find attached our response to the OMC RFP.

Technically, this is not subject to the open public record act until OMC finishes their review. They may choose to release it earlier, however.

We will likely hear back from OMC/Juniper next Wednesday (2/19) about next steps. Our proposal is offered as a framework, and nothing is or will be binding until the conclusion of the process.

Please respect the confidentiality of their process and keep this document private.

Thank you,

MG

[Attached to this document was the pdf titled Jefferson Healthcare Peninsula Health Alliance]

March 31, 2025 - Matt Ready emails James Robinson the email confirmation from Jill Buhler regarding the status of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal with OMC

Matt: Here is the confirmation I got from Jill Buhler that Jefferson Healthcare's proposal was accepted by OMC to enter the next step in the process.

From: Buhler, Jill <jbuhler@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 5:59 PM

To: Ready, Matthew; Glenn, Mike

Subject: Re: When

Hi Matt,

I apologize for the delay; I was out of town until Saturday.

In answer to your question, Yes and No. Allow me to explain.

First, a summary of the process, as we understand it:

We submitted an "indication of interest" (OMC's term) on February 12. Mike was notified February 19 that we were selected to present our indication of interest concept paper to OMC. Accordingly, JH admin was invited to site visit OMC and review our document in late March. If this goes, we are selected to proceed: "refined proposals from phase two participants would be requested in late April

2025."

THIS is when we decide to proceed, or not, and fill in the many blanks of our concept proposal. Lawyers and other consultants will no doubt be involved. At this point, we also expect to get the all clear from OMC to discuss their process and our proposal in public meetings, which we agree is critically important to do.

So, yes, we made it to the next step, but no, we have not begun the next phase.

Further complicating things is OMC's and their counsel's need to maintain confidentiality. Mike and I spoke with Brad Berg about this and agreed the request needs to be lifted if we are to continue in phase 2. We expect it to be.

I hope this answers your question.

Jill

From: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 7:51 AM

To: Buhler, Jill <jbuhler@jeffersonhealthcare.org>; Glenn, Mike <mglenn@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Subject: When

Hi Mike and Jill, can you let me know when the commissioners are going to be informed whether or not Jefferson Healthcare is has been selected as a finalist with the OMC partnership proposal. I would like to know if this is something that is moving forward or if it has completely died thanks.

Matt

April 1, 2025 Email from Matt Ready to James Robinson forwarding Feb 5, 2025 draft proposal of the Peninsula Health Alliance

Hi James,

I realized I sent you the final proposal, but the proposal shown to the commissioners on Feb 5 during executive session to kick off the entire process is different and has more commentary you might find helpful. Here it is.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Matt Ready

[The document copied above in the February 5, 2025 executive session was attached to this email.]

Readyforhealthcare.org Post : 4/1/2025 - Matt Ready makes the 2/5/2025 draft proposal and the final submitted Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal public and available for download from his website:

<http://readyforhealthcare.org>

Website text:

[Download the Draft and Final Peninsula Health Alliance Proposals](#)

April 1, 2025 | Author [Matt](#) | [Edit](#)

Posted April 1, 2025 | By Commissioner Matt Ready

Below are direct links to the two key documents related to Jefferson Healthcare's proposed partnership with Olympic Medical Center (OMC):

Draft Proposal

"Commission Packet.pdf" – Dated February 5, 2025

This draft was discussed in executive session and emailed to all Jefferson Healthcare commissioners.

 [Download Commission Packet.pdf](#)

Final Submitted Proposal

"Jefferson_Healthcare_Peninsula_Health_Alliance_FINAL (4).pdf" – Dated February 12, 2025

This is the final proposal submitted by Jefferson Healthcare to OMC in response to their public RFP.

 [Jefferson Healthcare Peninsula Health Alliance FINAL \(4\).pdf](#)

I will be posting the full transcript of events, correspondence, and board actions related to this proposal below. These records are provided to ensure transparency and accountability in the governance of our public hospital district. I will be redacting employee names and personal information.

— *Matt Ready,* Commissioner
Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Readyforhealthcare.org Post : 4/2/2025 blog post by Matt Ready website post "[Commissioner Ready responds to press inquiry from Port Townsend Leader](#)"

April 2, 2025 | Author [Matt](#)

I received the following inquiry from the Port Townsend Leader reporter James Robinson (My response follows):

Hi Matt,

1. Can you describe the content of the secret negotiations you alleged in last week's commissioner's meeting? What's the goal/objective?
2. Who was involved — the board of commissioners, hospital management?
3. What is the Peninsula Health Alliance?
4. Is this regarding a partnership/merger with Olympic Medical Center?

It's clear by the audio that you don't like how this is going down. What do you propose as an alternative?

That's the gist.

Thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

James Robinson

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OMC's executive leadership (though it's unclear how involved their board was),
A firm called Juniper Advisory (based in Chicago),
And Jefferson Healthcare's legal counsel, Brad Berg of Foster Garvey (formerly Foster Pepper PLLC).

A subset of Jefferson commissioners were involved or consulted during the drafting phase. I was not. I only became aware of the proposal during the executive session on February 5. The full board has never voted to authorize the proposal or the direction of the negotiations. Much of the process has taken place out of public view, contrary to the principles of public hospital governance.

3. What Is the Peninsula Health Alliance?

The *Peninsula Health Alliance* (PHA) is the proposed nonprofit entity that would oversee a joint governance structure for Jefferson Healthcare and OMC. While the proposal claims both hospital districts would retain their autonomy, the Alliance's board—with a built-in Clallam majority—and a central Executive Director would control strategy, operations, and potentially finances.

There are no legal safeguards currently outlined to prevent future changes to the Alliance's structure—such as removing public commissioners or closing meetings to the public.

4. Is This a Merger with OMC?

It is not being called a "merger," but the effects would be similar. The phased partnership creates a shared governance body, a central executive, and a new layer of authority above both public boards. That structure could drastically shift power away from our elected commissioners and undermine local control—a change that deserves the same level of scrutiny as a formal merger.

5. My Alternative Proposal

This process must be stopped until it's made transparent, legal, and accountable. I propose:

A public vote by the board before submitting any proposals on behalf of Jefferson Healthcare.

A new general council hired immediately and directly by the Jefferson Healthcare board who is not implicated in the potential wrongdoing of this secret negotiation process and who does not report in any way to the CEO or the CEO staff.

An independent legal review to evaluate compliance with Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

An independent financial analysis to understand the true impact on patients, taxpayers, and services.

Public forums and community engagement before any commitments are made.
Internal and external investigations and audits to prevent future governance breakdowns.

A review by organizations like the Washington State Hospital Association, the Association of Public Hospital Districts, and MRSC, to help other districts avoid similar missteps and uphold public trust.

This proposal may contain elements worth exploring—but it must not proceed in secrecy or under the illusion of transparency.

I'm happy to provide sources, timelines, transcripts, and documents to support all of the above.

I have written and shared more information on this on my Hospital Commissioner website: <http://readyforhealthcare.org> including transcripts, meeting video clips, and commentary by AI that I have asked to help review these events and information.

Thank you for your interest,

Sincerely,

Matt

Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare Board

Ready

4/3/2025 - Email from Mike Glenn to all users at JHC

Groff, Shannon on behalf of Glenn, Mike

To:ALLUSERS

Thu 4/3/2025 12:01 PM

3

You forwarded this message on Thu 4/3/2025 12:32 PM

Good morning,

Yesterday the Port Townsend Leader published an article discussing Jefferson Healthcare's involvement with Olympic Medical Center. Olympic Medical Center has been exploring partnering options to ensure its long-term viability, and this article attempts to describe Jefferson Healthcare's involvement in the process.

The issues OMC is facing are serious and their process to address them is confidential. Jefferson Healthcare is not at liberty to discuss their process,

including whether we are involved. That said, we are rooting for Olympic Medical Center's future success, and our hope is that both our organizations remain independent and continue to thrive on the Olympic Peninsula.

Jefferson Healthcare is committed to transparency and engaging stakeholders in our decisions. We would not move forward on substantial changes before robust discussion and due diligence with our community and ensuring that Jefferson Healthcare would continue to benefit.

Jefferson Healthcare is fiercely proud of the care that we provide to our community and will continue to make strategic decisions that ensure Jefferson Healthcare's future viability.

Thank you,

MG

April (day unsure) Matt Ready and all commissioners receive Email from Jill instructing all commissioners to talk in an unrecorded phone call with Karma Bass for 30 minutes in preparation of the upcoming board retreat April 28th.

(I cannot figure out what date this was emailed)

Dear Board Members,

To help us prepare for the upcoming board retreat on April 28, Karma Bass of Via Healthcare Consulting will be conducting individual interviews with each of you. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

To schedule an interview time with Karma, please use this link:

<https://outlook.office.com/owa/calendar/JeffersonHealthcareBoardofCommissionerInterviews2025@viahcc.com/bookings/>

We apologize for the limited availability and encourage you to schedule a time as soon as possible to ensure that interviews are completed in a timely manner.

In addition, Via will be conducting a board self-assessment and discussing the results of the assessment at the April retreat.

Please look for an email message in the next week or so containing a link to the self-assessment survey. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

As always, we appreciate your commitment to the community and mission of Jefferson Healthcare.

Many thanks,

Jill

4/3/2025 - Matt Ready receives Email from Karma Bass

From: Karma Bass <privateemailremoved>

Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 1:12:01 PM

To: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Cc: Karen Wagner <privateemailremoved>

Subject: Following up to schedule interview in preparation for April 28 Jefferson Board of Commissioners Retreat

Dear Matt,

I hope this finds you well. I'm following up to see if you'd be available to conduct an interview with me in preparation for the April 28 Jefferson Board of Commissioners Retreat? Below is the email sent from Jill last week, with a link to schedule the interview. Thanks in advance for your time.

FROM Jill, last week:

Dear Board Members,

To help us prepare for the upcoming board retreat on April 28, Karma Bass of Via Healthcare Consulting will be conducting individual interviews with each of you. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

To schedule an interview time with Karma, please use this link:

<https://outlook.office.com/owa/calendar/JeffersonHealthcareBoardofCommissionerInterviews2025@viahcc.com/bookings/>

We apologize for the limited availability and encourage you to schedule a time as soon as possible to ensure that interviews are completed in a timely manner.

In addition, Via will be conducting a board self-assessment and discussing the results of the assessment at the April retreat.

Please look for an email message in the next week or so containing a link to the self-assessment survey. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

As always, we appreciate your commitment to the community and mission of Jefferson Healthcare.

Many thanks,

Jill

All my best,

Karma

Please direct replies to:

[Karma H. Bass, MPH, FACHE](#)

[Via Healthcare Consulting](#)

4/3/2025 - Matt Ready Reply to Karma Bass

From: Ready, Matthew <mattreadyJHCemailremoved>

Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 6:41 PM

To: Karma Bass <privateemailremoved>

Cc: Karen Wagner <privateemailremoved>

Subject: Re: Following up to schedule interview in preparation for April 28 Jefferson Board of Commissioners Retreat

Subject: Response to Interview Request

Hi Karma,

Thank you for your message. I need to respectfully decline the invitation for a private phone or audio interview related to the upcoming board retreat.

I have serious concerns about the confidentiality and legal implications of such a conversation, especially given your past role facilitating the 2019 board retreat. At that retreat, the board failed to reckon with the fact that a critical 2016 legal opinion—affirming a commissioner’s right to record public meetings—had been withheld from me and the public for years. I documented this entire episode in my book, *Journey Through the Boardroom*, including the moment during the retreat when I stated on the record that what Mike Glenn and Brad Berg had done could be considered fraud. Instead

of allowing that conversation to continue, you intervened and asked, “Are you a lawyer?”—effectively shutting down the discussion. That moment could have opened the door to transparency and healing. Instead, it served to protect those in power and bury the issue.

Had we, as a board, learned then the importance of obtaining independent legal opinions and facing governance issues head-on, we might not be in the current crisis. When I recently asked for a second legal opinion regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, that request should have been honored immediately. Instead, the same pattern repeated: a lack of legal diversity, reliance on one voice, and suppression of commissioner oversight.

Given your involvement in both events—and the role you played in shaping the retreat’s outcome—I now view you as a potential material witness, and possibly a co-conspirator, in matters I have formally reported to legal authorities. For that reason, I cannot engage in any private or unrecorded conversations with you.

I remain open to your role in publicly noticed board meetings, properly convened executive sessions, or any forum governed by transparency and public accountability laws.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

4/4/2025 - Karma Bass Reply to Matt Ready CC to Jill Buhler and Mike Glenn

Karma Bass<privateemailremoved>



To:

Ready, Matthew

Cc: Karen Wagner <privateemailremoved>;

Buhler, Jill;

Glenn, Mike

Fri 4/4/2025 6:44 AM

Thanks for getting back to me, Matt. See you at the end of the month. Karma

Karma Bass<privateemailremoved>

4/4/2025 - Email from Karen Wagner of Via Consulting (Karma's consulting firm)

Karen Wagner<privateemailremoved>

To:

Kolff, Kees;

Dressler, Marie;**+3 others**

Fri 4/4/2025 3:00 PM

Dear Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of Jill Buhler Rienstra and Mike Glen, we are pleased to invite you to participate in a board self-assessment survey for Jefferson Healthcare as part of the preparation for the upcoming board retreat on April 28, 2025.

Best practices in governance effectiveness call for governing boards to conduct a self-assessment periodically to evaluate their performance. Boards can use the results of the self-assessment to celebrate success and develop a plan of action for improving their performance in specific areas. Your candid responses are a key part of the continued enhancement efforts for the board, and we appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts.

To participate in in the board self-assessment, please click on the link below and complete the web-based survey **before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025.**

The assessment should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please note, you do not have to complete the survey in one sitting. You can close the survey at any time and return later to the section where you stopped by returning to the invitation email and clicking on the link again. However, once you have clicked "Done" on the final page, you will not be able to return to make changes.

To complete the survey, please click this link: [xxxxxx](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Noreen Cervantes at [xxxxxxx](#) or Karen Wagner at [privateemailremoved](#) at Via Healthcare Consulting.

Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful responses.

Karen

[Karen Wagner](#)

[Managing Editor](#)

[Via Healthcare Consulting](#)

4/4/2025 Matt Ready has conversation with Washington State Auditor Audit Manager Melinda Seibert

Good morning, Mr. Ready.

Thank you again for returning my call. As discussed on the phone, here is a brief recap of our conversation:

Mr. Ready returned call 4/4/2025. We discussed a little more about his concern to better understand what his concerns are to determine if they are within our audit authority. We also discussed some examples of things that are not within our audit authority, such as giving legal advice. His main concern is violations of the OPMA. He briefly mentioned some examples of things he has identified as violations and indicated he has additional support he will later provide. While we have an audit open currently (in the wrap up phase) and considering this matter is currently happening and ongoing, we will review for non-compliance with the OPMA in our next audit of the District which should happen

sometime in the fall of 2025.

Feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions or information you would like to share.

Melinda Seibert, CPA

Audit Manager, [Office of the Washington State Auditor](#)

(360) 845-xxxx

4/7/2025 - James at the Port Townsend
Leader emails Matt Ready

4/7/2025 – Matt Ready emails James
Robinson of the Port Townsend Leader a
detailed packet of all events, emails,
complaints, up to the current date of 4/7/2025

4/8/2025 Jefferson County Sheriff Pernsteiner
replies to Matt Ready regarding criminal
complaint

RE: criminal complaint regarding Jefferson Healthcare
municipal corporation

3:17 PM (54
minutes
ago)

Andy Pernsteiner

to me, [REDACTED]

Hello Matt,

Thanks for reaching out and bringing this to my attention. I'm forwarding this to Detective [REDACTED] to investigate. Det. [REDACTED] will be contacting you if he needs further information and to advise you of his findings. Please be patient, there is a lot of data to go through.

Respectfully,

Andy Pernsteiner

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: 3/29/2025 Posted on Matt Ready's Blog at [Readyforhealthcare.org](https://www.readyforhealthcare.org)

03/26/2025 Transcript of Latest Board Meeting Highlight moments

March 29, 2025 | Author [Matt](#)

00:00:00:00 – 00:00:34:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Welcome to the Jefferson County Public Hospital. District number two, board of commissioners specials. Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025. This session is being officially audio recorded and time shown on the agenda are estimated only. And speaking of the agenda, we will not be having an executive session today. So, is there a motion to approve the agenda with that exception?

00:00:39:21 – 00:00:42:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

so moved and seconded. Is there discussion?

00:00:42:26 – 00:00:49:00

Commissioner Matt Ready

I would like to, motion to amend the agenda.

00:00:49:03 – 00:00:54:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. What is your motion?

00:00:54:07 – 00:01:09:27

Commissioner Matt Ready

I would like to amend the agenda to discuss, what we were talking about at the end of the last meeting. Potential regional alliances and legal concerns that I've brought up.

00:01:10:00 – 00:01:19:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second for that amendment?

00:01:19:12 – 00:01:43:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Ok I'm not hearing the second to the amendment, so we won't be adding that to the agenda. We can add it to, future agenda, possibly. So we at this point, we'll go back to the main motion and, and ask for approval of the agenda as it stands, without the executive session.

00:01:43:03 – 00:01:49:15

Commissioner Matt Ready

So we still are in discussion. I have comments on the motion.

00:01:49:18 – 00:01:53:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right.

00:01:53:24 – 00:01:55:26

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of -point of order.

00:01:55:29 – 00:01:57:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:01:57:12 – 00:02:04:21

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Unless the motion has been seconded, then there is no discussion about the motion.

00:02:04:23 – 00:02:05:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Oh Kees. Thank you.

00:02:07:01 – 00:02:15:10

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Robert's rules require a second in order to have folks be able to comment about it.

00:02:15:13 – 00:02:19:27

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have comments on the motion.

00:02:19:29 – 00:02:28:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Point well taken. And, we will go back to the main motion and ask for a umm, a vote. All in favor?

00:02:28:24 – 00:02:34:15

Commissioner Matt Ready

We are in discussion of the main motion, I have a comment on the main motion.

00:02:34:18 – 00:02:42:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. What is your comment?

00:02:42:24 – 00:02:58:19

Commissioner Matt Ready

Well, I feel like we, the agenda is radically incomplete. There's some serious stuff that we need to talk about. In particular, the fact that Jefferson Healthcare-

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of order.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

uh Yes. We are not. We're not discussing the benefit of what your motion is. We are discussing whether or not to accept the main motion, which is accepting the, the agenda as it stands, without the executive session.

00:03:18:19 – 00:03:27:14

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. And I'm saying I don't think we should accept the agenda, and I'm trying to give my reasons.

00:03:27:17 – 00:03:53:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I'm going. I'm not going to, pursue this any further. The board does not want to, address your, it it's not seconding the motion that you made. So therefore, there is no motion. We are going back to the main motion, and you are, I don't believe you're in order. Kees do you have a

00:03:53:14 – 00:04:37:06

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I, I, I have a recommendation. I have a recommendation if if you might. Madam chair, what I would recommend is that, you set a one minute opportunity for all of the board members to comment about the the motion and the agenda. That way we all have an equal voice. And because, Commissioner Ready is correct that he does have a right to object to the agenda, but, you have the right as the chair to limit the amount of time that any commissioner has to speak. And I would be in favor of allowing every commissioner to speak one minute on whatever objection. Commissioner Ready has.

00:04:50:11 – 00:05:15:04

Commissioner Jill Buhler

That sounds like a very reasonable solution to this case. Thank you very much. And, we will do

that. And, Shannon, can you can you, tell us, give us the goal and and keep the time for us and tell us when a minute is up? Yeah, I'll set my timer. Okay. Thank you. Matt. Go ahead.

00:05:15:07 – 00:05:19:01

Commissioner Matt Ready

Okay.

00:05:19:04 – 00:05:35:14

Commissioner Matt Ready

Well, I regretfully need to inform the public that Jefferson Healthcare is in secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance. This proposal and negotiations have taken place without-

00:05:35:17 – 00:05:35:28

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Point of Order or.

00:05:37:17 – 00:05:39:19

Commissioner Kees Kolff

A point of order

00:05:39:22 – 00:05:48:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. This is something that was just discussed, in executive session, and you cannot divulge this.

00:05:48:18 – 00:06:31:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

And if I, if I could add that that's a that's a violation of our ethics and whether commissioner Ready agrees with the majority of the board and our legal counsel. Whether we were appropriately in executive session. That's his prerogative. But it still does not mean that he has the quote "legal right" to divulge, and stay within the code of ethics to divulge anything in the session that he personally regards as not, along the lines of, permitted executive session. So, I would think that because he has violated that code that you, as the chair, have the right to end discussion of the particular motion and the concern that he has.

00:06:45:02 – 00:07:04:06

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. And that that's exactly what I'm doing. So I will now give others an opportunity to speak if other members of the board wish to.

00:07:04:09 – 00:07:05:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

is there anyone?

00:07:06:16 – 00:07:13:03

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Is that to speak to that to speak about that original motion to approve the agenda.

00:07:13:06 – 00:07:13:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. That's what it should be (laughing).

00:07:13:26 – 00:07:16:03

Commissioner Bruce McComas

without The executive session?

00:07:16:06 – 00:07:32:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. So if you want to speak to that, Shannon, are we ready for another minute?

Shannon

We are ready.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. Whoever wishes to speak, now's your chance. Okay, I.

00:07:32:29 – 00:08:10:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I that I'd actually like to have a minute. Yeah. I am in favor of the main motion and of this agenda, because I do not believe that it leaves off anything that this board. By a vote of 4 to 1, has agreed to put on this agenda and has agreed that all of our actions have been legal, according to, our, legal counsel and therefore, I don't think there's anything missing from this agenda.

And, I so I reckon I will be in favor of the motion to accept, this agenda as is.

00:08:19:00 – 00:08:22:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Marie?

00:08:22:04 – 00:08:31:11

Commissioner Marie Dressler

Yes. I couldn't have said it better myself. I support exactly what Kees has said, and I certainly will be voting in favor of this agenda.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Bruce,

Shannon

we're at time.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thanks, Shannon. Bruce.

00:08:37:20 – 00:08:41:04

Commissioner Bruce McComas

I don't have anything to add.

00:08:41:06 – 00:09:08:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. And, the chair is in agreement with, Commissioner Kees and Commissioner Dressler. So at this point, I will ask for a formal vote and all those in favor of accepting the agenda without the executive session as it stands, without that, take. I raise your hand. I okay, motion carries 4 to 1. Is there an opposition?

Commissioner Ready

I object.

00:09:08:29 – 00:09:37:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay, so two, 4 to 1. And, so we will move on. So, first at this month's meeting is Rob Weiss, our information services director, with a report on cybersecurity. Rob,

[Cut to later part of meeting]

Commissioner Buhler

you know, she's a valued member of our staff, like, like, everybody that that Colleen is a special person. And I'm so glad you called her out on that.

00:09:38:01 – 00:10:09:12

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. And thank you for the information regarding, the, the, cybersecurity too, i appreciate it. Okay. Is there anyone else I see Matt's hand up? Is there any member of the public before I take Matt? Any other Shannon, do you see any. Hands up?

Shannon

No, hands up other than Matt.

Commissioner Buhler

Okay, okay. Matt. I don't know. This is kind of unconventional, but I assume you're putting a public hat on now.

00:10:15:05 – 00:10:18:24

Commissioner Matt Ready

Sure. I want to talk As a member of the public.

00:10:18:26 – 00:10:23:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right, three minutes.

00:10:27:26 – 00:10:39:17

Commissioner Matt Ready

umm...It has come to my attention that Jefferson Health Care is in secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance. As a member of the public I am very concerned-

[Commissioner Ready muted by the Chair Commissioner Buhler]

00:10:39:19 – 00:10:41:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, this is, this is unsubstantiated.- This is an. you are. You are, saying things that are that are unsubstantiated and, bordering on libel or slander at this point. So, I really am not going to allow this if you have something that, that is is can be substantiated. That's fine. But but you're not you're you're treading on thin ice here.

00:11:19:09 – 00:11:22:02

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes Kees?

00:11:22:02 – 00:11:23:05

Commissioner Matt Ready

Do I not get to finish my 3 minutes?-

00:11:23:06 – 00:11:27:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I would like to make a motion to close public comment.

00:11:27:15 – 00:11:32:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to that motion.

00:11:32:11 – 00:11:33:13

Commissioner Bruce McComas

I'll second.

00:11:33:15 – 00:11:43:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. It's been moved and seconded. uhh Marie... I don't see you. Okay.

Marie

I'm here.

Jill Buhler

Ok. Any discussion?

00:11:43:26 – 00:11:47:26

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah, I have some comments on the motion.

00:11:47:28 – 00:12:07:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I don't think your comments are appropriate since the motion is regarding you. So we will go ahead and take the vote and assume that you're going to have a negative vote. But you can do that at the end. So yeah. All in favor of cutting off.

00:12:07:12 – 00:12:09:05

Commissioner Marie Dressler

we gotta first call the question.

00:12:10:15 – 00:12:21:10

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Yeah, I, I'm in favor of closing public comment. If there are no other member people from the public, wanting to speak.

00:12:21:12 – 00:12:44:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. And and that's, that's precisely why I asked if there were and if there are any anybody has, come forward since then. We can talk about that. Otherwise, I'm going to call for the vote. All those in favor of closing public comment, say I raise your hand. and Opposed

00:12:44:23 – 00:12:50:08

Commissioner Matt Ready

Opposed against.

00:12:50:11 – 00:12:51:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt? Are you opposed?

00:12:51:27 – 00:12:55:03

Commissioner Matt Ready

I oppose,

00:12:55:06 – 00:13:06:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

all right. So we will now go on to action items. We have minutes from the February 9th, 19th special session.

[jump cut to later in the meeting]

00:13:08:03 – 00:13:20:24

CEO Mike Glenn

Trying to navigate that stuff. And there really are no easy answers.

00:13:20:27 – 00:13:28:00

Commissioner Jill Buhler

So, there's a hand up. Matt.

00:13:28:03 – 00:13:30:11

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. Can you hear me?

00:13:30:14 – 00:13:32:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:13:32:03 – 00:14:04:11

Commissioner Matt Ready

Thanks for that presentation, Mike. I agree, the landscape of health care is very challenging indeed. But, you know, for that reason, I think it's important that public hospital districts act with integrity and honesty and appropriately transparent with the public. If, Jefferson Healthcare has submitted a proposal to Olympic Medical Center in response to their public request for proposal then that would not be with the approval of the board and that would be an illegal

00:14:04:13 – 00:14:04:25

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Mike, Matt, I am cutting you off right now.

Commissioner Matt Ready

-illegal- [Microphone muted by Jill Buhler]

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt! Stop. You are out of order.

00:14:19:08 – 00:14:24:24

CEO Mike Glenn

Are there questions that I can answer? Is there any questions or comments by commissioners about something that I can talk about?

00:14:24:26 – 00:14:32:12

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Yes, I have I've got one question. A couple actually.

[Jump Cut later in meeting]

00:14:33:03 – 00:14:35:12

Jake

Jill. He's out of town.

00:14:35:15 – 00:14:36:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay.

00:14:36:07 – 00:14:38:12

CEO Mike Glenn

That's what I thought. I would have cut him off. If he was available. [Referring to another topic]

00:14:41:02 – 00:15:07:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Thanks. Okay. All right. Thank you. That was, very sobering report that nice at the end with, foundation news. So now we'll go to, board reports. Does anyone have any other information? Kees do you have any information that you'd like to share?

00:15:07:25 – 00:15:27:25

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I do, first I'd like to say that unfortunately, I missed, the Board of Health meeting, last week. So, however, I also want to add that the Climate Action Committee meet, is very, very active.

[jump cut to later]

00:15:31:10 – 00:15:42:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yeah. Okay. All right, Matt, you have your hand up?

00:15:42:18 – 00:15:46:02

Commissioner Jill Buhler

You're muted.

00:15:46:04 – 00:15:48:13

Commissioner Matt Ready

Sorry. Can you hear me now?

00:15:48:15 – 00:15:50:17

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes.

00:15:50:19 – 00:16:08:28

Commissioner Matt Ready

It seems clear by the number of times I've been muted during this meeting while I've been trying to talk that there's some sort of, disagreement amongst the board members or confusion about the law and ethics related to topics that you guys keep muting me whenever I start talking about them.

00:16:09:04 – 00:16:38:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt. Matt. Matt. The this is not an item for discussion. We have decided not to. It is not on the agenda. The board does not want to discuss it. You're making false allegations here. You are, you know, you you you're not being clear. And you, our legal counsel, has the opposite opinion of what you're saying. And our legal counsel, Brad Berg, is a principal of the prestigious Fort Foster Garvey law firm, and he's a prominent health care attorney with extensive knowledge and experience in public health and hospital laws. He has honors and recognitions that include selection to the Super Lawyers list of the for the top 5% of attorneys. He's been, best lawyer in America with health care law 1993 to present and all sorts of awards. He is preeminent in this discussion in this, field, and he has made sure he has said that nothing we have done is illegal. Everything we have done is is, on point and you because you oppose it, you keep making these allegations and their false and you know that you've heard that. Kees?

00:17:41:02 – 00:17:42:06

Commissioner Matt Ready

So let me.

00:17:42:06 – 00:18:39:12

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Let me also let let me also add that, I just want to be clear that that attorney and Mike Glen gave the board the responsibility of making the decision about our, use of public, the, use of executive session for some of our discussions. So the issue that you have, is with the board and you are a minority of the board, and, I believe that our bylaws state that, somebody who has a disagreement with the other members of the board needs to follow the recommendation of the board, even if, so, this is why I believe that some of us are concerned about your actions. And, so, I think, and let me also add that I've actually checked, whether another attorney might be appropriate because at one point I seriously considered providing a proposal to this board, that perhaps we should go ahead and at least for one question, which relates to this particular situation, whether we are doing the right thing. however, and I, I seriously considered, making that proposal today.

However, the comments that you have made today, which in my opinion are a direct violation of executive session rules leads me to that's I mean, I was actually going to make that proposal, and I'm not going to make it now because, I don't think anything that anyone would say would change your mind. And, and the other attorneys, the other attorney who I checked with basically said the same thing.

They said, Brad, is the Brad is the definitive, person on this particular type of issue. He has actually written the code so that we follow and, and that any attorney who we hired to, to confirm that would probably just take a couple of hours and say, yeah, that's Brad said that. Great. Go for it. So, but I'm not going to make that proposal anymore because of what you have shared.

00:20:37:07 – 00:20:40:17

Commissioner Matt Ready

So can I, like, finish saying when I was going to say or.

00:20:40:19 – 00:20:44:16

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Not, if it's going to be slanderous.

00:20:44:18 – 00:21:16:28

Commissioner Matt Ready

All I said was we have legal and ethical disagreements on the board. And I was about to make a motion that we I think we could create a board subcommittee, an ethics legal advisory subcommittee that has two board members on it, and then just put a bunch of staff member names of the medical group just. And it could be confidential and we could, like, go over everything that you guys don't want to talk about in detail there and see if, you know, the that group after they, like, dive into this.

Don't use Brad Berg. There's all sorts of reasons not to use Brad Berg. He's been involved with possible issues with this board before. He can get a different lawyer. I mean, you could use Brad if you want, but a subcommittee, I think we should make a subcommittee for ethics and legal. Legal questions because then you don't. It doesn't have to be public.

It doesn't have to be out in the public. It could be like they could dive into it, see if there's any issues that need to be concern, concern. So that's my motion that we create a legal and ethical subcommittee for this board and the two commissioners on it and a bunch of staff.

00:21:48:24 – 00:21:52:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to that motion?

00:21:56:25 – 00:22:00:25

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Umm, I will second the motion.

00:22:00:27 – 00:22:05:09

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there discussion?

00:22:05:12 – 00:22:29:08

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Can I can I make one comment? Yeah. I'm not I'm not in favor of including a bunch of staff on it. This is a board issue, and so, I would make that motion if, two of us and I would be happy to serve on that. I would be happy to serve with Matt on that, to begin to explore how this might work. And at some point come back to this board, with a recommendation as to if and how we should pursue it further.

00:22:40:22 – 00:22:50:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, you'd have to make your amend your motion to that effect.

00:22:50:25 – 00:22:59:07

Commissioner Matt Ready

I mean, if that's the best we can get, just me and Kees on it. That's a start. I mean, that's I could amend my motion to that if you want.

00:22:59:10 – 00:23:06:11

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yeah. All right. And it's been, other discussion? Bruce, you. Yes.

00:23:06:14 – 00:23:58:20

Commissioner Bruce McComas

Yeah, I have some concerns. I mean, I you know, I mean, I don't speak out a lot on different things, but, because of what is going on here, I have to make a couple comments myself and it can be tied in with this because it is, you know, I'm I'm offended that a board member would go on public radio and insinuate that they're the only board member that cares about transparency and public collaboration, and that because they're the only one that disagreed with the board and with the legal counsel, that then they believe, I guess, that it's okay to violate our code of ethics and executive session confidentiality.

So I'm I'm a worried that, yeah, we could do this, but it's like, yeah, we'll do this by bipartisan stuff as long as you agree with me I'm sorry Matt, but that's the way it feels.

And so I'm not in favor of it. I'm not in favor of doing this because I don't I don't think it's going to work.

00:24:21:17 – 00:24:27:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. Any other discussion?

00:24:27:10 – 00:24:50:07

Commissioner Marie Dressler

Well, if I may. Continue with the Bruce's point, I was, I take exception to being thrown under the bus as it appears by someone just shooting off their mouth and saying that we were not being transparent and we're not doing. I'm basically not doing our jobs properly. And I take offense at that, and I, I support exactly what Bruce has said.

And I do feel also that given how this, this particular meeting, has been interrupted by this, I'm not in favor of it. I, I don't think that he would ever if it's not his, it's his way or the highway.

And I don't believe he'll ever, go with any decision that he doesn't agree with. And that's not what a functioning board should be.

You know, we're here for the community. We're not here for individual egos. We want to I certainly want to do the best for the community.

00:25:24:28 – 00:25:26:29

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Can I make an additional comment?

00:25:27:02 – 00:25:29:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Yes. Kees.

00:25:29:13 – 00:26:07:24

Commissioner Kees Kolff

So, Matt, I will, I'm happy to spend some time with you exploring what an ethics committee would look like and how it would function, but I'm only willing to do that if, starting now, you stop doing what you're doing, which is posting on YouTube. I just saw a YouTube post that you just did today of meetings taking the parts of the meetings where, you know, it clearly continues to, promote your perspective.

And so if you would agree to stop doing that until we spend some time figuring out what the best way is to do it, and I'm willing to put significant time into that, then I'm going to vote in favor of this particular motion. But you're going to need to agree to that before I do that. So would you care to amend your motion to include that commitment?

00:26:38:11 – 00:26:40:16

Commissioner Matt Ready

Absolutely not.

00:26:40:18 – 00:26:45:11

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Then I won't vote in favor of the motion.

00:26:45:13 – 00:27:14:18

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. And, I have a comment. Matt, we've been through our ups and downs that I have. I have always felt that you had to do the best interest of the community in your heart. But I don't feel that way now about you. I am, I am. I've never been disappointed, as disappointed in any board member that I've worked with on this board.

00:27:14:18 – 00:27:39:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

And there's there been really great ones. And so I am right now, and I want to tell the and tell the, the community members that are listening that there are 30,000 owners in this hospital district. And we want to hear from every single one who wishes to talk to us before we make any major decisions. Look at our track record.

00:27:39:16 – 00:28:08:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

We had outreach, outreach to the entire community before we collaborated with Swedish way back in the day, before we dealt our ESB building, we had outreach before we built our new wing, we had outreach. That's our policy and we are committed to it. This there's absolutely no chance of this board making a major decision without the owners, the public input.

00:28:09:01 – 00:28:26:13

Commissioner Jill Buhler

And that's a promise. So you're you're issue of doing things in secret and coming out and having it all done before it's in public. That's baloney. So that's my story.

00:28:26:16 – 00:28:29:01

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Call for the question.

00:28:29:03 – 00:28:37:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Everyone in favor of Matt's motion say Aye, and raise your hand.

Commissioner Ready

Aye.

00:28:40:06 – 00:28:53:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Those opposed to Matt's motion say nay and raise your hand. Nay, nay. It's four against one.

00:28:53:13 – 00:28:55:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there anything else?

ChatGPT legal analysis of 3/26/2025 JHC Commission meeting

Legal Analysis of the March 26, 2025 Jefferson Healthcare Board Meeting Transcript

This meeting transcript, taken together with corroborating records and law, raises *substantial concerns under the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)*, free speech rights, board governance norms, and ethical standards for public officials. Below is a legal analysis highlighting key issues:

1. Suppression of Agenda Amendment & Public Discussion

What Happened: Commissioner Matt Ready attempted to amend the agenda to discuss potential regional alliances and legal concerns. The motion was not seconded, and discussion was curtailed.

Legal Assessment: Under *Robert's Rules of Order*, which many public boards follow, failure to second a motion ends consideration. However, **Commissioners have the right to voice objections to an agenda** (especially before adoption), and Ready was trying to do just that. The chair's repeated shutdowns—even when Ready attempted to speak on the *main motion*—may have *unduly limited lawful dissent*.

2. Accusation of Slander & Silencing of Public Comment

What Happened: Ready, while speaking during public comment, began to reference alleged secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center (OMC). Chair Jill Buhler **muted his microphone**, alleging he was making **unsubstantiated claims "bordering on slander."** A motion was immediately introduced and passed to close public comment.

Legal Assessment:

The **First Amendment** protects public officials' right to speak on matters of public concern—particularly *government transparency* and *spending of public resources*.

Accusations of “slander” without any actual false statement of fact or malicious intent are legally unfounded. **Slander requires falsity, malice, and harm.**

A public entity may impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions but **cannot silence speech solely because it’s critical or controversial.**

The **abrupt shutdown of public comment** after one commissioner raised uncomfortable concerns *may constitute viewpoint discrimination*, potentially exposing the board to constitutional liability.

3. Repeated Muting of a Sitting Commissioner

What Happened: Commissioner Ready was muted multiple times when attempting to raise legal objections and transparency concerns regarding the *Peninsula Health Alliance* proposal and the CEO’s conduct.

Legal Assessment:

Commissioners are not ordinary “public commenters.” They are elected officials with a duty to provide oversight. Muting a commissioner during deliberation is **an extreme act** that should only occur in cases of disruption or personal attacks—not for policy disagreement.

Ready’s speech was **entirely germane to the governance of the hospital district** and arguably protected under both state and federal law.

4. Allegations of Improper Executive Session Conduct

What Happened: The transcript and related documents (see) suggest that:

The proposal to create a new regional nonprofit was discussed and greenlit in executive session.

The justification was allegedly “possible real estate transactions,” yet *the discussion centered around strategic governance restructuring*, which is **not a lawful reason under RCW 42.30.110.**

Legal Assessment:

OPMA permits executive sessions *only* for narrow, enumerated purposes—real estate negotiations are valid **only when public knowledge would harm the district’s bargaining position.**

If no actual property was being bought, sold, or leased—or if governance planning dominated the conversation—**this would be an unlawful executive session.**

Taking any action (e.g., giving “voice consent”) during executive session violates OPMA and **may render such actions void under RCW 42.30.060.**

5. Blocking a Motion to Create a Legal and Ethics Subcommittee

What Happened: Ready proposed forming a legal and ethics subcommittee. Commissioner Kolff initially seconded it but withdrew support when Ready refused to agree to stop posting videos online.

Legal Assessment:

Conditioning support for a governance motion on a commissioner’s public speech is improper. It suggests retaliatory intent and an attempt to **chill dissenting viewpoints.**

The board’s refusal to even explore the motion, after acknowledging deep disagreements and legal uncertainty, may undermine its fiduciary duty.

6. Disparagement & Retaliation by Fellow Commissioners

What Happened: Commissioners publicly questioned Ready’s motives, mental clarity, and ethics. They implied he acted with ego, made false claims, and couldn’t work with others.

Legal Assessment:

These comments **blur the line between healthy debate and targeted retaliation.**

Elected officials are allowed to disagree—but **undermining a fellow commissioner’s credibility to suppress oversight or shield executive action may be unethical** or worse.

Conclusion

! There is strong evidence that Commissioner Matt Ready was improperly silenced, retaliated against, and denied access to open deliberation regarding a significant public proposal. The board’s handling of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal raises serious OPMA, First Amendment, and governance concerns.

Next Steps Suggested:

- Independent legal review of all executive sessions related to the Peninsula Health Alliance.
- Public release of the full proposal and all supporting documents.
- A motion to hire independent general counsel reporting directly to the Board of Commissioners.
- Formal OPMA and ethics training for all board members.
- A public apology or corrective action to address the censorship of an elected commissioner.

Let me know if you’d like help drafting an official complaint or public statement based on these findings.

Posted in [Blog Posts](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: 04/2/2025 Commissioner Ready posts reply to press inquiry from Port Townsend Leader on Readyforhealthcare.org

(The text of this section was already printed early in this document on the date of the reply in the section titled: March 31, 2025 Matt Ready Email Reply to James Robinson Port Townsend Leader)

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: 4/1/2025 Matt Ready makes the draft and final proposals for the Peninsula Health Alliance proposals available for download on Readyforhealthcare.org

Posted April 1, 2025 | By Commissioner Matt Ready

Below are direct links to the two key documents related to Jefferson Healthcare's proposed partnership with Olympic Medical Center (OMC):

"Commission Packet.pdf" – Dated February 5, 2025

This draft was discussed in executive session and emailed to all Jefferson Healthcare commissioners.

"Jefferson_Healthcare_Peninsula_Health_Alliance_FINAL (4).pdf" – Dated February 12, 2025

This is the final proposal submitted by Jefferson Healthcare to OMC in response to their public RFP.

I will be posting the full transcript of events, correspondence, and board actions related to this proposal below. These records are provided to ensure transparency and accountability in the governance of our public hospital district.

— *Matt Ready, Commissioner*

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

04/09/2025 The Port Townsend Leader publishes

Leak sheds light on plan for hospital alliance

Jefferson Healthcare along Sheridan Street in Port Townsend.

Leader photo by Alex Frick

Posted Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:00 am

By James Robinson

An effort to create a new regional health alliance between Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center appears to be moving forward, with leaked project planning documents describing particulars of how an alliance might ultimately play out.

The project documents, acquired by The Leader, followed comments made by Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Matt Ready at the March 26 meeting where he accused his co-commissioners of meeting secretly with OMC representatives to merge the two organizations.

Called Project Driftwood, the Jefferson Healthcare proposal calls for the formation of the Peninsula Health Alliance, effectively a not-for-profit alliance which project documents say would allow Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles to remain independent, while improving and expanding clinical programs, creating operating efficiencies and economies of scale and the ability to improve and expand clinical programs.

The plan, according to Project Driftwood documents, calls for a 12-member “super board” — with seven board members from Olympic Medical Center and five from Jefferson Healthcare. According to the plan, all currently elected commissioners would sit on the super board and the super board would govern the regional health alliance while individual boards would remain responsible for governance of their own organizations.

The proposal calls for a three-year phased-in leadership approach, with an appointed executive director planned for the first year. Project documents propose that Jefferson Healthcare Chief Executive Officer, Mike Glenn, would serve as the alliance’s first executive director.

“Frankly, many of the opportunities embedded in this model have been deliberated for years,” according to Project Driftwood documents. “Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare have been strong partners for decades. We share the same governance, leadership and medical group models, electronic medical record and perhaps most importantly, commitment to excellence cultures.”

Project Driftwood is the outgrowth of an OMC decision announced in December 2024 to hire Juniper Advisory Group to guide them through a process to decide if they need a partner, and if so, who that partner should be. Roughly 20 organizations were invited to submit proposals, including Jefferson Healthcare.

“We are still in the preliminary stages of the exploration process,” said Bobby Stone, director of

marketing and communications for Olympic Medical Center. “We received inquiries from several interested parties and are engaged in a due diligence process to learn more about these organizations. We are bound to confidentiality about who these interested parties are.”

A key player at Jefferson Healthcare also noted the non disclosure agreement as reason for their silence.

But no one from the organization has made public mention of the plan to submit a proposal and the other commissioners have remained quiet about Project Driftwood.

“A subset of Jefferson commissioners were involved or consulted during the drafting phase,” Ready said in a previous interview. “I was not. I only became aware of the proposal during the executive session on February 5. The full board has never voted to authorize the proposal or the direction of the negotiations. Much of the process has taken place out of public view, contrary to the principles of public hospital governance.”

Kolff said in the meeting that “all of our actions have been legal according to our legal counsel.” He also stated that Ready was “in violation of the board’s ethics policy.”

Emails provided by Ready show correspondence between Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Kees Kolff and Jefferson Healthcare top executives, discussing the merger plan, and Kolff’s efforts to draft language and an organizational chart.

“Thanks for the conversation with Mike about this exciting possible alliance the other day, and thanks for the opportunity to share some ideas for edits on the organizational chart and the governance comments that go along with that,” Kolff wrote to Pranav Sharma, head of strategic planning, marketing and communication for Jefferson Healthcare. “I have attached a reworded narrative. There were too many edits to make ‘show changes’ useful,” the email stated. It was copied to Mike Glenn, Shannon Groff and commissioners.

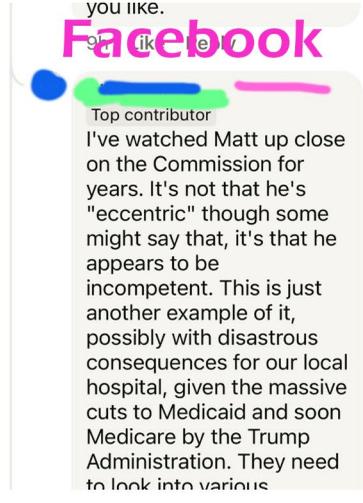
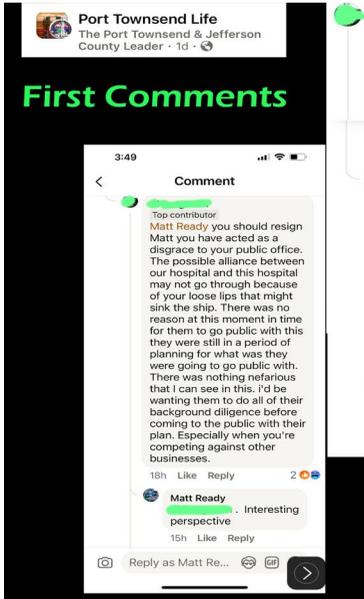
At the March 26 commissioners’ meeting Ready made his concerns public and alleged that members of the board had been negotiating secretly with representatives of OMC. Ready further alleged that members of the commission had violated open meeting laws and abused the use of executive session.

When asked about the use of executive session to discuss the possible alliance, Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Jill Buhler Rienstra did not respond to requests for comment. According to Kolff, Buhler Rienstra is out of town this week, and he was traveling and not able to provide a complete comment by presstime.

Should Olympic Medical Center continue its evaluation of the Jefferson Healthcare’s proposal, the next step would involve representatives from Jefferson Healthcare visiting OMC facilities for a site visit and further discussions. Olympic Medical Center project documents indicate the agency would make a decision in April or May on whether OMC will pursue a partnership.

The OMC decision to seek a partner comes amidst myriad financial challenges, including federal cuts and halts to Medicaid reimbursements.

Comments from Social Media



The Leader

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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Praise for Ready

Posted Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:00 am

Thank you, Matt Ready, for your leadership and integrity. I can see why you were excluded from secret discussions about the future of our public hospital.

While state law prohibits disclosures regarding executive sessions, I believe your actions are more than justified. Without your courage, this apparently illegal behavior might not have been stopped before it was too late.

I believe commissioners who deliberately violated the Open Public Meetings Act should apologize and resign. I also believe CEO Mike Glenn, who apparently conspired with some but not all commissioners in a way that might have pre-empted any public notice or input before taking action in secret should be fired. And if the PIO was aware of what was going on and knowingly issued a statement with such a misleading omission, they should be replaced as well. If there are costs to the hospital district for violating state laws, those should be born by the perpetrators, not the taxpayers.

There is no exemption in the Open Public Meetings Act for discussing financial concerns, even urgent ones. We the people are entitled to transparency and to public officials we can trust, and I thank you for being the one official who did his job.

Barney Burke

Port Townsend

been. You oughta step down you are a disgrace.

16h Like Reply

Paul Stafford
Regional alliances can be a good thing. Lying to the public is never a good thing.
2h Like Reply

Paul I don't see anyone lying to the public. All I see is a decision to withhold the information until they were ready to roll it out in a final form.
2h Like Reply

Paul Stafford
If you saw the last Commissioner's meeting, they definitely lied.

planning for what was they were going to go public with. There was nothing nefarious

04/10/2025 Email from Karen Wagner Via Healthcare Consulting

Dear Jefferson Healthcare Commissioners:

Just a friendly reminder to complete your board self-assessment before 5 p.m. PDT, on this Friday, April 11.

The assessment should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please note, you do not have to complete the survey in one sitting. You can close the survey at any time and return later to the section where you stopped by returning to the invitation email and clicking on the link again. However, once you have clicked "Done" on the final page, you will not be able to return to make changes.

To complete the survey, please click this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Jefferson2025BSA>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Noreen Cervantes at xxxxxxxx or Karen Wagner at xxxxxxxxxxxx at Via Healthcare Consulting.

Thanks so much!

Karen

Karen Wagner

Managing Editor

Via Healthcare Consulting

04/11/2025 Email from member of public Jeff Randall to all Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

I am very concerned about your deliberations regarding a potential alliance between Jefferson Healthcare and OMC. My concerns are as follows:

1. Everything I have heard about OMC indicates that they have been under significant financial stress for many years. I question whether their community supports their hospital district the way our community supports Jefferson Healthcare. I am concerned that an alliance with OMC would primarily benefit OMC and put Jefferson Healthcare at financial risk.
2. I can understand that the details of a negotiation of a business alliance may need to be confidential. However as a public entity I believe the commissioners have a duty to your constituents to keep us informed of major decisions you are considering that could impact the services you deliver to us and your ability to continue delivering those services in the future. Discussing in general about potential business alliances (without naming names) and how such a hypothetical alliance could benefit the community is needed. You have a fiduciary duty to us, your constituents. You work for us. You don't work for your CEO. He works for you.
3. I am concerned that the NDA that OMC required you to sign is in conflict with your fiduciary duty to keep your constituents informed of major decisions you are considering. If so, you should withdraw from such NDA agreement and such discussions. Your fiduciary duty to your constituents must come first.
4. It appears you have held executive sessions without declaring a legal basis for doing so and discussed matters not authorized in executive session during such meetings. If true, this is a violation of our trust in you.
5. From the newspaper articles 2 members of your board have met with members of OMC. It is not clear if a majority of the board was kept informed of these discussions but it appears one member of the board (Matt Ready) has been excluded from at least some of these discussions and some of the information.
6. We elect all of you to be our representatives. We expect you will work

together with respect and a collaborative spirit. Disagreements will occur on elected boards. It is important to provide dissenters an ability to discuss in public their concerns (again generically if necessary, without naming names). It appears commissioner Ready was not allowed this opportunity to express his concerns during a public meeting. The way this matter has been handled (in secret) has created a dilemma for commissioner Ready. While difficult, I think commissioner Ready has his priorities right. His, and your, first duty is to your constituents and to follow the law.

7. I see the benefits for OMC in this arrangement. They are getting multiple suitors for a business alliance and all discussions are held in secret. Not all of those other organizations are necessarily public entities. But you are a public entity and you need to remember to keep your constituents informed as to major decisions you are considering that could put Jefferson Healthcare at risk. If there is potential value of such an alliance, you should share why you are considering such an alliance, again at least in a generic way without naming names or details.

8. I see a second motivation for this alliance. Mike Glenn would get another promotion and a significant pay raise. Mike is a talented CEO, but in this case I question whether he is putting his own interests and OMC's interests ahead of the community that he serves.

Jeff Randall

04/14/2025 Email from Karen Wagner Via Consulting

Dear Commissioner Ready:

I hope you have been receiving my email messages regarding the 2025 Jefferson Board self-assessment.

It would be great if we could receive 100% participation this year.

Would you be able to complete the assessment by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 16?

The assessment should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please note, you do not have to complete the survey in one sitting. You can close the survey at any time and return later to the section where you stopped by returning to the invitation email and clicking on the link again. However, once you have clicked "Done" on the final page, you will not be able to return to make changes.

To complete the survey, please click this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Jefferson2025BSA>

Warm regards,

Karen

Karen Wagner

Managing Editor

Via Healthcare Consulting

04/14/225 Email to Karen Wagner Via Consulting from Matt Ready

Subject: Response to Self-Assessment Survey Invitation

Hi Karen,

Thank you for reaching out with the invitation to participate in the Jefferson Healthcare board self-assessment survey. I'm writing to inform you that I will not be participating in this survey or any other private preparatory activity associated with the upcoming board retreat being facilitated by Karma Bass and or Via Healthcare Consulting.

This is not a personal decision about you or your professionalism, but rather a principled response to a serious governance and legal situation that remains unresolved. I have ongoing concerns related to transparency, legality, and the role Karma Bass and her company Via Healthcare Consulting previously played in events that are now central to a formal criminal complaint I've filed as an elected commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2.

Karma Bass served as the facilitator for Jefferson Healthcare's 2019 board retreat. During that retreat, I raised deeply concerning facts regarding a 2016 legal opinion that had been withheld from me and the public for years—an opinion that affirmed a commissioner's legal right to record public meetings under Washington law. When I stated in that meeting that the actions taken by then-CEO Mike Glenn and attorney Brad Berg in concealing that opinion could be considered fraudulent, Karma intervened not to help the board reflect or take accountability, but to shut down the discussion by asking, "Are you a lawyer?"

This moment, which I consider a pivotal failure of the board to reckon with wrongdoing, is one of many I documented in detail—including transcripts and internal emails—in my book published in 2023, *"Journey Through the Boardroom: An Insider's Perspective on Hospital Governance: A true story about corporatism, truth, tactics, life, liberty, and wisdom. Please abide and comply."* That book outlines how institutional power and professional facilitators were used to suppress accountability rather than promote it. Karma Bass is named in that documentation as a central figure in enabling this suppression during two separate retreat facilitation incidents.

Now, in 2025, your firm is again facilitating a board retreat at the request of the same CEO who has been at the center of multiple OPMA and transparency controversies. I cannot, in good conscience, participate in any retreat preparation process run by Karma's firm. I consider her not a neutral facilitator, but a **potential material witness** in matters I have reported to legal authorities, and possibly a co-conspirator in efforts to obstruct governance oversight.

Furthermore, I have significant legal concerns that the structure of this "self-assessment"—where your firm gathers individualized responses from each commissioner and compiles them to prepare retreat content—may constitute a **hub-and-spoke serial meeting**, which would be in violation of Washington State's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). I will not participate in any activity that risks exposing the board to further legal jeopardy or contributes to a pattern of concealed decision-making.

That said, I remain entirely committed to participating in **publicly noticed board meetings, properly convened retreats, and executive sessions conducted in accordance with the law**. I will continue to serve as a fully engaged commissioner, advocating for transparency, legal integrity, and genuine public accountability.

Thank you for your understanding. Please do not interpret this as a lack of commitment to board effectiveness—but rather, as a commitment to lawful, ethical governance that serves the public first.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Author, *Journey Through the Boardroom*

04/14/2025 Email from Karen Wagner Via Consulting

Dear Matt,

I have noted your concerns.

Thanks so much for your quick response.

Karen

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: 04/17/2025

Minor Fraud is A Cancer in Local Politics

April 17, 2025 | Author [Matt](#)

Fraud is deception for personal gain.

Minor fraud is deception for personal gain that will never be prosecuted because the system only cares about explicit financial damages.

Experts in local politics, especially in the healthcare industry, know how to use hundreds to thousands of acts of minor fraud as an overwhelming blanket of action to craft the world to their desires- based on the agenda of whoever it is they follow and obey.

For the record, i obey my oath of office to defend the constitutions of Wa and the USA- in my role as elected public hospital commissioner. In the rest of my life, I rely mainly on unbridled honesty and the noble quest for happiness and global utopia.

I bet the practice of using thousands of acts of minor fraud to gain major advantage is probably a tactic used everywhere in local politics.

Meeting Transcript (partial): 04/23/2025

Commission Meeting, Meeting Highlights

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:37:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. Welcome to the Jefferson County Public Hospital. District number two, Board of commissioners meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025. This session is being officially audio recorded and time shown on the agenda are estimates only. We will have an executive session under RC 4231 ten G to discuss the performance of a public employee. Is there a motion to approve the agenda as it stands?

00:00:37:07 - 00:00:38:07

Commissioner Kees Kolff

So moved.

00:00:38:10 - 00:00:45:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second? Second. Discussion. All in favor, say I.

00:00:45:26 - 00:00:47:13

Commissioner Matt Ready

I, I have a comment.

00:00:47:13 - 00:00:57:02

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I excuse me. We're in the middle of the motion. I okay. Opposed?

00:00:57:04 - 00:00:59:15

Commissioner Matt Ready

Opposed. I had a comment.

00:00:59:17 - 00:01:05:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Go ahead with your comment.

00:01:05:25 - 00:01:18:00

Commissioner Matt Ready

I mean, I really think it's urgent that we have something on the agenda related to regional alliances at the public knows about, and I'm sure wants to understand what's going on.

00:01:18:02 - 00:01:21:03

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Do you want to make a motion?

00:01:21:06 - 00:01:24:24

Commissioner Matt Ready

Sure. I'd like to make a motion that we have, regional.

00:01:24:24 - 00:01:33:03

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Alignment. Okay. Is there a second to that motion?

00:01:33:06 - 00:01:54:22

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Hey, there's no second. So we will continue with the, with the main motion, accepting the agenda as presented. All in favor, say I again. All right. Those opposed.

00:01:54:25 - 00:01:56:13

Commissioner Matt Ready

Opposed.

00:01:56:15 - 00:02:04:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. And now I'm staying. Pardon me. Did someone. I heard something. Oh, I.

00:02:04:05 - 00:02:06:13

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Think you're good. I think you're good to go.

00:02:06:16 - 00:02:39:10

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. Then it will stand approved as shown. So, first, we have Molly Parker, our chief medical officer, and, with an update on the very, very, very important Jeffress and County Early Learning Center. Doctor Parker, thank you for being with us. And, how we're anxious to hear what how that's all going.

00:02:39:12 - 00:02:45:20

Speaker 4

Great. Well, thanks so much for having me. Shannon's getting the slides.

00:02:45:22 - 00:02:51:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

The. Then we will move on to Tina Toner.

00:02:51:24 - 00:02:56:23

Commissioner Matt Ready

So I have a point of information I just forgot to share at the beginning of the meeting.

00:02:56:25 - 00:02:57:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Pardon me.

00:02:57:24 - 00:03:03:10

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have a point of order. I guess I forgot to share at the beginning of the meeting.

00:03:03:12 - 00:03:05:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Point of order?

00:03:05:16 - 00:03:17:18

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah, I just need to share that I am live streaming the audio of this meeting. I forgot to mention that I'm attempting to. I don't know if it's working, but I'm attempting to live stream the audio. Just wanted you to know that.

00:03:17:21 - 00:03:50:15

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right. Okay. Next is our patient story brought to us by Tina Toner, our chief nursing time. We will go to public comment period. And, we invite the public to make any comments that they wish, for or regarding their hospital district. So, Shannon, do we have any emails or anything from the public that you know of.

00:03:53:08 - 00:04:18:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. All right then. In person speakers, we welcome your comments. There is a three minute limit, and Shannon will give you a one minute warning before your time is up. It is the board's policy, to listen to your comments without responding during this meeting. So, anyone who would like to and I see one hand raised, to hand.

00:04:18:17 - 00:04:26:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. I'm going to go with Angela first. Angela, you have three minutes.

Public Comment by Angela

00:04:27:00 - 00:04:28:00

Meeting Transcript (partial): 4/23/2025 Transcript Continues with Public Commenter Angela Gyurko questions and critiques the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal at the Jefferson Healthcare board meeting

Angela Gyurko: Well thank you. Jill.

Commissioner Jill Buhler: Welcome.

Public Commenter Angela: Thank you. I've been chatting with my counterparts in Clallam about the OMC Jefferson health care discussions, and it's interesting to hear their perspectives. Their concern centers around making sure that the fiscally unsound OMC is not bought by a Catholic hospital chain, and thus losing access to health care that is important to the community. My Clallam counterparts noted Jefferson Health Care's good fiscal record, good relations with the community, and great reputation for patient care.

As I listen to them talk, I realized that this proposed linking might be great for Clallam. But really, from a public perspective, I'd like to know what's in it for Jefferson. Mike Glenn has kept the hospital fiscally sound through some very difficult times. We are facing more difficult times. Coming up with his attention be divided, trying to get OMC up to speed both fiscally and with patient care.

I've my elderly mother in law, has been treated at OMC and it has not been up to the standard at Jefferson, and I can see it taking a lot of time and energy. Would Jefferson's quality and finances suffer? Likewise, the proposed board would have five members from Jefferson and seven from Clallam. What would keep in the future Jefferson from being an afterthought?

I'm talking about five, ten, 15 years down the road. Given that Jefferson would be taking on the hard work of resolving omics issues, why shouldn't Jefferson have the seven seats in Clallam have the five seats? I'm really concerned about this org chart. I know it's probably based on community size, but in terms of who's going to be doing the intellectual, heavy lifting and who's going to be doing the work to get things going.

I would think a much more fair distribution, of seats would be in order before folks in this community would consider this, a reasonable option.'

Thanks.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Hey, thank you for your comments. And, anything like that would be certainly taken into consideration if that were the case. So thank you. Okay. I see another hand raised it and verified T is, I'm not sure who that is. Can you identify yourself?

00:06:53:14 - 00:06:57:24

Member of Public Tom

Yeah, actually, I, I simply entered my initials. This is Tom. You're speaking.

00:06:57:27 - 00:06:59:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Hi, Tom.

00:06:59:07 - 00:07:31:07

Member of Public Tom

All right. Sorry for any confusion. Excellent. Really positive reports earlier in the session from especially from Doctor Parker. However, there's always a but however, one part of what I heard that troubles me and has been troubling me for a long time, and that's the fact that the Jefferson continues to associate itself with the YMCA. You know, YMCA stands for Young Men's Christian Association.

And the official mission statement from that organization is, to, quote, put Christian principles into practice through programs that build yada, yada, yada.

Affiliating with any organization that is religiously based is a violation of my First Amendment right of freedom from religion. And so many organizations, apparently including Jefferson, disregard that. They simply slap it aside because it seems like that's the only way that you can get money for certain projects. I don't consider that to be a legitimate excuse. Sorry. You know, you are creating an environment which is inhospitable to people who are a religious or otherwise religious, but emphasizing the Christian aspect

of things.

And whenever you enter into these things, I really think you need to keep that in mind, because you're really not doing the community as a whole any favors. You know, you pay great attention to D-I diversity. Well, apparently not so much. Not in this respect. So I will just, you know, I know that you're not going to do anything about it.

I know it's not going to make any difference, but I still want it known that what you're doing is really not an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars in any respect. So thanks for the opportunity.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. Tom, I, thank you for your comments. So certainly your comments are welcome. Anybody else have any comments to make? I can't see. Can you see the screen? Shannon, can you tell me if anybody else has got their hand up?

00:09:24:28 - 00:09:39:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. All right. If, no one else had. First, we have minutes from the March 26th commission meeting. Is there a motion to approve those minutes?

00:09:39:17 - 00:09:40:15

Commissioner Kees Kolff

So moved.

00:09:40:17 - 00:09:46:00

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Second. Second. Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Discussion.

00:09:46:03 - 00:09:50:05

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have, motion to amend the minutes.

00:09:50:07 - 00:09:57:21

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. And you make a motion. You may make a motion.

00:09:57:23 - 00:10:16:18

Commissioner Matt Ready

So I like the motion that it note during the agenda. Approval. Discussion. All commissioners were told they could have a minute to speak, and Commissioner ready was cut off after 15 seconds and not allowed to speak his minute.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

What did. Is there a second to approve that amendment?

00:10:27:06 - 00:10:33:12

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to approve Matts amendment?

00:10:33:14 - 00:10:38:06

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Hearing? No. Second. The motion dies for lack of a second.

00:10:38:09 - 00:10:40:27

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have another motion to amend.

00:10:40:29 - 00:10:43:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right.

00:10:43:07 - 00:10:58:19

Commissioner Matt Ready

During public comment, Commissioner Ready was given three minutes to speak, and he was cut off after again, like, 30 20s and not allowed to speak as three minutes as, in public comment.

00:10:58:22 - 00:11:07:08

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to approve that amendment to the minutes?

00:11:07:10 - 00:11:15:18

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second? There's no second. Dies for lack of the second. Excuse me. Motion.

00:11:15:19 - 00:11:24:12

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have, another amendment. Motion.

00:11:24:15 - 00:11:38:25

Commissioner Matt Ready

During, the administrative report. Commissioner ready was muted while he was attempting to ask a question of the CEO and not allowed to finish his comment.

00:11:38:28 - 00:11:43:13

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to them? And that.

00:11:43:15 - 00:11:50:07

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second? Hearing no Second Amendment dies for lack of a second.

00:11:50:09 - 00:11:55:00

Commissioner Kees Kolff

I call for the question.

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have just one more final amendment motion.

00:11:55:02 - 00:11:57:11

Commissioner Kees Kolff

The question has been called.

00:11:57:13 - 00:12:02:17

Commissioner Jill Buhler

The question has been called. Is there a second to the question?

00:12:02:20 - 00:12:09:28

Commissioner Matt Ready

How can you call the question? We haven't even had comments on the main motion.

00:12:10:00 - 00:12:41:24

Commissioner Jill Buhler

And the. There has he has, a commissioner has called for the for a, for the vote. And to end the discussion. That requires a second from the board. Is there is there a commissioner that will second that call? To end the discussion? Okay. There's a second to that.

00:12:41:26 - 00:12:44:19

Commissioner Matt Ready

I have another motion to amend the minutes.

00:12:44:21 - 00:12:49:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I which is.

00:12:49:04 - 00:13:15:05

Commissioner Matt Ready

Commissioner Ready made a motion to form an ethics and legal advisory subcommittee. During the discussion of that commissioner Kolff made a requirement that Commissioner ready Stop posting to YouTube As a condition of his voting for the motion, the rest of the board allowed this demand to be to stand. And Commissioner Ready had to respond to it.

00:13:15:08 - 00:13:17:25

Commissioner Matt Ready

Anyways, that's my motion.

00:13:17:28 - 00:13:40:12

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is there a second to that amendment? Is there a second? That is, for lack of a second. We will go now to the main motion and approve the minutes as they stand. Is there everyone in favor? Say I. I, I any opposed.

00:13:40:15 - 00:13:42:05

Commissioner Matt Ready

Opposed.

00:13:42:08 - 00:13:51:06

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. And and that the motion carries to approve the minutes as written.

00:13:51:09 - 00:13:56:03

Commissioner Jill Buhler

So now we will go on to the medical staff credentials and.

00:13:56:03 - 00:14:24:17

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Thank you. And the board is extending the executive session for a period of 45 minutes. Until 545. We will be back in regular session, in 545. Leaving now to go back to executive session. Thank you.

00:14:24:19 - 00:14:26:06

Commissioner Jill Buhler

I got nothing.

00:14:26:06 - 00:14:29:29

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Is that? Conclude your report. Between now and the next.

00:14:29:29 - 00:14:30:12

Commissioner Kees Kolff

Time if you have.

00:14:30:12 - 00:14:35:14

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Any questions. Thanks. Thank you.

00:14:35:16 - 00:14:42:27

Commissioner Jill Buhler

So, Mike, does that conclude your report or do you have something more that you'd like to add?

00:14:43:00 - 00:14:45:04

Commissioner Kees Kolff

That concludes my report. Thanks, Jill.

00:14:45:06 - 00:15:15:00

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Thank you Mike. Okay. Then we will move on to board report. And I do have one update. We are moving our retreat, our planned retreat for next Monday. As not everyone will be there. Okay, so I think you're going to be out of the area, and we want everybody present. So we're looking at June 26th.

00:15:15:03 - 00:15:48:01

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Possibility the day after Chelan, when we get back to have that. So if you. I sent a message to all of you commissioners. So, respond back, please, to Shannon, on the date and, and so we'll I think that'll be much more productive if everybody's there as we've been in the past. So does anyone have any other information?

00:15:48:03 - 00:15:53:13

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Or your board report?

00:15:53:15 - 00:16:00:15

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay. Matt.

00:16:00:17 - 00:16:15:00

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. I had a I just have I have a question for Mike. Is can you give us any sort of update on the proposal submitted to OMC? Any sort of update for the public?

00:16:15:03 - 00:16:21:20

CEO Mike Glenn

No, I don't have anything. Report, Matt. Thanks for asking.

00:16:21:22 - 00:16:21:28

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right.

00:16:21:29 - 00:16:31:06

Commissioner Matt Ready

And I have another. Are we. Is there a timeline for when the public is going to have the proposal addressed?

00:16:31:09 - 00:16:39:23

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, I think, your question was answered. There's no update about that.

00:16:39:25 - 00:16:54:12

CEO Mike Glenn

I think that's a question for Jefferson or, excuse me, for Olympic Medical Center. And that timeline has been actually published in the Peninsula Daily News. So I would refer you there.

00:16:54:14 - 00:16:58:05

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Okay.

00:16:58:08 - 00:17:03:20

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Anybody else? Okay. Do you have any report?

00:17:03:22 - 00:17:06:29

Commissioner Kees Kolff

No. Nothing that needs to be reported at this time.

00:17:07:01 - 00:17:17:07

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Thank you. Okay. How about Mary or Bruce? Thank you. Jeff. From my end.

00:17:17:09 - 00:17:35:21

Speaker 4

No. And the, Health Care Foundation meeting that was scheduled for Monday has been postponed because of the same type of things. People are gone, and and we thought there was going to be a board retreat. So. So it's been it's been put off until May.

Executive Session Meeting Notes: 4/23/2025 Executive Session – Commissioners take covert straw poll to dismiss employee complaint

During an executive session called under the “personnel” exemption, the board discussed a formal employee complaint. During the executives session, a consensus was reached to not to take any public action or vote on the complaint, thereby avoiding public disclosure. By reaching this consensus in private, the board effectively conducted an illegal straw poll. The OPMA allows personnel matters to be *discussed* in executive session but strictly prohibits collective decisions or final actions outside public session.

Meeting Transcript partial: 4/23/2025 commission meeting. Matt Ready asks CEO Glenn for update on Alliance

Commissioner Matt Ready

Yeah. I had a I just have I have a question for Mike. Is can you give us any sort of update on the proposal submitted to OMC? Any sort of update for the public?

CEO Mike Glenn

No, I don't have anything. Report, Matt. Thanks for asking.

Commissioner Jill Buhler

All right.

Commissioner Matt Ready

And I have another. Are we. Is there a timeline for when the public is going to have the proposal addressed?

Commissioner Jill Buhler

Matt, I think, your question was answered. There's no update about that.

CEO Mike Glenn

I think that's a question for Jefferson or, excuse me, for Olympic Medical Center. And that timeline has been actually published in the Peninsula Daily News. So I would refer you there.

04/23/2025 Email from Bruce McComas to Matt Ready

Matt,

I'm just curious about the purpose or need to live stream the meeting when people can already view or listen on line.

Bruce

04/23/2025 email to Bruce McComas from Matt Ready

Well, in case I'm muted by the chair, I can still talk on my live stream.

04/23/2025 Email from Bruce McComas to Matt Ready

Got it. Makes sense.

Bruce

04/24/2025 letter to Commissioners from member of public XXXXX

When the purpose of an executive session is announced to be, for example, "potential litigation", but an entirely different subject is discussed and/or a decision is made (either by vote or by consensus) during that session, it is a violation of the OPMA.

See:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=17894941846562945165&hl=en&lr=lang_en&as_sdt=4,48&as_vis=1

It seems that that is what's been happening during Jefferson's exec sessions.

XXXXX

05/14/2025 Emailed: Report from the Jefferson County Sheriff, Detective, and Jefferson County Prosecutor Ashcraft

Andy Pernsteiner

From: Chris Ashcraft
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 8:48 AM
To: Derek Allen
Cc: Andy Pernsteiner
Subject: OMC Complaint

Work Product

I thoroughly reviewed Derek's memo and reviewed the attachments I was provided.

Legal analysis –

I do not see any evidence of traditional criminal conduct because there is a lack of criminal intent to harm anyone, including the public. There may be OPMA violations that could run their ordinary course but those are issues for State regulators to investigate.

There is no RICO violation because there is no criminal intent.

In a RICO case you have a mix of legal and criminal actions that all support an overarching criminal scheme, i.e., the business itself is crime though lots of the things the organization does is legal (run a strip club, pick up garbage, etc.) in order to hide the proceeds of the illegal activity (protection, drugs, murder). With regard to the hospital, its goal is legal (providing medical care to the Olympic Peninsula), but some of what they did might have violated OPMA. Since the goal, providing good health care, is 100% legal, there is not a RICO case even if they intentionally violated OPMA (and I don't see intent to commit a crime).

If you have any other questions let me know.

Chris R. Ashcraft
Chief Criminal Deputy
cashcraft@co.jefferson.wa.us
Phone: 360.385.9180
Fax: 360.385.9186



Case No.: 2025-3822

Report Date: 5/14/2025

Officers: Detective Sergeant Derek Allen #94

Case Status: Closed

Routing: Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney

This narrative summarizes many of the events related to this investigation. This report may contain paraphrased conversations that are intended only as a summary. The details reported may not describe the exact sequence of events. During this investigation, one or more audio / video recordings may have been captured on body worn cameras worn by Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputies. If present, these recordings were uploaded to Evidence.com and should be reviewed as they may show additional detail as to the exact statements and sequence of events.

On 4/8/2025 I was assigned to an investigation by Sheriff Pernsteiner. Sheriff Pernsteiner requested I review, analyze and investigate the complaint for any criminal wrongdoings. The email I received from Sheriff Pernsteiner consisted of three (3) documents: _ raw transcripts peninsula health alliance — copy.pdf _ v3 Transcripts and Emails Peninsula Health Alliance Timeline.pdf

█ Summary Report Legal Concerns Raised by Attorney Austin Hatcher Regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal (1).pdf

Below outlines my examination and evaluation of the documents, RCW's, legislation and case law.

Key Points —

█ It seems likely that the actions described may violate the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), with potential civil penalties, but criminal charges are less certain and would need further investigation.

█ Research suggests possible official misconduct, a gross misdemeanor, if actions were taken with intent to benefit or deprive rights, but proving intent is complex.

█ The evidence leans toward unauthorized board actions and suppression of transparency, raising concerns about public trust and governance.

Background —

The complaint alleges misconduct by Jefferson Healthcare leadership, including misuse of

executive sessions, unauthorized actions, and suppression of public information, potentially impacting criminal law in Washington state.

Analysis —

The allegations center on violations of the OPMA, which requires public meetings for governing bodies like hospital district boards, with limited exceptions for executive sessions. The complaint suggests executive sessions were misused to discuss a governance proposal under a real estate pretext, likely violating OPMA, as only specific real estate price discussions are allowed in private ([Washington State Legislature - RCW 42.30](#)). Unauthorized submission of a proposal without public board approval may also breach district governance laws under Chapter 70.44 RCW, potentially constituting official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010 if intent to benefit or deprive rights is shown. Suppression of commissioner speech and misleading statements could further complicate legal standing, possibly involving civil penalties but with criminal implications less clear without proven intent.

No single section of Chapter 70.44 RCW explicitly states "unauthorized submission of a proposal is prohibited." However, RCW 70.44.060 establishes the commissioners as the governing body with decision-making power. An unauthorized action by an individual (ie., a superintendent or employee) could be interpreted as exceeding their delegated authority, violating the governance structure set forth in this section. Additionally, RCW 70.44.050 requires commissioners to act collectively at "regular or special meetings," reinforcing that official actions, like approving proposals, must occur through formal board processes—not unilaterally.

Regarding the connection to RCW 9A.80.010 (official misconduct), a violation of RCW 70.44.060 could potentially align with misconduct if intent to "obtain a benefit or deprive another of a benefit" is proven, as this criminal statute requires a public servant to knowingly commit an unauthorized act under color of law. However, this would depend on evidence of intent, which Chapter 70.44 RCW itself does not address—it focuses on structure and authority, not criminality.

Unexpected Details —

An unexpected aspect is the potential involvement of legal counsel as a co-conspirator, which could raise ethical issues for the Washington State Bar Association, though criminal liability remains uncertain.

Note -

This note provides a comprehensive analysis of the allegations in the complaint submitted by Commissioner Matt Ready regarding suspected misconduct at Jefferson Healthcare, focusing on potential violations of Washington state criminal law. The complaint, dated March 26, 2025, details issues such as misuse of executive sessions, unauthorized board actions, suppression of public transparency, and coordinated behavior possibly rising to criminal conspiracy or racketeering. The evaluation considers relevant statutes, case law, and the provided evidence, including emails, meeting transcripts, and legal opinions.

Legal Framework and Relevant Statutes —

Washington state law, particularly the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) under Chapter 42.30 RCW, mandates that meetings of governing bodies of public agencies, including public hospital districts, be open to the public, with specific exceptions for executive sessions. Executive sessions are permitted for limited purposes, such as discussing the minimum price for real estate sales or leases when public knowledge could affect prices, as outlined in RCW 42.30.1 and (l)(c) ([Washington State Legislature - RCW 42.30](#)). The Washington Supreme Court, in *Columbia Riverkeepers v. Port of Vancouver* (2017), narrowed this exception, ruling that only price minimums, not broader negotiations, can be discussed privately ([MRSC - The Supreme Court Narrowly Construes the "Minimum-Value" Executive Session Exception to the OPMA](#)).

Public hospital districts are governed by Chapter 70.44 RCW, with board powers and duties detailed in RCW 70.44.060, including contracting, property acquisition, and operational decisions ([Washington State Legislature - Chapter 70.44 RCW](#)). Criminal laws potentially applicable include official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010, defined as a public servant intentionally committing unauthorized acts or refraining from duties with intent to obtain a benefit or deprive rights, classified as a gross misdemeanor ([Washington State Legislature RCW 9A.80.010](#)). Criminal conspiracy is covered under RCW 9A.28.040, requiring an agreement to commit a crime with a substantial step taken ([Washington State Legislature - RCW 9A.28.040](#)). Racketeering, under Chapter 9A.82 RCW, involves a pattern of criminal profiteering activity for financial gain, with definitions including acts like murder and robbery ([Washington state Legislature - Chapter 9A.82 RCW](#)).

Analysis of Allegations —

Misuse of Executive Sessions

The complaint alleges that executive sessions were held under the pretense of discussing "possible real estate transactions" but actually centered on a regional governance

restructuring with Olympic Medical Center (OMC) through the Peninsula Health Alliance, a nonprofit entity, without specific property negotiations. This appears to violate OPMA, as the Washington Supreme Court limits executive session discussions to minimum prices for real estate, not governance strategies. Attorney Austin Hatcher's legal opinion, dated March 26, 2025, states, "The executive session was under a very stretched reading of the 'lease' purposes of RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and (c)... That is not the case here," supporting the likelihood of an OPMA violation ([Digital Media Law Project - Open Meetings Laws in Washington](#)).

Timeline evidence, such as the February 5, 2025, executive session discussing the proposal without real estate specifics, and CEO Mike Glenn's email on February 12, 2025, mentioning potential leasing assets, suggests misuse. However, the primary focus was governance, likely exceeding OPMA exceptions.

.Unauthorized Board Action

The complaint states the proposal, a 38-page core document within a 160-page package, was submitted to OMC without formal board authorization in a public vote, potentially via informal "voice consent" in executive session. RCW 70.44.060 grants boards broad powers, but major decisions, especially binding proposals, typically require public meetings. The complaint's assertion, "If informal 'voice consent' was obtained in executive session, that constitutes illegal board action under OPMA," aligns with OPMA's prohibition on final actions in executive sessions. Emails, such as Glenn's February 12, 2025, note of scrambling to meet the deadline, indicate action without public approval, possibly unauthorized under district laws.

.Suppression of Public Transparency and Misrepresentation

Officials, including CEO Mike Glenn and Chair Jill Buhler, allegedly misrepresented the proposal as "inconsequential" or "airy-fairy," despite its formal nature, misleading the board and public. This is evidenced in meeting transcripts from February 19, 2025, where Glenn stated, "There's really nothing to talk about right now," despite submission. Commissioner Ready was discouraged from public discussion, with Buhler calling on March 14, 2025, to remove website content, potentially raising First Amendment concerns, though not directly criminal. This pattern, detailed in the complaint's table of misleading statements, suggests suppression, impacting public trust and transparency.

. Coordinated Conduct and Potential Criminal Conspiracy or Racketeering

The complaint suggests a pattern of withholding legal opinions, avoiding public processes, and private communications resembling serial meetings, possibly meeting conspiracy thresholds under RCW 9A.28.040, requiring an agreement to commit a crime with a substantial step. Official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010 could be the underlying crime if actions were unauthorized with intent to benefit, such as consolidating control.

However, proving intent is complex and emails show efforts to avoid serial meetings. Like Kolff's February 8, 2025, instruction not to respond. Racketeering under Chapter 9A.82 RCW, requiring a pattern of profiteering acts like murder or robbery, seems unlikely, as definitions (effective until April 1, 2025, adding catalytic converter trafficking post-April) don't fit governance issues.

Legal counsel Brad Berg's role, advising on executive session use despite invalidity, may raise ethical concerns, potentially reported to the Washington State Bar Association, but criminal complicity is uncertain without clear evidence of intent.

Penalties and Criminal Implications —

OPMA violations carry civil penalties, increased to \$500 for first-time knowing violations and \$1,000 for repeats, as per recent legislation ([Governor to sign AG-request bill to strengthen open public meetings law. increase penalties | Washington State](#)). Criminal implications hinge on official misconduct, requiring intent, which is not clearly evidenced here. Conspiracy would need a proven agreement and step(s), possibly a stretch given civil nature of OPMA. Racketeering is improbable without financial gain from listed crimes.

Conclusion —

The actions likely violate OPMA, with civil penalties applicable, and may constitute official misconduct if intent is proven. Criminal conspiracy or racketeering seems less supported, requiring much further evidence. The complaint's detailed documentation, including emails and legal opinions, suggest a review by the Washington State Attorney General's Office — Assistant Attorney General for Open Government who oversees possible OPMA violations.

Table: Summary of Potential Violations

Allegation	Relevant Law	Potential Violation	Criminal Implication
Misuse of Executive Sessions	RCW 42.30.110,	Likely, civil penalties	Unlikely, civil focus
Unauthorized Board Actions	RCW 70.44.060,	Possible, invalid actions	Unlikely, civil focus
Suppression and Misrepresentation	OPMA	Possible, civil remedies	Unlikely, civil focus
Coordinated Conduct	RCW 9A.28.040,	Possible conspiracy, very unlikely racketeering	Requires intent proof, complex
	9A.80.010, 9A.82		

On this date, 5/14/2025, I certify, or declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington in the County of Jefferson that the foregoing is true and correct. Furthermore, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am a law enforcement officer and that in making this declaration I entered my user name and password into a device that is owned, issued, or maintained by a criminal justice agency, and this document was electronically submitted to a prosecutor pursuant to RCW 9A. 72.085(3)(d).

Detective Sergeant Derek Allen #94

Jefferson County Sheriffs Office

Port Hadlock, WA 98339

5/14/2025

05/20/2025 Letter to Attorney General

Dear AGO,

I am writing in my official capacity as an elected Commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 (Jefferson Healthcare) to formally request an opinion and guidance from your office regarding potential violations of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), RCW 42.30, by our Board of Commissioners.

On February 5, 2025, our Board entered executive session under the justification of

discussing potential real estate leasing. However, the actual subject of the session was a major governance restructuring proposal: a formal response to Olympic Medical Center's (OMC) public Request for Proposals, involving the creation of a new nonprofit entity—the Peninsula Health Alliance—that would oversee both public hospital districts. I was informed of this plan for the first time during that executive session, while it appeared other board members had been previously briefed.

Subsequent events raise serious legal and ethical concerns:

- A 50+ page proposal was submitted to OMC on February 12, 2025, without a public vote or board authorization.
- Commissioners were instructed by our CEO to keep the proposal confidential even after submission.
- My efforts to raise these concerns in public meetings were obstructed, including having my microphone muted multiple times by the board chair.
- I was not provided prior drafts of the proposal nor kept informed about its development, while other commissioners appeared to have been actively engaged.
- The executive session did not meet the standards for a valid exemption under RCW 42.30.110, as no actual real estate pricing or negotiation was discussed. Instead, a governance overhaul was debated—this appears to exceed the permissible scope defined by the Washington Supreme Court in *Columbia Riverkeeper v. Port of Vancouver*.
- A formal complaint submitted to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office led to a report from Detective Sergeant Derek Allen and an analysis by Chief Criminal Deputy Chris Ashcraft. While criminal charges were not pursued, both concluded that OPMA violations were "likely" and highlighted concerns around misuse of executive session and unauthorized board action.
- Legal counsel Austin Hatcher further confirmed that the real estate exemption cited for the executive session was inapplicable, and that if the proposal was authorized in that session or submitted without a public vote, both acts would be OPMA violations.

Requested Guidance

Given the importance of transparency and public trust in the operation of municipal corporations like public hospital districts, I respectfully request your office provide:

1. A formal opinion on whether the use of executive session in this context violated

the OPMA, particularly in light of the narrow interpretation of RCW 42.30.110 under *Columbia Riverkeeper*.

2. Clarification on the legality of submitting a binding or semi-binding proposal (with governance and financial implications) absent a public vote of the Board, and whether doing so violates RCW 70.44.050 and RCW 70.44.060, which collectively affirm that commissioners act collectively through formal meetings.
3. Guidance on the applicability of civil penalties or injunctive relief under RCW 42.30.120 and RCW 42.30.130. As someone who attended these meetings but publicly and repeatedly objected, I seek clarity on whether I may be subject to any statutory liability despite dissenting.
4. Any model language, case law summaries, or procedural resources your office or MRSC recommends to prevent such governance breakdowns and ensure full compliance with open meetings law.
5. If appropriate, legal insight into whether a Declaratory Judgment action under RCW 7.24 or injunctive relief under RCW 42.30.130 would be an effective and applicable remedy to address and prevent further misconduct. A ruling clarifying whether this proposal is legally valid or binding would serve the public interest.

Ongoing Urgency

I must emphasize the current and active nature of this matter. Despite all of the above, this proposal appears to still be under ongoing consideration by Jefferson Healthcare's CEO, Olympic Medical Center, and Juniper Advisory. As an elected commissioner, I am not being informed of the status of these negotiations, even though they involve the future governance of our hospital district.

This ongoing secrecy, combined with the legal issues described above, represents a live and escalating risk. If left unchecked, it may lead to an agreement being presented as a fait accompli—crafted outside public view, possibly on the basis of invalid authorization—and could severely undermine the credibility, reputation, and financial integrity of both Jefferson Healthcare and OMC.

Immediate legal guidance from your office is essential to prevent further erosion of public trust and to protect the legal standing of both hospital districts.

Please contact me at mattready@gmail.com or (360) 477-1447 if you require additional documentation, including the full proposal, transcripts, emails, the complaint materials, or

the complete investigative reports. I can provide a compiled digital or print version upon request.

Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

5/20/2025 Email to Washington State Auditor

Good Afternoon Ms. Seibert,

You mentioned I could forward you any new materials relevant to these possible OPMA violations.

I am attaching my most up to date packet of all transcripts, emails, and notes relevant to the full matter of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and the many OPMA violations involved. I am also attaching for your reference the official response and report from the Jefferson County Prosecutor/ Sheriff/ and Detective (this document is also in the master packet but was converted from pdf to word, so some conversion errors might be present).

I hope these materials are helpful when it is time to review for compliance with the OPMA at your next audit.

Thank you

Matt Ready

5/20/2025 Ethics Complaint against Lawyer Brad Berg for Washington State Bar Association

ETHICS COMPLAINT for Attorney Brad Berg – Enabling Executive Session Abuse, Facilitating Governance Secrecy, and Obstructing Oversight

Respondent: Brad Berg, Attorney, Foster Garvey Law Firm

Filed by: Commissioner Matt Ready, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Date: May 20, 2025

Summary of Allegations

This complaint concerns Attorney Brad Berg's conduct as legal counsel to Jefferson Healthcare. Although Mr. Berg did not attend the February 5, 2025 executive session where the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal was first introduced, upon entering the process he failed to investigate or acknowledge the questionable and potentially illegal

conduct that preceded him. Instead, Mr. Berg advised the Board of Commissioners to continue concealing and advancing the proposal through executive sessions using legally invalid justifications. His legal advice actively enabled secrecy, obstructed legitimate commissioner oversight, and suppressed public accountability regarding a major governance restructuring plan that remains under undisclosed negotiation.

Factual Basis

1. Improper Legal Justification for Executive Session Secrecy

On March 18, 2025, Mr. Berg attended an executive session of the Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners and advised that the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal could continue to be discussed privately under the “real estate exemption” of RCW 42.30.110. However, the discussions at hand centered on creating a new nonprofit entity and radically restructuring hospital governance—not negotiating the lease or purchase of specific properties.

“Lawyer Brad Berg describes how to use the Real Estate exemption and ‘legal concerns with actions’ to keep the discussions of this proposal in executive session until they want to bring it out.”

This interpretation of the law has since been challenged by law enforcement and legal authorities. A formal review by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor Chris Ashcraft found:

“The executive session was under a very stretched reading of the ‘lease’ purposes of RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and (c)... That is not the case here.”

The prosecutor further stated that OPMA violations were likely, and the misuse of executive session exemptions was central to those concerns.

2. Advice Used to Enable Secrecy and Advance the Proposal Without Oversight

By the time Mr. Berg became involved, a 50+ page proposal had already been submitted by CEO Mike Glenn to Olympic Medical Center without any formal vote or public board authorization. This action appears to have been based on a straw poll taken during the February 5 executive session—an illegal practice under Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act.

“Each commissioner present took a turn to verbally express support for the CEO’s action. This was, by all definitions, a textbook illegal straw poll.”

Rather than advising the board to disclose this procedural breach and remedy it with proper public process, Mr. Berg endorsed continuing the secrecy through executive sessions using the same dubious “real estate” exemption.

In addition, Mr. Berg proposed a strategy to obscure the true status of the deal from the public while signaling commitment to OMC. He recommended using a “letter of intent” that could appear nonbinding to Jefferson County residents, while OMC would understand it as a de facto binding agreement:

“You could achieve that by authorizing the CEO to sign a letter of intent, and then take time until a final board vote.”

This maneuver served to delay public involvement while assuring OMC that Jefferson Healthcare was locked in. It allowed the board to postpone public scrutiny while giving the appearance of transparency and due process—when in fact a major governance decision was already being advanced behind closed doors.

3. Suppression of Oversight and Encouragement of Single-Source Legal Control

Mr. Berg’s legal opinion became the board majority’s shield against scrutiny, and his silence in response to formal concerns effectively blocked further inquiry. Since February 19, I have repeatedly submitted written legal concerns to the board and administration. Mr. Berg has not responded to these concerns directly, nor has he provided neutral legal analysis in any public setting.

Instead, his perceived authority has been used to discredit dissenting views and silence calls for transparency:

Commissioner Kolff: “Brad is the definitive person on this particular type of issue. He has actually written the code that we follow.”

Commissioner Buhler: “Our legal counsel... has said that nothing we have done is illegal... He is preeminent in this discussion.”

This monopoly on legal interpretation has resulted in repeated efforts to mute me during meetings, block my motions from discussion, and falsely accuse me of slander and ethics violations when I attempted to inform the public.

Ethical and Legal Violations

- Violation of OPMA Principles: Endorsing the use of executive session under legally unsupported claims of real estate discussions.

- Failure to Provide Impartial Legal Advice: Ignoring formal concerns from a sitting commissioner and refusing to address the legality of board actions.
 - Complicity in Suppression of Oversight: Facilitating a climate where dissent was penalized, commissioners were silenced, and public comment was shut down.
 - Conflict of Interest: Providing legal strategies that protect the CEO and board majority while sidelining the board's broader obligation to the public and the law.
-

Relief Requested

Currently, Attorney Brad Berg is the only legal counsel being made available to commissioners, despite his direct involvement in the conduct described above. I strongly urge Jefferson Healthcare to immediately retain independent legal counsel who reports directly to the full Board of Commissioners—not the CEO—to rectify this ongoing conflict of interest and ensure lawful oversight.

The continued reliance on Mr. Berg—especially while the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal remains under active, undisclosed negotiation between the Jefferson Healthcare CEO and Olympic Medical Center—exposes the board to legal liability and further erodes public trust in the integrity of our governance.

I respectfully request that this complaint be referred to the Washington State Bar Association for formal review and potential disciplinary action. This review should examine:

- Whether Mr. Berg knowingly advised or condoned board conduct in violation of Washington's Open Public Meetings Act;
- Whether his failure to respond to legal objections and concerns raised by a commissioner violates professional standards of impartiality and competence;
- Whether his dual role in defending the CEO while advising the board constitutes a breach of ethical obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Jefferson Healthcare and its elected commissioners deserve neutral, independent legal advice—not legal guidance tailored to protect administration at the expense of the public. The failure to provide such counsel risks irreparable damage to public accountability, institutional integrity, and legal compliance.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

mattready@gmail.com

05/20/2025 Matt Ready Letter to Olympic Medical Center

Subject: Legal and Governance Concerns Regarding Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

Dear Members of the OMC Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to you in my capacity as an elected commissioner of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 (Jefferson Healthcare) to offer a professional courtesy and share important information regarding the proposal submitted to you on February 12, 2025, by our CEO, Mike Glenn, concerning the formation of the Peninsula Health Alliance.

As you may be aware, serious legal and governance concerns have been raised about this proposal, including whether it was lawfully authorized by the Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners. A formal complaint triggered an official review by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

On May 14, 2025, the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office concluded that although no criminal charges would be filed, the process by which this proposal was developed and submitted likely violated Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Specifically:

- The proposal was discussed in executive session under a highly questionable "real estate" exemption.
- No formal public vote was taken to authorize submission of the proposal.
- Informal voice consent or a straw poll appears to have been used, which is not legally valid under state law.

The detective's report and legal analysis also noted that the proposal may have been crafted and submitted without board approval, independent legal review, or proper financial due diligence.

Given these facts, I urge OMC to approach any current or future discussions involving this proposal with caution. Moving forward with an agreement that lacks lawful authorization from one of the participating public entities could expose both parties to significant reputational and legal risk.

To ensure legitimacy and transparency, I recommend that both Boards of Commissioners convene jointly in open public session to (1) clarify the status of the proposal, (2)

determine whether it reflects the lawful will of either district, and (3) commit to full compliance with Washington State law in all future deliberations.

Please know that I am not opposed to forming a healthy, legally sound alliance between our districts if we proceed through proper, transparent, and lawfully authorized pathways. The public deserves a process that upholds both the letter and spirit of open government.

I am attaching the May 14, 2025 report from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Prosecuting Attorney's Office, which outlines the legal risks and OPMA violations identified in the investigation. I would be happy to answer any questions or participate in a public dialogue with your Board at any time.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to ethical public healthcare governance.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

05/20/2025 REQUEST FOR FORMAL INTERNAL REVIEW OF POTENTIAL MISCONDUCT BY CEO AND COMMISSIONERS

Submitted by Commissioner Matt Ready

Subject: Motion to Initiate a Formal Internal Review of Potential Misconduct Related to the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal

Whereas, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 is governed by an elected Board of Commissioners responsible for all major decisions regarding governance, legal compliance, and strategic direction, in accordance with RCW 70.44 and RCW 42.30;

Whereas, on February 5, 2025, during an executive session, CEO Mike Glenn presented a proposal for a significant restructuring of governance through the formation of a new nonprofit entity—the Peninsula Health Alliance—in partnership with Olympic Medical Center;

Whereas, the proposal was formally submitted by the CEO to Olympic Medical Center on February 12, 2025, without a public vote or formal authorization from the Board of Commissioners in open session;

Whereas, Commissioner Matt Ready raised immediate objections during the February 5 executive session, citing the legal prohibition on board action or consensus during executive sessions, and has since publicly stated that multiple commissioners gave verbal expressions of support for the proposal in a manner that may constitute an illegal “straw poll” under RCW 42.30.060;

Whereas, on May 14, 2025, the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and Sheriff’s Department concluded an independent review of these events and found that:

- The executive session was likely misused under Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA);
- A major proposal was submitted without lawful board authorization;
- The use of informal “voice consent” in executive session may constitute unauthorized board action;
- While no criminal charges were filed, the conduct raises serious legal, ethical, and

governance concerns that warrant further review;

Therefore, I move that:

1. Internal Misconduct Review

The Board of Commissioners shall initiate a formal internal review to determine the extent to which any violations occurred, the individuals involved, the timeline of events, and potential remedies or corrective actions, specifically:

- Whether CEO Mike Glenn engaged in misconduct by submitting the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal without lawful board approval, in potential violation of RCW 70.44.060 and RCW 42.30.060;
 - Whether any commissioners knowingly participated in or allowed an illegal straw poll or informal consensus process during executive session in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act;
 - Whether any actions or omissions by the CEO or commissioners constituted a breach of duty, abuse of process, or failure to uphold statutory governance responsibilities.
-

2. Review Process

- The review shall be conducted by an independent team composed of at least five Jefferson Healthcare employees not named in any allegation, supported by administrative staff as needed;
 - The team may consult with external legal or HR professionals who have no prior involvement with the CEO or legal counsel Brad Berg;
 - The CEO shall be asked to disclose any active Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) that limit his ability to answer board questions regarding governance, negotiations, or strategy.
-

3. Reporting and Transparency

- A written report with findings and recommendations shall be delivered to the full Board of Commissioners within 30 days;

- The Board shall formally vote to receive the report and publicly discuss the findings, with any confidential personnel matters addressed appropriately in executive session;
 - Based on the report, the Board shall determine whether further corrective, disciplinary, or policy actions are warranted.
-

Final Note:

This review is essential to restore public confidence in the lawful governance and transparency of Jefferson Healthcare. It follows the conclusions of law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities that serious concerns exist regarding compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and statutory board governance.

Submitted respectfully,
Commissioner Matt Ready
Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

05/20/2025 Seibert, Melinda (SAO) Washington State Auditor Response

Seibert, Melinda (SAO)

Tue, May 20,
3:20 PM (2 days
ago)

Thank you for following up. I will attach your email and documents to your previous submission so they are available during our next audit.

Have a good afternoon,

Melinda Seibert, CPA

Audit Manager, [Office of the Washington State Auditor](#)

From: Matt Ready <
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 2:06 PM
To: Seibert, Melinda (SAO) <
Subject: Re: Citizen Hotline Concern H-25-162

External Email

Good Afternoon Ms. Seibert,

You mentioned I could forward you any new materials relevant to these possible OPMA violations.

I am attaching my most up to date packet of all transcripts, emails, and notes relevant to the full matter of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and the many OPMA violations involved. I am also attaching for your reference the official response and report from the Jefferson County Prosecutor/ Sheriff/ and Detective (this document is also in the master packet but was converted from pdf to word, so some conversion errors might be present).

I hope these materials are helpful when it is time to review for compliance with the OPMA at your next audit.

Thank you

Matt Ready

05/22/2025 Matt Ready email to Deputy Prosecutor Chris Ashcraft questioning the legal precedent of Ashcraft's characterization of criminal intent in the case of the Peninsula Health Alliance potential conspiracy, fraud, and misconduct potential charges.



Matt Ready <mattready@gmail.com>

Thu, May 22,
5:35 PM

to Chris

Dear Mr. Ashcraft,

I am writing to respectfully request that your office reconsider its determination that no criminal intent existed in the actions surrounding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal.

Your rationale—that no one intended to “harm anyone, including the public”—fails to address the ongoing legal and ethical consequences of these actions and does not reflect the correct standard for criminal intent under RCW 9A.80.010. As you know, that statute defines official misconduct as knowingly committing an unauthorized act under color of law to obtain a benefit or deprive another of one. Malice is not required—only awareness and willful action beyond legal authority.

As of today, the proposal has not been withdrawn, and the negotiations and planning it set into motion have not been formally ceased. The public has received no assurance that these activities are over. By declining to recognize the criminal implications of this conduct, your office is allowing an unlawful governance process to continue

unchallenged—deepening the damage to democratic oversight of a vital public institution.

Submitting a 160-page, governance-altering proposal to another public hospital district without a public vote, legal board authorization, or basic financial analysis is not a procedural error—it is a deliberate act. Both the Jefferson County Sheriff’s report and independent legal analysis by Attorney Austin Hatcher confirm that the proposal was submitted outside lawful public process and that the “real estate” exemption for executive session was improperly invoked to conceal it.

Furthermore, if CEO Mike Glenn submitted the proposal based on informal “voice consent” during executive session, that act constitutes an illegal board action and likely a violation of OPMA. It may also qualify as official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010. These statutes exist to protect the public from precisely this kind of covert consolidation of power.

The harm here is not theoretical. It is tangible—eroding public trust, compromising institutional legitimacy, and undermining our community’s right to transparent governance. This is not a resolved matter. The core actors continue to obscure the status of the proposal, and I, as an elected commissioner, remain uninformed about whether it is still under active consideration.

I urge your office to recognize this as an ongoing and urgent issue. Your determination carries consequences. To decline action is to signal that public officials may violate open meeting laws, suppress oversight, and restructure public institutions without accountability—as long as they claim good intentions. We need your office to use the authority and purpose of the criminal justice system to stop ongoing misconduct and restore lawful order.

Every branch of government must fulfill its role in upholding the law. We rely on your office not only to prosecute bad faith, but to protect the integrity of our democracy. I respectfully ask that you take this matter up again with the seriousness it warrants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Matt Ready

email: mattready@gmail.com

phone: +1 360-477-1447

05/22/2025 Matt Ready sends email to Olympic Medical Center board of commissioners and Jefferson Healthcare board notifying all of potential criminal liability exposure

Ready, Matthew

Fri, May 23, 10:35 AM
(4 days ago)

to ahenninger@olympicmedical.org, pgiuntoli@olympicmedical.org, toblak@olympicmedical.org, jnutter@olympicmedical.org, jhordyk@olympicmedical.org, thighttower@olympicmedical.org, ksanders@olympicmedical.org, Commissioners

Official Notice of Criminal Exposure Related to the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal Request for Joint Public Meeting and Internal Investigation

Commissioner Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

mattready@gmail.com | (360) 477-1447

May 22, 2025

To:

Board of Commissioners, Olympic Medical Center

Board of Commissioners, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 (Jefferson Healthcare)

**Subject: Official Notice of Criminal Exposure Related to the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal
Request for Joint Public Meeting and Internal Investigation**

Dear Commissioners,

This letter serves as a formal and urgent legal notice. Based on the available evidence, your collective roles in the development, submission, and concealment of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal may constitute criminal violations of Washington State law, including RCW 9A.80.010 (Official Misconduct) and RCW 9A.28.040 (Criminal Conspiracy), as well as Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30) violations. These are not theoretical risks—if proven, they carry maximum penalties of 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine per count, along with civil liability and reputational harm to your institutions.

I. Basis for Criminal Exposure

The Peninsula Health Alliance proposal:

- Was submitted without a public board vote or legal authorization from Jefferson Healthcare;
- Was drafted and discussed in private, under a legally questionable executive session exemption;
- Was concealed from at least one commissioner during development;
- Was presented to Olympic Medical Center as an official act of Jefferson Healthcare;
- Was moved forward without public disclosure or open board deliberation.

The facts, preserved in internal emails, transcripts, and public statements, demonstrate that individuals within both institutions took actions that may meet the legal standard for official misconduct and conspiracy.

II. Criminal Intent Requires Knowledge—Not Malice

Under RCW 9A.80.010, a public servant commits official misconduct when they: “Knowingly perform an act which the public servant knows is unauthorized by law...”

This statute does not require malicious motive. It is enough that the act was taken knowingly, outside proper legal authority, and under the guise of public office. The Jefferson County Prosecutor’s refusal to pursue charges based on a lack of “intent to harm” is a misapplication of law. The legal threshold is clear, and the facts are already in the record.

III. Referral and External Investigation Underway

I have submitted notification and documentation of these potential crimes to:

- The Washington State Attorney General – Open Government Division
 - The Jefferson County Sheriff and Prosecutor
 - The Clallam County Sheriff
 - Notification packets are also under preparation for federal authorities since these activities involve multiple jurisdictions.
-

IV. Demand for Immediate Internal Investigation

Whether or not external bodies act, I strongly urge both Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center to:

- Immediately initiate a thorough internal investigation into the proposal's creation, submission, and concealment;
 [2066_001.pdf](#)
- Determine which individuals were involved, what internal policies were bypassed or ignored, and which governance safeguards failed;
- Remedy procedural or legal violations through formal internal review, retraining, and if necessary, corrective disciplinary action;
- Secure and preserve all documentation, communications, emails, drafts, and attorney correspondence related to the Peninsula Health Alliance;
- Prepare formal institutional responses and briefings for external agencies who may request cooperation.

Doing so is not only legally prudent—it is vital to preserving institutional credibility and rebuilding public trust.

V. Call for Immediate Joint Public Meeting

I further call on both boards to convene a joint open public meeting to:

- Disclose the full authorship, status, and legal justification for the proposal;

- Present findings from internal investigations;
- Receive public comment and answer questions;
- Consider formally rescinding and renouncing the proposal;
- Commit to future governance transparency.

This meeting must be fully noticed, recorded, and open to the public and press.

VI. Legal Counsel Must Report to the Board—Not the CEO

In my experience as a long-serving hospital commissioner, I have observed that legal counsel retained by public hospital districts often appear to view the CEO as their primary client and superior. These attorneys tend to defer to the CEO's authority, advocate for the CEO's positions, and protect the CEO's legal interests as though the CEO were the equivalent of a private business owner. This structural bias presents a profound conflict of interest, particularly when allegations of misconduct or legal violations involving the CEO arise. For this reason, it is imperative that all public hospital district boards retain their own independent general counsel—separate from any attorney hired by or reporting to the CEO. This is the only effective way to establish a legal check and balance, safeguard the public interest, and ensure that the board receives unbiased advice aligned with its fiduciary and statutory obligations.

VII. Bar Complaint Against Legal Counsel

I also regretfully inform you that I have been forced to file a formal complaint with the Washington State Bar Association against Jefferson Healthcare's legal counsel, Brad Berg. This step was necessary due to mounting concerns, supported by the county prosecutor's own report, that Mr. Berg may have actively participated in or facilitated the concealment of critical legal risks and governance violations from the public and from the full Board of Commissioners. The prosecuting attorney explicitly flagged the potential complicity of legal counsel in suppressing transparency and helping executive leadership avoid legal scrutiny. In light of these findings, Jefferson Healthcare's reliance on Mr. Berg's legal advice must be viewed with caution by both boards until the matter is resolved through appropriate oversight. For the record, despite these concerns, the other Jefferson Healthcare commissioners continue to rely exclusively on Mr. Berg's legal advice in this matter – in my opinion, a serious act of fiduciary negligence.

VIII. Notice

You are now officially on notice. Each day of inaction increases potential exposure—for individual commissioners, executives, and your institutions. You have the opportunity to take lawful corrective action now. I strongly encourage you to act quickly, transparently, and decisively.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

mattready@gmail.com | (360) 477-1447

05/23/2025 Alison Arthur emails Jefferson Healthcare commissioners about confirmed OPMA violations by the commission including an illegal use of an executive session.

Dear Jefferson Healthcare Commissioners:

Jefferson Healthcare's future is crucial to the welfare of all residents.

If you agree with that statement, please stop discussing the possible alliance with Olympic Medical Center behind closed doors with or without an attorney.

It's we, the "peeps" as CEO Mike Glenn called the people of Jefferson County during a recent board meeting, you need to be talking to in public meetings.

It's not just the right thing to do; there is no legal exemption under the state Open Public Meeting Act to allow you do go into a closed-door meeting to discuss alliances or mergers or affiliations.

That's not my opinion. It's the opinion of Allied Law Group, which represents a raft of newspapers, broadcast media, nonprofits and individuals like me who care about open government.

After the March 26 board meeting in which chair Jill Buhler-Rienstra silenced commissioner Matt Ready, scolding him as if he were a naughty child for wanting to talk about this issue, I reached out to attorney Michele Earl-Hubbard of Allied Law Group. I know her professionally, not personally. Her advice when I was working on some controversial stories years ago were invaluable. She made me think about every word.

To be clear, I did not ask her to come to any conclusion but her own. I did pay for her opinion.

I provided her with the board agendas, access to board minutes and Mr. Ready's PowerPoint on the OMR request for proposals for an alliance that Ready had made public on his website.

The following is verbatim what she wrote in response to my request for her analysis:

"First, no, the agency absolutely cannot legally use the "real estate" or "potential litigation" Executive Session grounds to hold an ES to discuss creation of this new entity or merging with other entities. If they merge and get around to selling off surplus properties or buying new ones, they can have an ES for that narrow discussion, but not for what they

are discussing now. The fact someone might sue them someday to stop some action they are considering taking – liking forming this entity, etc. – is not an appropriate grounds for an ES. They can have narrow ES's to discuss with legal counsel and get legal advice under 42.30.110(1)(i) but only in very specific circumstances (quoted below):

(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

This subsection (1)(i) does not permit a governing body to hold an executive session solely because an attorney representing the agency is present. For purposes of this subsection (1)(i), "potential litigation" means matters protected by RPC 1.6 or RCW [5.60.060\(2\)\(a\)](#) concerning:

(i) Litigation that has been specifically threatened to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party;

(ii) Litigation that the agency reasonably believes may be commenced by or against the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity; or

(iii) Litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency;

The only one that might even remotely apply – down the road – would be (1)(iii) – but they have to show public discussion of the legal risks “is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency”. There is no current litigation. So they have to be saying they worry there could be legal risks of a proposed action – AND that there will be adverse legal or financial consequences to the agency of public discussion of the legal risks. That is rare and very narrow. And it cannot cover ES to discuss the idea with people other than the lawyer – and anyone from the other groups present defeats the alleged attorney client privileged nature of the ES this exemption is meant to cover. So no they are breaking the law meeting in secret under either of those two exemptions.

They also cannot hold an ES without saying which subpart of Section 110 covers it. The reason they have to give the reason is so they think hard whether there is an ES ground that allows it. If they cannot even figure it out to put it on the agenda, they are showing they have not thought that through. And there probably isn't such a ground.

The Commissioner who leaked the materials – if he is sanctioned – can perhaps file a lawsuit appealing it. Anyone who participated in that ES with knowledge it violated the

OPMA can be sued for violating the OPMA and individually fined. Any ethics rule that punishes someone for exposing illegal actions should be void for public policy reasons and unenforceable.

Anyone could sue this entity and all the Commissioners for that one ES OPMA violation.”

That last line is not my conclusion; it is the conclusion of an attorney who has successfully sued many public agencies over the course of many years.

I have no interest in suing Jefferson Healthcare. So please do not take this as a threat so that you can discuss it with your attorney. It's not.

What I am asking is that is that you all think before you go into executive session.

Commissioner Ready wasn't throwing you "under the bus" as one commissioner implied when he tried to have a conversation with you all about the alliance. He wasn't trying to "libel and slander" you as another stated.

He was telling you the truth. And you shot him down without thinking about it.

Commissioner Kees Kolff came close to realizing the subject matter was in question for a closed session. Then he went with the majority and dismissed Mr. Ready.

This issue is huge. It has serious implications for the delivery of healthcare across the Olympic Peninsula.

And frankly, as someone who has listened to this board and values the breadth of knowledge you all have, and who also understands the magnitude of the healthcare situation today, it sounds like an alliance has potential merit. Partnerships like the one proposed could be a solution for the dire situation we face in healthcare today.

It will not be a solution if it's done in private and without rigorous public consideration – not between high paid CEOs, not between private companies or Chicago-based specialty groups, not between "select" commissioners but with all parties involved onboard for a public discussion about the survival of our vital healthcare infrastructure.

And stop meeting in executive session on this. It's not legal.

Thank you.

Allison Arthur

Community member and OPMA advocate

05/27/2025 email from Executive Assistant Brittany Huntingford to all JHC Commissioners cancelling JHC commission meeting on 5/28/2025

Good Morning,

I've been asked to cancel the meeting tomorrow. Cancellations will come across for the main meeting and the executive session link #2. The original Executive session link that Re Knack is invited to will be canceled tomorrow as Shannon own that and is out of the office still.

Thanks so much,

Brittany Huntingford
Executive Assistant

6/5/2025 Executive Assistant asks all commissioners to meet for 1 hour alone unrecorded with attorney Osker from Ogden Murphy Wallace

Good afternoon, commissioners,

Osker from Ogden Murphy Wallace would like an hour of time with each of you to connect. Below is his availability next week. Would you please let me know what time option works for you and I'll get an invitation sent for this conversation.

Monday 6/9/25 -before 2:00pm;

Tuesday 6/10/25- any time

Wednesday 6/11/25- any time

Thursday 6/12/25- between noon & 3:00pm

Friday 6/13/25- any time.

Thank you,

Brittany Huntingford

6/5/2025 Commissioner Ready asks Executive Assistant regarding Osker of Ogden Murphy Wallace: Who this person is, Who do they represent and what subject matter do they want to talk to me about?

Hi Brittany, Can you let me know Who this person is, Who do they represent and what subject matter do they want to talk to me about?

Thanks!

Matt

6/6/2025 Executive Assistant explains The District has retained Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC (OMW) to review OPMA compliance issues in connection with the executive sessions held with respect to the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal

Hi Commissioner Ready,

The District has retained Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC (OMW) to review OPMA compliance issues in connection with the executive sessions held with respect to the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal. The conversations with commissioners will assist OMW in determining what transpired during the executive sessions. OMW represents Jefferson Healthcare as an entity.

Thank you,

Brittany Huntingford

06062025 Matt emails response to request for one on one 1 hour interview with new JHC Attorney raising OPMA hub and spoke serial meeting concerns and conflict of interests due to CEO potential misconduct. Agrees to written correspondence.

To: Brittany Huntingford, Executive Assistant

Cc: All Jefferson Healthcare Commissioners;

Subject: Response to Interview Request – OPMA Concerns and Legal Process Integrity

Dear Brittany,

Thank you for your message. I am writing to formally respond to the request for a one-hour meeting between myself and legal counsel from Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC (OMW), regarding matters tied to the Peninsula Health Alliance.

I decline to participate in such a meeting for the following reasons:

1. OPMA Compliance Concerns:

A series of one-on-one private interviews between legal counsel and commissioners on a matter of active board deliberation creates a strong risk of violating the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). This resembles a “hub-and-spoke” serial meeting, a structure explicitly criticized by courts and the Attorney General as subverting open governance. As a public hospital district, we must not compound past OPMA concerns with further questionable practices.

2. Legal Representation Conflicts:

OMW’s retainer appears to have been initiated by the CEO without formal vote or direction from the full Board. If legal counsel is engaged to investigate matters where the CEO is a controlling central figure, the Board must secure legal representation that reports directly and solely to the full Board. Without that independence, the integrity and credibility of the process is compromised. If the goal is to understand what occurred in prior executive sessions, then Board Secretary notes or recordings (if any) should be reviewed before repeating private

conversations under legal ambiguity.

3. Transparency and Documentation:

I am fully willing to correspond via email with legal counsel. If there are questions OMW wishes to ask me, I will respond in writing. This ensures everything is documented, accessible to all commissioners, and preserves transparency for the public and future record review. I encourage any such correspondence to be conducted openly and with full Board awareness.

If legal counsel or the Board wishes to discuss these issues with me, I respectfully request it be done either in a lawful public meeting, a properly noticed executive session with all commissioners present, or through written email communication shared with the full Board.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

6/7/2025 Matt Ready records his public presentation at Quimper Grange

6/7/2025 Matt Ready edits and releases presentation at Quimper Granger publicly on Facebook and on

<http://readyforhealthcare.org>

6/8/2025 Matt Ready submits news of Criminal Complaint to the PT Leader and Peninsula Daily News

Matt Ready made a presentation at his first campaign event for reelection.

During this presentation, in addition to a brief recap of my life story, I disclose to the public that I filed criminal complaints with the Jefferson and Clallam County Sheriff's regarding misconduct and coordinated deception related to the Peninsula Health Alliance

proposal process. Clallam County has never responded. Jefferson County Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner assigned the investigation to Detective Sergeant Derek Allen who then did a detailed and thorough analysis of my complaint. Detective Allen's report was reviewed and commented on by Chief Criminal Deputy Chris Ashcraft. Here is the full report they sent to Commissioner Matt Ready. This report has been sent to the full boards of both OMC and Jefferson, the Washington State Auditor's office, and to the Washington State Attorney General's office for further advice and guidance. I have requested a full impartial investigation within Jefferson Healthcare into possible misconduct by my fellow commissioners and the CEO.

The video is here: <https://readyforhealthcare.org/?p=850>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

6/9/2025 Matt Ready Banner Drops Matt Ready Hospital Commissioner at Ready Athletics with large two sided banner with all the breaking news related to the criminal complaint and the Peninsula Health Alliance Saga





MATT REA HOSPITAL COMMISSION

Position 3

MY 3 BEST BOOKS ON ELECTED PUBLIC HO...
The Time Through
Prison: A Story of
Injustice and
Government
Accountability

Are Lawyers Immune from Accountability Due to Corporatism
The public defender system is a mess. It's not working. It's not fair. It's not just. It's not right.



THE MOST POWERFUL EMAIL I HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL.

Hi Matt,
Thanks for reaching out and bringing this to my attention. I'm forwarding this to Detective Sergeant Derek Allen to investigate. Det. Sgt. Allen will be contacting you if he needs further information and to advise you of his findings. Please be patient, there is a lot of data to go through.

Respectfully,
Andy Penstener

Call Me: 800-802-8022
Call Me: 303-802-8022
My Email: matt@rea.com
My Website: www.mattrea.com
My Facebook: Matt Rea
My Twitter: @MattRea

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Position	Salary
...	...
...	...
...	...

6/9/2025 Peninsula Dailey News reporter Paula Hunt requests an interview with Matt Ready. Matt agrees.

06/09/2025 PT Leader email to Matt Ready

Good Evening Matt,

I've reviewed the detective's report you sent. Thank you.

I'd like to hear what you'd like to achieve with carrying this complaint forward. What's the best possible outcome?

Will you seek reelection?

Thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

James Robinson

6/9/2025 Matt Ready Responds to PT Leader James Robinson inquiry

Hi James,

Thanks for reviewing the detective's report and for reaching out.

My goal is a healthy, well-governed hospital district—led with integrity, intelligence, wisdom, creativity, and compassion. When I realized that the board and CEO appeared to be coordinating a public deception around the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, I believed it could rise to the level of fraud. When the board chair muted me repeatedly at the March 26 meeting as I attempted to speak about the proposal, it became clear that the wrongdoing had gone too far. At that point, it was both my fiduciary duty and my duty under oath of office to report the matter to the sheriff (and other authorities such as the Washington State Auditor) for review.

My first and most immediate goal was to disrupt the illegal process and prevent the proposal—crafted and advanced without public debate or board authorization—from being adopted without a valid democratic process. That said, I remain open to building alliances, as long as they are pursued with transparency and full public participation.

Detective Allen’s in-depth investigation and written report have now provided the community with a clear legal analysis showing that the February 5 executive session and the submission of the proposal violated the Open Public Meetings Act. This recognition of wrongdoing should serve as a foundation for Jefferson Healthcare to begin the internal work necessary to understand what happened, why it happened, repair any damage, ensure it never happens again, and work to restore public trust.

I’ve emailed my fellow board members and the OMC Board of Commissioners, informing them of the detective’s findings and requesting a public meeting between our two boards to reestablish legal communication and coordination. If our two districts want to transform our relationship, then let’s do it in the open, in full view of the public, as the law requires.

Yes, I am seeking re-election. Our public hospital district is one of the most positive and valuable institutions in our community, and it remains my continued honor to serve on its board of commissioners.

Let me know if you have any more questions.

Kind regards,

Matt Ready

Public Hospital Commissioner, Jefferson Healthcare

06/11/2025 Port Townsend Leader publishes: “Sheriff’s report supports hospital whistleblower”

By James Robinson

Jefferson Health Care Commissioner and whistleblower Matt Ready will see his complaint move forward against the Jefferson Health Care Board, key leadership and legal counsel, according to a report from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office.

“The actions likely violate OPMA (Washington State Open Public Meetings Act), with civil penalties applicable, and may constitute official misconduct if intent is proven,” wrote Detective Sergeant Derek Allen, of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office.

Jefferson County Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner assigned the complaint to Allen after Ready submitted his complaint and supporting evidence to Jefferson and Clallam County sheriff’s offices. Ready said the Clallam County Sheriff’s Office had not responded to his complaint.

“Criminal conspiracy or racketeering seems less supported, requiring much further evidence.”

Hospital officials said they were surprised with the involvement of the sheriff’s. They undergo audits annually, a process that includes compliance with open meetings laws.

“We believe we are in full compliance with the state’s open public meeting act, said Pranav Sharma, director of strategic planning and marketing for the hospital. “The act allows for certain discussions to be held in executive session but requires all action take place in a public meeting.” Sharma added that they were working “closely with legal counsel to make certain this compliance continues.”

“The complainant’s detailed documentation, including emails and legal opinions, suggest a review by the Washington State Attorney General’s Office – Assistant Attorney General for Open Government who oversees possible OPMA violations. An unexpected aspect is the potential involvement of legal counsel as a co-conspirator, which could raise ethical issues for the

Washington State Bar Association, though criminal activity remains uncertain.”

Ready’s complaint stems from a March 26 hospital board meeting where Ready accused his co-commissioners of meeting secretly with Olympic Medical Center representatives on “Project Driftwood,” a plan to merge the Port Angeles-based medical center with Jefferson Healthcare. Ready further alleged that members of the Jefferson Healthcare Board had violated open meeting laws, abused the use of executive sessions, and suppressed public information. Ready provide emails between his co-commissioners and Jefferson Healthcare executives to support his allegations.

“This report has been sent to the full boards of both OMC and Jefferson, the Washington State Auditor’s office, and to the Washington State Attorney General’s office for further advice and guidance,” Ready said. “I have requested a full impartial investigation within Jefferson Healthcare into possible misconduct by my fellow commissioners and the CEO.

Allen’s report does not suggest evidence of criminal behavior, however the report appears to support violations of the state’s open meeting laws.

Ready leaked Project Driftwood documents after his fellow hospital board commissioners attempted to squelch his concerns at a board meeting. Those documents detail a not-for-profit alliance which would allow Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles to remain independent, while improving and expanding clinical programs, creating operating efficiencies and economies of scale and the ability to improve and expand clinical programs.

The plan calls for a 12-member “super board” — with seven board members from Olympic Medical Center and five from Jefferson Healthcare. According to the plan, all currently elected commissioners would sit on the super board and the super board would govern the regional health alliance while individual boards would remain responsible for governance of their own organizations.

The proposal calls for a three-year phased-in leadership approach, with an appointed executive director planned for the first year. Project documents propose that Jefferson Healthcare Chief Executive Officer, Mike Glenn, would serve as the alliance’s first executive director.

Emails provided by Ready show correspondence between Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Kees Kolff, Jefferson Healthcare top executives and Jefferson Healthcare’s legal counsel, Brad Berg of Foster Garvey discussing the merger

plan, and Kolff's efforts to draft language and an organizational chart and discussions of the use of executive session.

"A subset of Jefferson commissioners were involved or consulted during the drafting phase," Ready said in a previous interview. "I was not. I only became aware of the proposal during the executive session on February 5. The full board has never voted to authorize the proposal or the direction of the negotiations. Much of the process has taken place out of public view, contrary to the principles of public hospital governance."

06/11/2025 Some Social Media Commentary

View more comments



Al Bergstein

more bs from Matt Ready as he attempts to run again ..as has been stated before, the Commissioners consulted with their lawyers before moving on this issue.

1d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide



 Author

Matt Ready Hospital Commissioner

The executive sessions used to hide this from the public appear to have violated Washington's Open Public Meetings Act, according to both the Sheriff's report and the Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor- as well as outside attorneys hired by myself and independently by former Leader reporter Allison Arthur. This illegal process was enabled by the support of attorney Brad Berg who encouraged the use of the Real Estate exemption to continue hiding the proposal process.

The actions of Brad Berg to support this OPMA violating process was flagged in Detective Allen's report as potentially warranting a Bar ethics complaint for his role in facilitating secrecy and questionable legal advice. I have since filed that complaint, and submitted the full detective report with it. Consulting with a lawyer doesn't excuse violating the law—or hiding public business from the public.

1m Like Reply

06/12/2025 Matt Ready blog post: Why Are Our Public Hospital Leaders Only Using Secret Illegal Meetings to Address the Peninsula Health Alliance?

June 12, 2025 | Author [Matt](#) | [Edit](#)

By Commissioner Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

If someone told you your local public hospital might be secretly planning a major change—one that could shift control to a private nonprofit group—you'd probably expect open meetings, public discussion, and transparency, right?

But that's not what happened.

Earlier this year, the CEO of Jefferson Healthcare submitted a major proposal to merge oversight of our hospital district with Olympic Medical Center. This proposal would create a new nonprofit corporation called the Peninsula Health Alliance with authority over both hospitals.

Here's the problem:

There was no public vote. No financial review. No open discussion.

Instead, the proposal was quietly discussed behind closed doors in an *executive session*—a type of meeting only legal under very limited circumstances, like for real estate deals or pending litigation. This wasn't that.

So I informed the board that our process was violating Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), blew the whistle to the public, and I filed a criminal complaint. The Jefferson County Sheriff investigated. A detective wrote a detailed report. The Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor reviewed it. Their conclusion? OPMA violations likely occurred—even if there wasn't enough proof to press criminal charges.

That should have been a wake-up call.

Instead, hospital leadership is doubling down on secrecy.

Two Tries at Illegal Serial Meetings

First, in April after I raised my concerns and submitted the complaint, CEO Mike Glenn and board chair Jill Buhler arranged for each commissioner to meet privately for 30 minutes

with a consultant named Karma Bass—who reports directly to him. These were unrecorded, one-on-one phone calls. No minutes. No public notice.

This is a textbook example of a serial meeting—when public officials avoid legal public meetings by holding one-on-one discussions behind the scenes. That’s illegal under OPMA. I refused to participate.

This is the response I sent to Karma:

Subject: Response to Interview Request

Hi Karma,

Thank you for your message. I need to respectfully decline the invitation for a private phone or audio interview related to the upcoming board retreat.

*I have serious concerns about the confidentiality and legal implications of such a conversation, especially given your past role facilitating the 2019 board retreat. At that retreat, the board failed to reckon with the fact that a critical 2016 legal opinion—affirming a commissioner’s right to record public meetings—had been withheld from me and the public for years. I documented this entire episode in my book, *Journey Through the Boardroom*, including the moment during the retreat when I stated on the record that what Mike Glenn and Brad Berg had done could be considered fraud. Instead of allowing that conversation to continue, you intervened and asked, “Are you a lawyer?”—effectively shutting down the discussion. That moment could have opened the door to transparency and healing. Instead, it served to protect those in power and bury the issue.*

Had we, as a board, learned then the importance of obtaining independent legal opinions and facing governance issues head-on, we might not be in the current crisis. When I recently asked for a second legal opinion regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, that request should have been honored immediately. Instead, the same pattern repeated: a lack of legal diversity, reliance on one voice, and suppression of commissioner oversight.

Given your involvement in both events—and the role you played in shaping the retreat’s outcome—I now view you as a potential material witness, and possibly a co-conspirator, in matters I have formally reported to legal authorities. For that reason, I cannot engage in any private or unrecorded conversations with you.

I remain open to your role in publicly noticed board meetings, properly convened executive sessions, or any forum governed by transparency and public accountability laws.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Second, on May 23, 2025, a Jefferson Healthcare Executive Assistant—acting under the CEO’s direction—emailed the board to schedule private one-hour meetings between each commissioner and an attorney from Ogden Murphy Wallace. Again, one-on-one, off the record. Again, I refused. This is what I wrote to all the commissioners in response:

Subject: *Response to Interview Request – OPMA Concerns and Legal Process Integrity*

Dear XXXXXXXX (executive assistant),

Thank you for your message. I am writing to formally respond to the request for a one-hour meeting between myself and legal counsel from Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC (OMW), regarding matters tied to the Peninsula Health Alliance.

I decline to participate in such a meeting for the following reasons:

1. OPMA Compliance Concerns:

A series of one-on-one private interviews between legal counsel and commissioners on a matter of active board deliberation creates a strong risk of violating the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). This resembles a “hub-and-spoke” serial meeting, a structure explicitly criticized by courts and the Attorney General as subverting open governance. As a public hospital district, we must not compound past OPMA concerns with further questionable practices.

2. Legal Representation Conflicts:

OMW’s retainer appears to have been initiated by the CEO without formal vote or direction from the full Board. If legal counsel is engaged to investigate matters where the CEO is a controlling central figure, the Board must secure legal representation that reports directly and solely to the full Board. Without that independence, the integrity and credibility of the process is compromised. If the goal is to understand what occurred in prior executive sessions, then Board Secretary notes or recordings (if any) should be reviewed before repeating private conversations under legal ambiguity.

3. Transparency and Documentation:

I am fully willing to correspond via email with legal counsel. If there are questions OMW wishes to ask me, I will respond in writing. This ensures everything is documented, accessible to all commissioners, and preserves transparency for the public and future record review. I encourage any such correspondence to be conducted openly and with full Board awareness.

If legal counsel or the Board wishes to discuss these issues with me, I respectfully request it be done either in a lawful public meeting, a properly noticed executive session with all commissioners present, or through written email communication shared with the full Board.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

It remains unknown whether the other four commissioners took those meetings. If they did, it could constitute yet another serial meeting violation.

A Non Disclosure Agreement creates a conflict of interest with fiduciary responsibilities

Meanwhile, whenever members of the public asked about the Peninsula Health Alliance, the CEO and other commissioners claimed they were bound by a **nondisclosure agreement (NDA)**. Yet this NDA was **never voted on or approved** by the full board—and to this day, as a sitting commissioner, **I still don't know who signed it, what it says, or even who it was signed with.**

Signing an NDA in this context raises serious ethical and legal concerns. For a **CEO or commissioner of a public hospital district to prioritize the secrecy of an NDA over their statutory fiduciary duty to the public** may represent a profound conflict of interest. Public hospital officials are accountable first and foremost to the people—not to private consultants, corporate advisors, or secret deals. The public has a right to know what is being negotiated on their behalf. Silence protected by private agreements has no place in public governance.

A Pattern—and a Lawyer Reported to the Bar

These weren't innocent mistakes. Jefferson Healthcare's former attorney, Brad Berg, helped design and justify the strategy to keep these discussions hidden from the public using a stretched interpretation of the law.

Because of his role in advising and enabling these secret discussions, I filed a formal complaint with the Washington State Bar Association. His conduct was flagged in the Jefferson County Prosecutor's report. Yet the Jefferson Healthcare board has made no public acknowledgment of any of this. Here is an excerpt from my Bar ethics complaint:

Mr. Berg's legal opinion became the board majority's shield against scrutiny, and his silence in response to formal concerns effectively blocked further inquiry. Since February 19, I have repeatedly submitted written legal concerns to the board and administration. Mr. Berg has not responded to these concerns directly, nor has he provided neutral legal analysis in any public setting.

Instead, his perceived authority has been used to discredit dissenting views and silence calls for transparency:

Commissioner Kolff: “Brad is the definitive person on this particular type of issue. He has actually written the code that we follow.”

Commissioner Buhler: “Our legal counsel... has said that nothing we have done is illegal... He is preeminent in this discussion.”

This monopoly on legal interpretation has resulted in repeated efforts to mute me during meetings, block my motions from discussion, and falsely accuse me of slander and ethics violations when I attempted to inform the public.

What They’re Not Doing

They’re not addressing the sheriff’s findings.

They’re not holding public meetings to fix the damage.

They’re not apologizing to the voters.

Instead, they’re calling in lawyers and consultants—in secret—trying to isolate each elected commissioner, possibly coordinate their stories, and shape the outcome without any public accountability.

What Needs to Happen Now

To protect the public interest and begin restoring trust, I’m calling for:

1. A joint open public meeting

between Jefferson Healthcare and the OMC Board of Commissioners.

This is essential to stabilize, clarify, and legally define any current or future relationship between the two hospital districts.

2. A full internal investigation

by both Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center into:

- What happened;
 - Why it happened;
 - How to prevent it in the future;
 - And how to repair the damage, including a public apology for the deceptive process.
-

We can't rebuild trust through silence.
We rebuild it through truth, accountability, and transparency.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Matt Ready

6/12/2025 Matt Ready interviewed by Peninsula Daily News reporter Paula Hunt

Meeting Transcript (partial) 6/18/2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting discuss the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal in public for the first time – partial transcript

[Earlier in the Meeting]

00:39:10:24 - 00:39:25:03

Commissioner Buhler

Put their hand up there and sing me a hand so we can see King. I see one is Matt. Do you have a palm? You got three minutes.

00:39:25:06 - 00:39:49:11

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. Thanks. I just figured this has nothing to do with. Well, I guess it has something to do with everyone, but I just found this out on Saturday. That. I mean, I think we probably all know that in 1871, Port Townsend had an indigenous village that was dismantled, and all the members were forced on canoes, and the village was burned.

00:39:49:14 - 00:40:12:07

Commissioner Ready

And this is a tragic piece of our history. And we do have the the smoke trail to try to honor and, you know, remember this. But I just found out on Saturday that there is a fir tree at the end of the golf course. And maybe some of you know, this was in the leader in which a Native American man was lynched for killing a cow.

00:40:12:09 - 00:40:37:24

Commissioner Ready

And this was sometime between 1850 and 1870. A very detailed letter was sent to the city council in January, that details this from a professor. And I just felt like I just feel like we need to maybe every elected body in town needs to, mention this, and we need to start talking about how, as a community, we're going to do something to memorialize this, put them to put a memorial or something at that tree and somehow remember this incident.

00:40:37:24 - 00:40:44:14

Commissioner Ready

And it's very heartbreaking. And I just wanted to say that publicly.

00:40:44:16 - 00:41:16:22

Commissioner Buhler

Thank you notes that very sad, horrible. If only if only there were a time we could go back and do something about all of those things. I guess now it's just up to us to make sure they don't ever happen again. Are there any other comments? Any other members of the public who wish to speak? Shannon, do you see any hands anywhere?

00:41:16:24 - 00:41:20:13

Commissioner Buhler

I don't see any hands raised. Jim. Okay. Thank you.

[later in the meeting]

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:33:03

Commissioner Buhler

Okay. In that case, we will now go into, our discussion of the Peninsula Health Alliance

proposal. It's a little background. The public has read and heard about a proposed alliance between Jefferson Health Care and Olympic Medical Center. It is true that we were considering such a proposal in the hope that we could work with our neighbors to help both of us thrive in this time of uncertain financial climate.

00:00:33:05 - 00:01:03:28

Commissioner Buhler

There were other parties who also submitted proposals. Part of the proposal process was a confidentiality agreement that is typical in these circumstances, and which we agreed to for commissioners have complied with the agreement. One did not. We have lost our opportunity to develop the proposal into an actual plan, which we would have taken to our community for discussion before any commitment to the plan was made.

00:01:04:00 - 00:01:37:03

Commissioner Buhler

That's the way this board has always operated, as we did with the 1995. And yes, buildings and our new project due to open in August. While the long member brought allegations against the rest of the board and the CEO. We continued to honor the confidentiality agreement. However, due to the circumstances, we have been granted some relief from the agreement and can now speak openly.

00:01:37:06 - 00:02:17:21

Commissioner Buhler

This section of today's agenda is our opportunity to do just that. To ensure fairness in the discussion, Commissioner Cobb has proposed a methodology he has used successfully in the past as chair. I am now turning the meeting over to case with the apology that the the original, the type the format for his section is that I sent out originally is, is the draft and he has sent out a new, a different one that is more detailed.

00:02:17:21 - 00:02:27:17

Commissioner Buhler

So, but it's the same premise. So case, can you, can you please take over and.

00:02:27:19 - 00:03:01:12

Commissioner Kolff

I would be happy to. Jill. Thanks. And, as Jill mentioned, when I saw that, a discussion was on this agenda, on the agenda today, and realizing that many of us, had many thoughts and comments that we would like to make. I considered, perhaps a good format that we could use was one that we have used for many years at the Port Townsend Eco village.

00:03:01:15 - 00:03:30:12

Commissioner Kolff

This is a format that we learned when we adopted the governance style called So theocracy, and it includes the idea. So what I'd like to do now is, have somebody read the letter just to make sure. Does everybody have the copy of the draft of the open letter to the public that Jill and I, prepared?

00:03:30:15 - 00:03:32:16

Commissioner Dressler

Yes.

00:03:32:19 - 00:03:38:24

Commissioner Kolff

Does everyone have that? Okay. I think it would be worth reading it. For the for the public record. Does that seem reasonable?

00:03:38:26 - 00:03:39:20

Commissioner Dressler

Yes.

00:03:39:22 - 00:03:48:16

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Is there someone who would like to read it other than myself? So you don't have to hear my voice? Too often during this.

00:03:48:18 - 00:03:50:24

Commissioner Dressler

I think you do a very good job reading a case.

00:03:50:26 - 00:03:52:04

Commissioner Buhler

I think so, too.

00:03:52:06 - 00:03:53:15

Commissioner Dressler

Because you're not dating it.

00:03:53:18 - 00:04:20:16

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. You want me to read it? Good. So this is to the residents of East Jefferson County from the board of Jefferson Health Care regarding the allegations and misstatements by Commissioner Matt Read. Commissioner already has accused his four fellow commissioners at Jefferson Health Care of violating the open public Meetings Act openly with regards to its involvement in CEO Mike Glenn's preparation and submittal of a response called the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal to Olympic Medical Center's request for proposals.

00:04:20:19 - 00:04:46:22

Commissioner Kolff

We believed that we were in compliance with the OPM when we held one executive session in February to learn about the real estate component of the alliance proposal and the second executive session in March, to consult with our attorney, Brad Berg, regarding our decision to use an executive session. And that meeting was in March, and he believed that our decision could be justified because of Commissioner Rennie's charges against his fellow commissioners, our CEO Mike Len and Attorney Byrd.

00:04:46:24 - 00:05:09:09

Commissioner Kolff

We are currently seeking a second opinion from another municipal attorney in a separate firm. We believe Mike Glenn acted within his authority as CEO when he submitted an alliance proposal to OMC. At no time did he see consent on either the content or request permission of the board. It's not that's not what it says, but to submit the proposal during the executive sessions.

00:05:09:11 - 00:05:29:20

Commissioner Kolff

It was also his right to seek private input from two individual board member board members early in the drafting process, and to invite two members to attend meetings with OMC later. In fact, OMC requested board members attend the joint meeting. These were not serial meetings because the roles of the commissioners were entirely different. At no time did he negotiate any terms with OMC.

00:05:29:22 - 00:05:50:22

Commissioner Kolff

He simply presented the Alliance proposal as required by OMC of all RFP respondents. He signed a non-disclosure agreement, but at no time did he commit to bind Jefferson Healthcare to any other agreement or share real estate. That was the initial justification. Now, excuse me, I missed one part of that. Let me continue that, commit to bind any other agreement.

00:05:50:29 - 00:06:24:03

Commissioner Kolff

The Alliance proposal clearly states that the Jefferson Healthcare Board would continue to have full control over its governance and assets. It could choose to sell, purchase or share real estate. And that was the initial justification of an executive session in February. Sharing of services with OMC and or real estate swaps and or sales could be done through an agreement executed by the separate Alliance board of 12 members, made up of both OMC and Jefferson Healthcare boards, where each entity, regardless of the different number of board members, had equal decision making power.

00:06:24:06 - 00:06:44:27

Commissioner Kolff

We were satisfied that one, the independent authority over governance and operations of each entity, would be preserved to that if we were selected as a partner. Any negotiations between OMC and Jefferson Healthcare would involve open and thorough community involvement. Three that there would be no binding agreement of any kind without full community input and a public board vote.

00:06:45:00 - 00:07:13:19

Commissioner Kolff

And for Jefferson, health care could benefit tremendously from such an alliance. In a retreat workshop of our Jefferson Health Care Board in 2024, we hired Rex Bergdorf from Juniper Advisory, the same person and company working with OMC, to give us an overview of how partnerships and alliances can be formed by public hospital districts. We knew that closer relationships with other healthcare entities would likely be necessary for financial stability in order to preserve our governance independence.

00:07:13:22 - 00:07:36:27

Commissioner Kolff

With the now obvious challenges we will face with funding cuts at both the federal and

state levels. This potential alliance seemed like a benefit for both Jefferson Health Care and OMC for increasing our collective bargaining, purchasing and contracting power, not to mention sharing of services to avoid redundancy. Michigan already accused us of silencing and muting him during several meetings using Robert's Rules of Order.

00:07:37:05 - 00:07:59:17

Commissioner Kolff

Some of us attempted to limit the time Commissioner Redi was able to speak at board meetings. We were concerned that the more he revealed publicly what the rest of us thought was appropriately still confidential information, the more it would jeopardize the acceptance of the Alliance proposal by Olympic Medical Center. Our proposal is no longer being considered, and revealing its content prematurely may have contributed to this lost opportunity.

00:07:59:20 - 00:08:17:24

Commissioner Kolff

Jefferson Health Care is a public hospital district. Residents in Jefferson County have the ultimate control over what we do when they vote for the five commissioners on the board. We have the hospital and many service clinics, and we are one of the very few healthcare entities in the state that did not lose money during the years of the Covid pandemic.

00:08:17:26 - 00:08:36:06

Commissioner Kolff

Our success is mostly due to Mike Lynn's leadership, focused on growth and expansion of services that our community needs. All of this at virtually no cost to the public. Since annual property taxes pay for less than one day of the services we provide, we will definitely need to find more funding in the near future and explore more partnership opportunities.

00:08:36:08 - 00:08:44:10

Commissioner Kolff

We will definitely keep the public appropriately informed as best we can.

00:08:44:12 - 00:09:16:22

Commissioner Kolff

So that's the, letter that is now open for consideration by the board. And, I said that we would go around clockwise or alphabetically and counter alphabetically. So this time we'll root, we'll go around counter alphabetically and, so we'll start with, Commissioner. Ready?

00:09:16:24 - 00:09:29:25

Commissioner Kolff

Oh, excuse me. And Murray, he has one minute to, to make any comments, share thoughts or make a proposed amendment to the letter.

00:09:29:28 - 00:09:31:21

Commissioner Dressler

And you tell me when to start.

00:09:31:24 - 00:09:35:28

Commissioner Kolff

Yeah, go ahead and start, Murray. Thanks.

00:09:36:00 - 00:09:39:05

Commissioner Ready

Okay. You guys can hear me?

00:09:39:08 - 00:09:42:28

Commissioner Dressler

Yes.

00:09:43:00 - 00:10:02:04

Commissioner Ready

Well, I'm just going to focus on the letter. When the letter says we believe that we were in compliance with the optima when we held one executive session in February to learn about the real estate component of the alliance proposal. I did not when when we started talking about that proposal, I did not believe we were in compliance.

00:10:02:04 - 00:10:03:09

Commissioner Ready

And I emailed.

00:10:03:09 - 00:10:04:20

Commissioner Dressler

30s.

00:10:04:23 - 00:10:32:10

Commissioner Ready

On February 19th, detailed, details about not being, satisfied. And and also, that's what the county the sheriff's report said that there were OPM violations, including that executive session and that it looked like an unauthorized board action. I miss, and when and I did not believe Mike Glen had the authority to do this on its on his own.

00:10:32:12 - 00:10:36:06

Commissioner Ready

And I think the letter should say Mike Glen submitted the proposal.

00:10:36:09 - 00:11:03:14

Commissioner Kolff

And you leave. I'm afraid your time is. I'm afraid your time's up. Matt. Thank you. Next is Bruce McComas. And. Bruce, are you ready? Okay. He's unmuted. Are you ready? I am, I'm going to talk fast. First of all, I think that I think I think the letters. Okay, there's some grammatical and some, punctuation things that need to be changed.

00:11:03:14 - 00:11:31:23

Commissioner Kolff

One line amendment addition I'd like to add would be, it's after you go through the, the numbered four things, but it would be, the add in or that Mike Allen mentioned this in the public and the, public strategic planning sessions. They share what I was talking about. He knew that closer relationships with other health care entities would likely be necessary.

00:11:31:24 - 00:12:00:17

Commissioner Kolff

I mean, he talked about it not in detail, but he mentioned that we'd be looking at potential alliances or partnerships. So that is an amendment that you propose to the letter. Is that correct? That's correct. Okay. So, could you read since that is a, a proposed amendment, would you mind reading the wording to that one more time?

00:12:00:19 - 00:12:33:21

Commissioner Kolff

Yeah. And where I would put it would be in the one where you talked about Rexburg DAV Dr. Carper says we knew that calls for, you know, at the end of that sentence before goes on with with the now obvious challenges. It would be Mike Glenn mentioned this in the public strategic planning sessions this year. So before we ever got into the other, he

mentioned that we would be looking at potential, partnerships, partnerships or alliances.

00:12:33:24 - 00:13:05:01

Commissioner Kolff

Great. So let's do a, let's do a quick round on that. On that proposed amendment. And, why don't we continue the round where we left off and then, and then we'll we'll take it from there. So, I'll go next. We're going, counter alphabetically. And, I support that amendment.

00:13:05:03 - 00:13:06:00

Commissioner Dressler

Is that it?

00:13:06:02 - 00:13:13:12

Commissioner Kolff

And next would be, my. And this. Yeah. We don't have more than a minute to speak.

00:13:13:15 - 00:13:17:16

Commissioner Dressler

So I ask you. Okay, so is that is that your one minute to speak?

00:13:17:19 - 00:13:33:14

Commissioner Kolff

Yes. That's my that's a minute to speak on the amendment. Okay. Okay. Hang on a minute. Everybody has one minute to speak on the amendment. I made mine quickly. And, Murray, your next.

00:13:33:17 - 00:13:35:06

Commissioner Dressler

I agree.

00:13:35:08 - 00:13:44:10

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. And, next would be, Jill.

00:13:44:12 - 00:13:48:01

Commissioner Kolff

Jill. You're muted.

00:13:48:03 - 00:13:49:14

Commissioner Buhler

I agree.

00:13:49:16 - 00:13:56:22

Commissioner Kolff

Thank you. And, then would be Matt ready.

00:13:56:24 - 00:14:24:00

Commissioner Ready

No, I don't think that's a good amendment. It's not talking about this proposal. The Peninsula Health Alliance. It's a specific proposal that was submitted and that was never told to the public legally until today. I think a better amendment would be something like that. Mike Glenn said. There's nothing really to talk about. When I said there was a

significant proposal that's been submitted or that Marie Dressler said it's airy fairy and of no consequence.

00:14:24:02 - 00:14:40:13

Commissioner Ready

And, Jill Buehler said there isn't anything concrete to say. And Bruce McComb has said, we just talked about some possibilities. When the truth was a proposal was sent to OMC and accepted into their second round. That's a better amendment.

00:14:40:15 - 00:14:57:24

Commissioner Kolff

All right. So this is the particular amendment that's on the floor. Since we've all had around a chance to speak about it, let's vote on this particular amendment. All in favor, please signify by saying I, any opposed?

00:14:57:27 - 00:14:58:28

Commissioner Ready

Opposed.

00:14:59:01 - 00:15:11:19

Commissioner Kolff

Okay, so, I should ask Shannon. Are you able to capture the wording on that and the location of that? Shannon.

00:15:11:21 - 00:15:14:15

Commissioner Buhler

I'm doing my best in the minutes. Can you? Yes.

00:15:14:18 - 00:15:40:15

Commissioner Kolff

Thank you very much. All right. Good. And, Bruce, if you could remember that as well when we get to that. Okay, so we are on a, we're on the, the regular round, considering the letter. And Matt Ready went first. Bruce McComas went second to propose the amendment. I will pass on my turn.

00:15:40:17 - 00:15:48:26

Commissioner Kolff

And, Marie Dressler, it's now your turn to, for a minute concerning the letter.

00:15:48:28 - 00:15:56:06

Commissioner Dressler

I think it says what it needs to say, and I think it's accurate. And so I'm. I'm happy with how it is.

00:15:56:09 - 00:16:03:11

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. And then finally, Jill, do you have any comments or changes you would like to recommend?

00:16:03:13 - 00:16:42:29

Commissioner Buhler

Yes, I, I recommend add a fifth. Sentence under we were satisfied that on the second page, to, to highlight the importance of what this could have been. And I would say this alliance could result in two independent medical centers providing a strong, viable health care system that allowed patients on the entire North Olympic Peninsula to receive

excellent primary and specialty care without leaving our area.

00:16:43:01 - 00:17:00:02

Commissioner Kolff

Okay, that's an amendment that's on the floor now. And so, we went counter. So let's go according to the alphabet again. So, Marie, your next, what do you think about, Jill's amendment?

00:17:00:04 - 00:17:02:03

Commissioner Dressler

I support Jill's amendment.

00:17:02:05 - 00:17:26:14

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. I do as well. Bruce, how about you? I do as well. Okay. And Matt, how about you? We're talking about the amendment now, please. And if you could stick to the question, that would be wonderful. You have another chance. You will have other chances to make amendments.

00:17:26:16 - 00:17:29:19

Commissioner Kolff

But there's one other thing that's on the table.

00:17:29:21 - 00:17:31:28

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. So I have a minute. Right.

00:17:32:01 - 00:17:33:00

Commissioner Kolff

That's right.

00:17:33:03 - 00:17:35:17

Commissioner Dressler

57 seconds. Now.

00:17:35:20 - 00:18:04:20

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. So, Yeah, of course, an alliance could possibly be good if we, like, worked out the details and didn't give them A75 majority. Which I'll come back to later. I mean, yeah, an alliance could be a good thing. I mean, there's no guarantee this one was because we didn't have a process in which we could actually refine it and work it out to make it a balanced, Healthy Alliance proposal because we didn't never have a public discussion where we could actually ask questions and talk about it.

00:18:04:23 - 00:18:42:29

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Thank you. I think that's everybody with regards to this particular amendment. So we'll vote on, amending, putting number five in there as Jill has read it. All in favor say I, I, I think any opposed opposed. Okay. So I think we have now gone through the first round. So now we'll start a second round again considering the letter.

00:18:43:01 - 00:19:12:21

Commissioner Kolff

And again, people are urged to see if they would like to either add something or subtract something or, change the grammar or punctuation for, which can always be done later. But let's look for substantive changes. And this time we're going to go start with you, Jill.

Do you have another, amendment or thought you would like to add to this?

00:19:12:23 - 00:19:25:12

Commissioner Buhler

I have some definite thoughts, but they don't agree with this letter. I mean, they're not they're not inherent in this letter. So I, at this point.

00:19:25:15 - 00:19:51:09

Commissioner Kolff

What you're certainly welcome to make any thoughts about this proposal, you know, was so this is let me just clarify, Mary, for a second, in terms of the timekeeper, you're allowed to make any statements that have bearing on what other people said, even though, and the rest of us could use that if we want to use it to strengthen or do something different with the letter.

00:19:51:11 - 00:19:58:16

Commissioner Kolff

So something that may or may not be in the letter, you're certainly welcome to, to comment on.

00:19:58:18 - 00:20:02:11

Commissioner Buhler

Okay. Then I will go ahead Mary.

00:20:02:13 - 00:20:05:15

Commissioner Dressler

So so Jill is speaking currently.

00:20:05:18 - 00:20:09:08

Commissioner Kolff

Yes. And she's got one minute starting now.

00:20:09:10 - 00:20:33:24

Commissioner Buhler

I, I refute commissioner is a suggestion that there was criminal intent in that, that the, they actually found that we had a, disobeyed, that the sheriff's office had just found that we had disobeyed the, Open Public Meetings Act. That is just not true.

00:20:33:27 - 00:20:40:07

Commissioner Kolff

Are you. Wanting to make an amendment to add that to the letter somewhere?

00:20:40:09 - 00:20:43:28

Commissioner Buhler

Well, we we don't address said in the letter, so.

00:20:44:01 - 00:20:50:29

Commissioner Kolff

We can we can we can we can add things to this letter if you'd like. So,

00:20:51:01 - 00:20:59:23

Commissioner Buhler

Okay, I will say I will come up. Okay. I could come up with a pair, with a sentence.

00:21:00:00 - 00:21:12:13

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. On the, on the next, on the next round. Okay. Good. So this round next goes to, Tamara.

00:21:12:16 - 00:21:40:04

Commissioner Dressler

I do have, there's nothing in there that, I know I better start it. There's nothing. There's nothing in, in here regarding the effect this has had on the, procedure for OMC, and I think it's harmed our relationship with OMC. With with that board of commissioners, maybe the residents as well as, as our CEO and their other leadership staff.

00:21:40:06 - 00:22:05:02

Commissioner Dressler

What has happened by one of our, commissioners disclosing information that was supposed to be confidential. So I don't have any format or any dialog to give you. Right now, because especially doing this, but I, I think it would be nice to have something in there that, that it's regrettable that, this, this, this incident has caused, a rift, if you like, because we always got on well with OMC.

00:22:05:02 - 00:22:20:10

Commissioner Dressler

They've helped us out with our Enfield and other things over the time when we've needed help. They've helped us and it's ruined the I think our relationship or it's certainly, put a great, stress on that relationship.

00:22:20:12 - 00:22:32:05

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Perhaps on the next round, you can come up with a brief sentence to that effect while you're timekeeping. I appreciate your willingness to do that.

00:22:32:07 - 00:22:37:16

Commissioner Dressler

So I, I can't drop my my, timer from my kitchen.

00:22:37:19 - 00:23:21:24

Commissioner Kolff

A good idea. All right. So I'll go next. And my amendment would be along the lines of what, Murray has suggested, which is that, we regret that the, early disclosure of the content of our, alliance proposal to OMC, may have, caused significant,

00:23:21:27 - 00:23:23:27

Commissioner Dressler

Banks distress.

00:23:24:00 - 00:23:46:28

Commissioner Kolff

Distress, for amp OMC and for their, citizens, and their residents and, hope that we can mend some of that in the near future.

00:23:47:01 - 00:24:11:20

Commissioner Kolff

So, let's do a quick round on that amendment. And if the wording isn't quite right, when we do the round, you can, suggest a minor modification, and then we could vote on that. So for this round, let's see we're heading in this. So Bruce you're the next one on this round. So this is this is an amendment.

00:24:11:20 - 00:24:38:19

Commissioner Kolff

This is a proposed amendment to the letter that we're sending to the community. Okay. But yeah, but but what you are talking about. Right. So what I just said that we regret. So this is a letter from the board. Okay. I'll pass. We'll pass. Okay. Yes. Matt. Ready?

00:24:38:21 - 00:25:02:10

Commissioner Ready

I mean, I hope you guys will, like, reflect on how you could have handled this differently. So to avoid this, you're trying to say that I somehow did something wrong. But if this had been handled correctly, then me just speaking the truth about this proposal would not have been. Shouldn't cause any disruption to, a legal, valid process.

00:25:02:12 - 00:25:19:15

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. So I mean, this I'm sure this is bad for OMC and it's bad. It was handled so poorly. There's a right way to do this, and that's you guys need to figure out what that is. And moving forward we need to do things correctly and legally. And, the sheriff's report says it seems likely that the actions violated the Washington state OPM.

00:25:19:20 - 00:25:25:01

Commissioner Ready

The actions likely violate the OPM. That's what the sheriff's report said.

00:25:25:04 - 00:25:37:08

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Thank you for your comments. Jill, back to you on this latest, amendment to the,

letter.

00:25:37:10 - 00:25:37:27

Commissioner Buhler

I.

00:25:38:00 - 00:25:39:03

Commissioner Kolff

Regret.

00:25:39:06 - 00:25:42:12

Commissioner Buhler

I support that, I support your amendment.

00:25:42:15 - 00:25:45:07

Commissioner Kolff

And, Murray, do you support I.

00:25:45:07 - 00:25:56:23

Commissioner Dressler

Said I support it because it's pretty much what I said. So I think it's great, but I'm not going to I'm not going to add any more. Dialog to that.

00:25:56:25 - 00:25:57:17

Commissioner Kolff

Say that again.

00:25:57:18 - 00:26:05:10

Commissioner Dressler

You're I'm not going to add any more dialog to what? Or what do you said or just maybe polish a little bit, but no, that's perfect.

00:26:05:12 - 00:26:15:24

Commissioner Kolff

All right. So let's take a vote on this amendment. All in favor, please signify by saying I, I any opposed?

00:26:15:27 - 00:26:17:05

Commissioner Ready

Nay.

00:26:17:07 - 00:26:51:12

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. So let's see, I'm trying to figure out where we were. Here it was Murray and then case. So, we're finishing a round. I believe that still has Bruce. To speak on this round regarding the letter. Okay, so because, part of the claims, you know, are there unsubstantiated claims that that made that a reference to the start?

00:26:51:15 - 00:27:18:13

Commissioner Kolff

I have an addition I'd like to make to the letter. Okay. I don't I don't know exactly where I would go, might go after the first paragraph. I don't know where it talks about his. And I would say any violations of the board's code of conduct? OPM has rules regarding

executive session, confidentiality, and possibly to RC W's.

00:27:18:16 - 00:27:46:01

Commissioner Kolff

Were committed by Commissioner Reti himself. Okay. Thank you. Let's do it. Let's do around. Whether, we, accept that amendment or want to change it. And we're going in order here. So, Matt, you're the first one who gets to reply to that.

00:27:50:18 - 00:28:14:03

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. I mean, our fiduciary duty to tell the public if an illegal proposal has been submitted on behalf of Jefferson County without a legal board vote, overrides any executive session or any non-disclosure agreement any of you signed. And, I mean, a non-disclosure agreement doesn't prevent you from telling the truth to the public and doing your fiduciary duty and telling people answer answering questions.

00:28:14:05 - 00:28:33:04

Commissioner Ready

This NDA, in the secrecy of the executive and the executive session doesn't hold. Once you email a proposal to another, place that breaks the executive session once you've sent the proposal out. So it wasn't even covered by executive session. Anyways, that's all.

00:28:33:07 - 00:28:37:03

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Thank you. Jill.

00:28:37:06 - 00:28:40:11

Commissioner Buhler

I support that. I support Bruce's.

00:28:40:11 - 00:28:41:20

Commissioner Kolff

Amendment.

00:28:41:22 - 00:28:44:10

Commissioner Buhler

Amendment?

00:28:44:12 - 00:28:45:29

Commissioner Kolff

Mari. You're next.

00:28:46:01 - 00:28:49:01

Commissioner Dressler

I do support that amendment, okay?

00:28:49:04 - 00:29:21:17

Commissioner Kolff

And I do as well. So let's have a vote on Bruce's amendment, and we'll figure out where it goes at a later date. All in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying I, I, I any opposed? Nay. Thank you. And so then I think at this point, we're ready to do one more round, if I'm not mistaken, I'm hearing something funny.

00:29:21:21 - 00:29:45:12

Commissioner Kolff

Can you all still hear me? I was hearing an echo. All right, so I think at this point, we're ready to do one more last round. And again, it will include some other little rounds. If there are amendments. And this time we'll go, we'll start with Matt ready. And we'll go up the alphabetic order. Matt.

00:29:45:14 - 00:30:02:11

Commissioner Ready

Well, something I just wanted to clarify is I'd be willing to go under oath for anything I've said today or anything I've ever said. And I really wonder if the rest of you would do the same thing when this letter says, at no time did Mike Glenn seek consent on either the content or request permission to submit the proposal.

00:30:02:11 - 00:30:21:28

Commissioner Ready

During the executive session. That is completely untrue. I asked Mike during the executive session, are you looking for some sort of approval today? You all heard him say, yes, there was a bunch of strategic leadership there. If you guys ever had to testify under oath to this, I really wonder if you would take your oath seriously and tell the truth about what happened.

00:30:22:00 - 00:30:30:02

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Thank you. Then we go to Bruce.

00:30:30:04 - 00:31:10:10

Commissioner Kolff

All right, I don't right? I don't have anything else to add to the letter. Okay. Oh. I'll pass. Okay. Thank you. Then it goes to me and, again, it's, I'm just, thinking if there's something that should be in the letter that basically says, that the prosecuting attorney for Jefferson

County basically threw out or closed this case after the sheriff had sent his, opinion to the prosecuting attorney.

00:31:10:13 - 00:31:36:00

Commissioner Kolff

So, you know, Matt's claim that the, that the sheriff's office, what do they know about OPMA and public hospital districts? said that we were in violation sent that on to the prosecuting attorney who basically said, I'm not going to deal with this. This is not our bailiwick. This is not our area. And he closed the case.

00:31:36:00 - 00:31:48:28

Commissioner Kolff

So I think that sort of closes off that whole argument. But I don't think I have anything else to add to the letter. So from there we go to Murray.

00:31:49:00 - 00:32:04:18

Commissioner Dressler

So can I ask you from that statement you just made case, is that you you want that to be you think that that is that is relevant and and should it be in the letter? I don't just it could well be in the letter because.

00:32:04:20 - 00:32:06:06

Commissioner Kolff

It would be.

00:32:06:09 - 00:32:27:28

Commissioner Dressler

Because, Commissioner Rudy still maintains the sheriff's office said that we possibly did, it

violates the Open Public Meetings Act. And so therefore, it would be as well, if he's still going to maintain that, to be able to refute it, because I don't believe we did.

00:32:28:00 - 00:32:45:03

Commissioner Kolff

Right. Well, if you would like to I didn't make that as a motion to add to the letter. But, if you would like to make that or if Jill, she's the last person up, would like to propose that as an amendment, we could do that.

00:32:45:06 - 00:32:50:06

Commissioner Dressler

Well, I'm running out of time now, so I've got two seconds to go. So I'll leave it to my colleague.

00:32:50:09 - 00:32:52:21

Commissioner Kolff

Okay.

00:32:52:24 - 00:33:07:09

Commissioner Buhler

Okay. I have two amendments. One, Commissioner Ryder's allegation of any criminal action of this forward, the and or the hospital district is absolutely false.

00:33:07:12 - 00:33:11:12

Commissioner Kolff

Okay, that's one amendment. And what would be your second one or.

00:33:11:14 - 00:33:48:17

Commissioner Buhler

A passing vote of the, would be, of the Alliance would be a majority vote of each board that addresses the, in in equality of the number of board members it would require. And we had already thought of that, that there is a way to do that. And I think we mentioned that in one of the meetings that it would require a major, a majority vote of each board for anything that the alliance passed.

00:33:49:18 - 00:33:57:04

Commissioner Dressler

I think the term was a super, a super supermajority. Yeah.

00:33:57:07 - 00:34:11:06

Commissioner Kolff

Well, I think that's different. I think that's a different. Those are two separate amendments. So technically, I think we can only take one of those. Would you prefer to do the first one?

00:34:11:08 - 00:34:12:10

Commissioner Buhler

Yes.

00:34:12:12 - 00:34:25:12

Commissioner Kolff

The second one is referred to in the letter. So, all right, so let's go for this. So could you read the first the, amendment that you first made?

00:34:25:15 - 00:34:43:14

Commissioner Buhler

Commissioner readies allegation of any criminal action against this board, by this board or the hospital district. I completely faults.

00:34:43:16 - 00:34:45:14

Commissioner Kolff

Okay, so that's the.

00:34:45:17 - 00:34:53:06

Commissioner Buhler

Action of any criminal action by by this board. Our hospital district is absolutely supports.

00:34:53:08 - 00:34:58:05

Commissioner Kolff

Okay, Mary, what what are your thoughts about that amendment?

00:34:58:07 - 00:35:00:03

Commissioner Dressler

I support that amendment.

00:35:00:06 - 00:35:55:12

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. I go next, and, I would like to add to that amendment that, something to the effect, and the, local prosecuting attorney, has, I'm not sure I want to say has confirmed that, Well, let's leave that out. I think that gets to. So I will, I'll support the amendment the way it is because I wouldn't want to, over quote the action that the, prosecuting prosecuting attorney, made or said, when he basically closed the case or did not take it up.

00:35:55:15 - 00:36:01:24

Commissioner Kolff

So then we go to Bruce.

00:36:01:26 - 00:36:25:08

Commissioner McComas

Yeah, I mean, I, I agree with what Joe was saying. I mean, everything else is unsubstantiated. The only person who actually has come out and said that there was a violation is Matt himself, and he's not an attorney. Okay. But you do have a another half minute. If there's anything more you want to say.

00:36:25:10 - 00:36:37:17

Commissioner Kolff

No, I don't I don't want no, no, I'm good. All right. Good. And and and Matt, you're the last one, on this particular amendment.

00:36:37:19 - 00:36:57:24

Commissioner Ready

Yeah. I mean, I did not like I sent in a criminal complaint, but that was for them to investigate whether or not there were crimes. So what they said was, it seems likely that the actions described may violate the Washington State Open Public Meeting Act with potential civil penalties. But criminal charges are less certain and would need further investigation, they said.

00:36:58:00 - 00:37:24:00

Commissioner Ready

Their research suggests possible official misconduct. A gross misdemeanor is a possibly

inappropriate charge, but it would take, you'd have to prove criminal intent. I mean, so, yeah, it may not be criminal, but they recognize the wrongdoing and recognize the deception and the coordinated conspiracy to deceive. They say the evidence leads towards unauthorized board actions and suppression of transparency, raising concerns about public trust and governance.

00:37:24:00 - 00:37:29:27

Commissioner Ready

That's what our sheriff determined after looking into all the documentation.

00:37:30:00 - 00:37:43:15

Commissioner Kolff

Okay. Thank you. So, there's a motion on the floor. Let's, take it to the vote. All in favor of, the motion signify by saying I.

00:37:43:18 - 00:37:44:15

Commissioner Buhler

I.

00:37:44:18 - 00:37:55:09

Commissioner Kolff

I all opposed, nay. Okay. So,

00:37:55:11 - 00:38:22:09

Commissioner Kolff

So now we should take a vote on the full letter. And, I think we've had enough rounds. So why don't we just vote on the letter? All in favor of, making this the official letter to the community from, the board of Jefferson Healthcare? Please signify by saying I.

00:38:22:12 - 00:38:39:08

Commissioner Dressler

Could I ask, could I? Yes. Can I ask a question first base. So because you have to wordsmith a couple of things with the the, commission disclosure, has interrupted our relationship with OMC. Are we going to get a second look at it with any grammar and all that stuff done before?

00:38:39:08 - 00:38:49:23

Commissioner Kolff

It's sure. Then let's let's vote on accepting this letter as it is, with appropriate grammatical, punctuation and other minor wording changes that.

00:38:49:25 - 00:38:51:21

Commissioner Dressler

Continue to change the.

00:38:51:25 - 00:39:10:24

Commissioner Kolff

Continue to convey the intent and the content. Thank you. Yeah, that's my proposal for us to vote on. All in favor, say aye. Aye aye. Any opposed? Nay. Okay, okay. Well, Madam Chairperson, I think I have finished. I think I.

06/19/2025 Letter from Jefferson Healthcare Board passes 4-1 with Ready objecting, to the publication and release of the following letter about the Peninsula Health Alliance

June 19, 2025

Open letter to the public

To: The residents of East Jefferson County

From: The Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners

Re: Allegations and misstatements by Commissioner Matt Ready

Commissioner Ready has accused his 4 fellow Commissioners at Jefferson Healthcare (JH) of violating the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) with regards to their involvement in CEO Mike Glenn's preparation and submittal of a response called the Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal (Alliance) to Olympic Medical Center's (OMC) request for proposals (RFP).

We believed that we were in compliance with the OPMA when we held one executive session in February to learn about the real estate and other components of the Alliance proposal. We had a second executive session in March to consult with our attorney Brad Berg regarding our decision to use an executive session in February and he believed that our decision could be justified. Because of Commissioner Ready's charges against his fellow Commissioners, our CEO Mike Glenn and attorney Berg, we are currently seeking a second opinion from another municipal law attorney in a separate firm.

We believe that Commissioner Ready committed violations of the Executive Session confidentiality laws.

We affirm that Commissioner Ready's allegations of criminal action by the board or CEO are absolutely and completely false.

We believe Mike Glenn acted within his authority as CEO when he submitted an

Alliance proposal to OMC. At no time did he seek consent on either the content or request permission to submit the proposal during the executive sessions. It was also his right to seek private input from 2 individual board members early in the drafting process and to invite 2 members to attend meetings with OMC later. In fact, OMC requested board members attend the joint meeting. These were not serial meetings because the roles of the commissioners were entirely different. At no time did he negotiate any terms with OMC. He simply presented the Alliance proposal. As required by OMC of all RFP respondents he signed a non-disclosure agreement but at no time did he commit to bind JH to any other agreement.

The Alliance proposal clearly states that the JH Board would continue to have full control over its governance and assets. It could choose to sell, purchase, or share real-estate, and that was the initial justification for an executive session in February. Sharing of services with OMC and/or real-estate swaps and/or sales could be done through an agreement executed by the separate Alliance board of 12 members made up of both OMC and JH Boards, where each entity, regardless of the different number of board members, had equal decision-making power.

We were satisfied that:

1. The independent authority over governance and operations of each entity would be preserved,
2. That if we were selected as a partner, any negotiations between OMC and JH would involve open and thorough community involvement,
3. That there would be no binding agreement of any kind without full community input and a public Board vote,
4. JH could benefit tremendously from such an alliance, and
5. This alliance could result in two independent medical centers providing a strong, viable health care system that allowed patients on the entire North Olympic Peninsula to receive excellent primary and specialty care without leaving our area.

In a retreat workshop of our JH Board in 2024, we hired Rex Burgdorfer from Juniper Advisory, the same person and company working with OMC, to give us an overview of how partnerships and alliances can be formed by public hospital districts. We knew that closer relationships with other healthcare entities would likely be necessary for financial stability in order to preserve our governance independence, and mentioned a possible alliance during our JH Strategic Planning Roadshow in 2024. With the now obvious challenges we will face from funding cuts at both the federal and state levels, this potential Alliance seemed like a benefit for both JH and OMC for increasing our collective

bargaining, purchasing and contracting power, not to mention sharing of services to avoid redundancy.

Commissioner Ready accused us of silencing and muting him during several meetings. Using Robert's Rules of Order, some of us attempted to limit the time Commissioner Ready was able to speak at board meetings. We were concerned that the more he revealed publicly what the rest of us thought was appropriately confidential information, the more it would jeopardize the acceptance of the Alliance proposal by OMC. Our proposal is no longer being considered, and revealing its content prematurely may have contributed to this lost opportunity. We regret the early disclosure of the Alliance proposal and that it caused significant distress for OMC and their citizens/residents, and we hope that we can mend some of that in the near future.

Jefferson Healthcare is a Public Hospital District. Residents in Jefferson County have the ultimate control over what we do when they vote for the 5 Commissioners on the Board. With the hospital and many service clinics, we are one of the very few healthcare entities in the state that did not lose money during the years of the COVID pandemic. Our success is mostly due to Mike Glenn's leadership focused on growth and expansion of services that our community needs. All of this at virtually no cost to the public since annual property taxes pay for less than one day of the services we provide. We will definitely need to find more funding in the near future and explore more partnership opportunities. We will definitely keep the public appropriately informed as best we can.

07/25/2025 Letter From JHC Board of Commissioners

7/25/2025

Letter from Board regarding OPMA and OMC:

Dear Jefferson County Residents,

For the last 5 months, Commissioner Ready has made numerous allegations regarding the appropriateness of actions taken by the Jefferson Healthcare Board and by our CEO Mike Glenn. He alleges the Board intentionally and criminally violated the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) at its February 5th, April 18th and July 10th meetings. He alleges that Mike signed a binding agreement and thus acted beyond his delegated authority when he submitted the Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA) proposal to Olympic Medical Center

without board approval. He alleges that the other members of our Board threatened the financial future of our hospital district through our involvement with the PHA. Finally, he alleged that an attorney retained by the District violated the OPMA by conducting a “serial meeting” when he interviewed Commissioners during his investigation last month.

We sought second and third legal opinions to review these allegations so we could put them behind us and focus on the very pressing issues being faced by all rural hospitals. We have now heard from three different attorneys. The second opinion was provided by Ogden Wallace Murphy with a third by Budd Bay Law P.S. Both firms have extensive experience in municipal law.

Based on these reviews, we have concluded the following:

1. The Board inadvertently exceeded the narrow permissible scope of exceptions for discussion of real estate in an executive session during its February 5th meeting. The majority of our Board had not yet heard anything about this administrative alliance proposal and asked questions about the contextual issues related to both real estate considerations and other related elements of the alliance proposal, which were protected under a nondisclosure agreement with OMC. We regret this unintentional mistake. Had we included legal counsel in our meeting to guide us, and also cited the OPMA RCW allowing legal and financial risks, the discussion could have been compliant.
2. Mike Glenn acted appropriately and within his delegated authority when he responded to the OMC partnership opportunity RFP. The submission was non-binding and therefore did not require the approval of the board. Furthermore, the involvement that Commissioners Buhler Rienstra, McComas and Kolff had in the development and presentation of the proposal was appropriate.
3. The Board was compliant with the OPMA requirements during the April 18th executive session with legal counsel. This session with our attorney present was to discuss potential litigation and or legal risks of a proposed action regarding the PHA proposal process in light of these allegations.
4. The Board was compliant with the OPMA during the July 10th executive session. This session, with our counsel present, was to discuss potential litigation regarding the PHA proposal process in light of the second legal opinion and ongoing allegations.
5. No Board member threatened the viability of our hospital district. This was fully explained in our previous letter to the community in which we addressed the misstatements about the content of the PHA.

Commissioner Ready also stated we need an attorney who reports only to the Board. The super-majority of this Board strongly disagrees. Separate counsel is needed only if there are legal issues between the Board and the CEO. We have none, have a mutually supportive relationship, and believe the counsel we receive has always been objective, unbiased and professional. Though this matter is concluded, going forward we are

recruiting an attorney to serve as in-house counsel. We have had one in the past and now believe that it would be useful again to provide more legal support to both the Board and the staff. The Washington State Auditor's Office reviews our use of board minutes and executive sessions in their annual audit . They have always found our actions to be compliant with the OPMA in the past, and we will ensure that will be the case in the future. Our success has been mostly due to the incredible work of our CEO Mike Glenn, his dedicated staff and outstanding leadership team which focuses on professional quality care and the expansion of services that our community needs. Our goal is to remain financially stable and maintain full, local control of our assets and services. We look forward to your continued input as we face the coming challenges and opportunities. Signed, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners, Voting in favor: Marie Dressler, RN; Kees Kolff, MD; Bruce McComas; Jill Buhler Rienstra, Chair Voting against: Matt Ready

7/28/2025 Letter from Matt Ready to Port Townsend Leader

Response to the Port Townsend Leader Regarding the Board's OPMA Letter

From Commissioner Matt Ready to James Robinson, PT Leader

July 2025

Hi James,

Thanks for asking for my comment on the letter published by the Board regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and my allegations of Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) violations. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify and correct the public record.

I brought forward serious allegations—both civil and criminal—to the Board, the public, and the institution of Jefferson Healthcare. What the Board needed in order to fulfill its fiduciary duty was a thorough, unbiased investigation of the facts and the law. Instead, the Board allowed the CEO to direct the investigation himself, hand-picking a lawyer who conducted secret interviews with commissioners—what I believe amounts to an illegal “hub-and-spoke” serial meeting—and then produced a memo clearly designed to minimize wrongdoing.

That memo is biased, and the Board has refused to release it or any of the statements made by the commissioners to the lawyer to the public. It apparently ignores my sworn criminal complaint entirely. It was drafted without speaking to me (i refused to participate

in a hub and spoke serial meeting with the lawyer- though i offered to provide written testimony) and without addressing the central allegation: that the Board took illegal action during the February 5 executive session to approve the submission of a strategic proposal without a public vote.

What followed were weeks of misleading or false statements to the public by the CEO and Board leadership, and multiple attempts to silence me during public meetings when I tried to raise these concerns.

Unfortunately, the Board has not conducted a valid investigation. They remain misinformed and continue to act without reliable or independent legal counsel.

◆ 1. The February 5 Executive Session Was a Violation—And Possibly More

The Board now admits the February 5 executive session violated the OPMA because it was held under the “real estate” exemption, but no real estate was discussed. That part is true—except for their claim that the violation was “inadvertent.” It wasn’t.

More importantly, the idea that this session would have been legal if an attorney had been present is simply false. A lawyer’s presence does not make it legal to take action during an executive session—and that’s exactly what happened. The Board gave informal approval for the submission of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, which was then sent to Olympic Medical Center the following week.

Board action was taken in secret. That’s not a technical error—it’s a serious legal violation. And yet this central allegation is completely ignored in both the Board’s letter and the legal memo.

I made this allegation in a **sworn criminal complaint**. If I’m lying, I could be charged with perjury. None of the other commissioners have responded under oath.

◆ 2. The Legal “Investigation” Was Neither Independent Nor Complete

The Board now relies on a legal memo to exonerate itself—but that process was fundamentally flawed:

- The attorney was **not hired by the Board through a public vote**, but selected privately by the CEO—whose conduct was central to the allegations.
- The attorney **only interviewed four commissioners**, one-on-one, in private—what I believe was an illegal serial meeting.

- The Board has **refused to release the legal memo or transcripts of the interviews.**

How can the public trust this memo if they're not even allowed to read it? These are public records, and they must be released. The public deserves to know how the Board arrived at its conclusions.

The bottom line: this was a secretive and incomplete investigation, conducted under the direction of the very person whose conduct was being scrutinized.

◆ 3. The Board's Claim that Mike Glenn Had Full Authority Is Disturbing

The Board now argues that the CEO acted within his delegated authority when he submitted a 160-page strategic proposal to Olympic Medical Center—without Board approval. They argue he didn't need to inform the board at all?

That's alarming. Are we now saying the CEO can initiate regional governance changes or proposals without informing the Board or the public?

I ask plainly: **How many other proposals are out there that the public and commissioners know nothing about?** If this logic holds, the CEO could make secret deals at any time, without oversight or transparency.

◆ 4. I Was Silenced—And I Did My Duty Anyway

When I tried to raise these issues in public meetings, I was muted, ruled out of order, and had my microphone cut—even during public comment.

I was doing my duty. I raised concerns supported by law. I filed a sworn criminal complaint. I also named **attorney Brad Berg**, who helped facilitate this secrecy, as a potential **co-conspirator**, and filed a formal complaint with the **Washington State Bar Association**.

Yet the Board continues to rely on legal advice from attorneys selected and managed by the CEO, rather than hiring legal counsel that is accountable to the people of our district directly through the board. **The Board cannot fulfill its duty without access to independent, reliable legal advice.**

◆ In Closing

I submitted my allegations under penalty of perjury. If I'm lying, I could be

prosecuted. **None of the other commissioners have made any statements under oath.** They refuse to release the evidence. I have been excluded from key information—even as a sitting commissioner.

The public deserves better. The people of Jefferson County deserve open government, accountable leadership, and lawful behavior. Until we have that, I will continue to speak the truth—even when it's inconvenient.

Final Thoughts

I am deeply disappointed in my fellow commissioners and the CEO for how this process was handled. I will be publishing all relevant materials on my website, <http://readyforhealthcare.org>,—and likely in a book—because I believe there are valuable lessons here not just for our community, but for other public agencies across the country.

With the passage of the “Big Bill,” healthcare funding is entering a major crisis. Jefferson Healthcare will be affected. Now more than ever, we need leadership built on transparency, integrity, and collaboration.

I do not believe my fellow commissioners have fully reckoned with what occurred during the Peninsula Health Alliance fiasco. That said, I remain hopeful and committed to moving forward. I look forward to working with the Board and CEO to protect our hospital district and serve all residents of Jefferson County.

With appreciation for your reporting,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

8/2025 - Criminal Complaint 2

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

mattready@gmail.com

360-477-1447

Date: 8/27/2025

To:

Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

apersteiner@co.jefferson.wa.us

Request for Review of Potential Official Misconduct – Jefferson Healthcare Board Letter

Dear Sheriff Pernsteiner,

I am writing to formally report a potential act of official misconduct by my fellow commissioners on the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners.

On **February 5, 2025**, during an executive session, I directly asked CEO Mike Glenn if he was seeking board approval to submit the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal to Olympic Medical Center. He replied, "yes." Each commissioner present, (except myself,) then verbally expressed support. I have already sworn to these facts under oath in a criminal complaint and I remain willing to testify to them.

On **June 18, 2025**, the other four commissioners approved an official board letter to the public stating:

"At no time did [CEO Mike Glenn] seek consent on either the content or request permission of the board to submit the proposal during the executive sessions."

This statement directly contradicts my sworn account of the February 5 meeting.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigation (Case No. 2025-3822) and independent attorneys have already concluded that the February 5 executive session likely violated the Open Public Meetings Act, and that unauthorized board action may constitute **official misconduct** under RCW 9A.80.010.

By voting to adopt an official letter that makes a statement I believe to be false, my fellow

commissioners may have engaged in an unauthorized act under color of law, with the intent to shield themselves from accountability for prior OPMA violations.

I respectfully request that your office investigate this contradiction and prepare a report for prosecutorial review. I understand that the Jefferson County Prosecutor has ultimate discretion on charging decisions, but I believe it is critical that the facts and contradictions are documented and reviewed.

I attempted to have the truth of this matter resolved through an internal investigation of the hospital district, but the other commissioners and CEO have refused to hire independent legal counsel reporting directly to the board. All legal advice has come from attorneys working under the CEO's control, who have ignored my sworn statements and accepted unsworn statements from commissioners and the CEO as fact. It is unlikely this matter will be resolved truthfully without the legal enforcement power of perjury charges.

If we do not hold our elected leaders accountable to tell the truth in their official acts, then we are undermining our democracy and cannot expect the public to trust us.

I am available to provide sworn testimony, contemporaneous notes, and relevant meeting transcripts upon request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

email: mattready@gmail.com

phone: +1 360-477-1447

Letter approved June 18, 2025 published June 19, 2025 by the The Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners

June 19, 2025

Open letter to the public

To: The residents of East Jefferson County

From: The Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners

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The Alliance proposal clearly states that the JH Board would continue to have full control over its governance and assets. It could choose to sell, purchase, or share real-estate, and that was the initial justification for an executive session in February. Sharing of services with OMC and/or real-estate swaps and/or sales could be done through an agreement executed by the separate Alliance board of 12 members made up of both OMC and JH Boards, where each entity, regardless of the different number of board members, had equal decision-making power.

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our community needs. All of this at virtually no cost to the public since annual property taxes pay for less than one day of the services we provide. We will definitely need to find more funding in the near future and explore more partnership opportunities. We will definitely keep the public appropriately informed as best we can.

Approved by Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners, Voting in favor: Marie Dressler, RN; Kees Kolff, MD; Bruce McComas; Jill Buhler Rienstra, Chair. Voting against: Matt Ready

8/2025 - Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner Asks for Clarification of Commissioner Matt Ready's 2nd Criminal Complaint

Good morning Matt,

I'm trying to get a full grasp of the complaint. Since this was during executive session I'm assuming that the meeting was not recorded? IF it was not recorded, this would be impossible to prove that there was misconduct, if you state they voiced approval to send the proposal and everyone else present denies that. Also during executive session no action or decisions should be made, that should only occur during open session.

Andy

8/2025 - Commissioner Ready Replies to Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner Requesting Witnesses of the Illegal Approval Be Questioned

Subject: Follow-up on Complaint Regarding February 5, 2025 Executive Session

Good afternoon Andy,
Thank you for your prompt reply.

In short: My complaint is that the board used the February 5 executive session improperly to give CEO Mike Glenn approval to submit the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, and then later issued a public letter falsely denying that approval occurred. I am asking your office to at least question the other attendees of that executive session under oath, so their testimony can either corroborate or contradict my sworn account and be preserved

in the legal record.

My full reply: You are correct, the executive session was not recorded. And yes, you are correct that no action should be taken during executive session — which is one of my key complaints I made previously (Case 2025-3822). During the February 5 executive session, held under the “Real Estate” exemption, the board was improperly presented with a far-reaching governance proposal called the Peninsula Health Alliance. During this session, I directly asked CEO Mike Glenn if he was seeking board approval to submit the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal to Olympic Medical Center and he replied, “yes.” Each commissioner present (except myself) then verbally expressed support and approval of the refinement and submission of the proposal. I stated most of this in my first complaint. The point of this current complaint is to focus upon the false statement the commissioners later made in their June 18, 2025 public letter, denying that approval occurred during this executive session. They voted 4–1 to say to the public: *“At no time did [CEO Mike Glenn] seek consent on either the content or request permission of the board to submit the proposal during the executive sessions.”* I believe that denial is potentially an act of official misconduct, used to cover up the illegal acts that took place.

I understand the challenge of proving misconduct when an executive session is not recorded. If others later deny under oath what occurred, it can appear to be one person’s word against another. But none of the participants have ever been asked these questions under oath. Moreover, in this case there are multiple additional witnesses who can be questioned. According to the meeting minutes, the following individuals were present during the regular session of the meeting that day:

- Mike Glenn, CEO
- Tyler Freeman, CFO
- Jake Davidson, COO
- Tina Toner, CNO
- Molly Propst, CHRO
- Brandie Manuel, Chief Patient Safety & Quality Officer
- Shannon Groff, Executive Assistant

I am not positive everyone above joined the executive session, but I know several did. I clearly recall Mr. Freeman speaking during the session, and I believe Mr. Davidson did as well. Each of these individuals can be asked under oath what they remember. This is not simply my testimony against four commissioners — there are others with direct knowledge of what transpired.

Beyond witness testimony, there is ample corroborating evidence that the February 5 executive session was used to secure de facto board approval for the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA):

1. Documentary Evidence

On February 5, immediately following the executive session, commissioners were emailed the “Commission Packet.pdf,” the same framework discussed in that session. On February 12, CEO Mike Glenn submitted a 50+ page proposal to OMC, expressly stating it was Jefferson Healthcare’s official response. The timing shows the executive session functioned as the authorization point.

2. Subsequent Emails

Between February 6–12, commissioners exchanged feedback on drafts with staff and consultants, consistent with an illegal straw poll having occurred. If the commissioners did not support the proposal process, then they would not have been collaborating on refinements. Submitting edits or additions to the proposal demonstrates support for moving it forward; otherwise there would be no reason to participate in shaping it.

3. Public Contradictions

In later public meetings, CEO Mike Glenn and commissioners downplayed the proposal as “airy-fairy,” “nothing concrete,” or “just possibilities.” This was demonstrably false, given that a formal RFP response had already been submitted. These misleading public statements highlight a coordinated effort to obscure what occurred. The CEO and other commissioners now claim that a Non-Disclosure Agreement, signed by the CEO without the board’s knowledge or approval in December 2024, excuses these misleading public statements. Yet it is Washington law — not a private contract — that determines what information the public has a right to know about the activities of a public hospital district. No CEO can change that obligation by signing any NDA. I believe all false and misleading statements to the public about district activities are unethical, violations of fiduciary duty, and potentially official misconduct.

4. Independent Findings

- Detective Derek Allen’s report (Case 2025-3822) concluded OPMA violations likely occurred and that unauthorized actions may constitute official misconduct.

- Chief Criminal Deputy Chris Ashcraft confirmed possible official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010 if intent to obtain a benefit is shown.
- Independent attorney Austin Hatcher and the law firm Ogden Murphy Wallace both concluded the February 5 executive session violated OPMA.

Taken together, the record demonstrates that while no recording exists, the February 5 executive session was misused to give CEO Glenn unlawful authorization. The subsequent submission of the proposal to OMC confirms that board action occurred outside of lawful public process.

I understand your office already conducted some level of investigation into the wrongdoing mentioned above. Yet I believe your office never asked any of the witnesses to the February 5 executive session whether or not CEO Mike Glenn received any form of approval from the commissioners during that session. At a minimum, I respectfully request that your office ask the other attendees of that executive session — including staff present such as Mr. Freeman, Mr. Davidson, and others — whether CEO Glenn sought or received approval. Their answers, given under oath, would either corroborate or contradict my sworn testimony, and should be preserved in the legal record. I believe these employees face no risk of liability simply for being present; they would only be required to answer truthfully.

I understand, based upon the prosecutor's response to my first complaint, that they are likely to use their discretion not to prosecute this further even with corroborating testimony. Nonetheless, I feel it violates both my fiduciary duty and my personal sense of ethics to allow the board to formally issue a false statement that covers up illegal action taken on February 5, without reporting this misconduct to the appropriate authorities. Moreover, it is not my job to decide whether or not an act of wrongdoing is prosecuted.

I respectfully renew my request that your office prepare a report for prosecutorial review, so that these contradictions and OPMA violations are preserved in the legal record. Whether or not criminal charges are ultimately filed, it is critical that the evidence be fully documented for the sake of public trust and accountability. I am attaching the minutes from the February 5, 2025 meeting which lists all attendees who were present before we entered executive session. As I said, some of these people may not have joined the executive session. It is hard to remember since the meeting was held remotely and they may not have turned on their cameras.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Matt Ready

Commissioner, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Matt Ready

email: mattready@gmail.com

phone: +1 360-477-1447

Appendix A – Key Evidence Summary

Complaint Regarding February 5, 2025 Executive Session

Date	Event / Document	Significance
Feb 5, 2025	Executive session held under “real estate” exemption. “Commission Packet.pdf” discussed and later emailed to commissioners. Witnesses included CEO, CFO, COO, and others.	Illegal use of executive session; clear evidence proposal framework was presented. Witnesses available to testify.
Feb 6–11, 2025	Commissioners exchanged emails with staff/consultants providing feedback and edits to the draft proposal.	Shows commissioners were actively refining the proposal, indicating tacit approval despite no public vote.
Feb 12, 2025	CEO Mike Glenn submitted a 50+ page Peninsula Health Alliance proposal to OMC as Jefferson Healthcare’s official response.	Confirms CEO acted as if he had board approval; proposal submitted outside lawful public process.
Feb 19, 2025	OMC advanced Jefferson Healthcare to next round of the RFP. Commissioners not informed publicly.	Demonstrates real-world consequences of the unauthorized proposal.

Mar 2025	Commissioners and CEO publicly described the proposal as “airy-fairy,” “nothing concrete,” or “just possibilities.”	Direct contradictions—false statements to downplay what was already a formal submission.
May 14, 2025	Detective Derek Allen’s report (Case 2025-3822) – OPMA violations likely occurred; unauthorized actions may constitute official misconduct.	Independent law enforcement conclusion.
May 14, 2025	Chief Criminal Deputy Chris Ashcraft memo – possible official misconduct under RCW 9A.80.010 if intent shown.	Confirms potential criminal liability under Washington law.
Mar–Jun 2025	Independent attorney Austin Hatcher and law firm Ogden Murphy Wallace both concluded the Feb 5 executive session violated OPMA.	Multiple independent legal opinions align with Sheriff’s detective findings.
Jun 18–19, 2025	Board voted 4–1 to issue public letter denying approval occurred on Feb 5.	Official act that appears to knowingly contradict facts, plausibly constituting official misconduct.

Summary:

While no recording exists of the February 5 executive session, the combination of (a) witness testimony, (b) documentary evidence, (c) subsequent commissioner edits and proposal submission, (d) contradictory public statements, and (e) multiple independent legal findings all support my testimony that the executive session was misused to give unlawful authorization.

Meeting Transcript (partial): August 27, 2025
Jefferson Healthcare partial transcript
discussion of the NDA signed by Mike Glenn
in December 2024 without board knowledge.
A copy of the NDA was given to the board
just before the 8/27/2025 meeting for the first
time.

00:00:01:16 - 00:00:05:25

Buhler

Do you want to discuss that?

00:00:05:28 - 00:00:56:16

Kolff

Yeah. And if, Well, first, let me finish one more comment on this particular topic. I thought it was very interesting to read the whole document that juniper had sent to, to Mike, that this, this particular agreement is at the end of many, many pages of the process. And it was interesting to me to see in that process that, they specified right up front in that process, not in this particular sign thing, that if you wanted to participate, you couldn't even tell anybody else that you weren't participating, so you couldn't, I mean, you know, nondisclosure is one thing, but you can't even say that you submitted an RFP.

00:00:56:19 - 00:01:07:14

Kolff

That was not allowed. You weren't allowed to do that in public. So I thought it was very, very interesting. The rest of that document, which all of us got a copy of it.

00:01:07:16 - 00:01:22:13

Buhler

And I think this is pretty standard in business, you know, which is when, whenever you submit, RFP, in many cases, they have these nondisclosure agreements.

00:01:22:15 - 00:01:36:18

Kolff

Yeah. So I guess I, I guess I should just thank the community for being patient because for many months, many of us were saying, we can't say anything. Sorry. I can't even tell you who or what. Can't respond.

00:01:37:09 - 00:02:04:03

Kolff

And, Anyway. All right. Yeah, so I did send to the commission and, let's see, Brittany, I think you had a slide of the, beautiful hand-drawn or chart that I meticulously crafted. Do you have it? Did you find were you able to get that onto a slide? Brittany.

00:02:04:06 - 00:02:06:21

Glenn

Can't let me pop that one up every now.

00:02:06:23 - 00:02:41:05

Kolff

Okay. Yeah. Again, this is something that I sent to all of the commissioners, and to Mike and the leadership team the day after, most of us first heard about the, Peninsula Health Alliance proposal, and, when I first heard about it, I was a concerned that an or there wasn't an organizational chart that adequately showed the relationship between the boards, the leadership teams and the services provided.

00:02:41:07 - 00:03:46:10

Kolff

And, here it is. My, my scribbled, org chart. And, so I sent this to everyone, and unfortunately, it didn't it inadvertently didn't make it into the final, proposal that, became public. But this concept as shown here, was definitely, explained in writing, in the, in the proposal, that was sent to OMC and Bruce McComas and I participate pated in the presentation, of the proposal, to OMC and, and, we were both, satisfied that, that this was the organizational structure that, was being presented and that they understood, would be, how the AA, would work.

00:03:46:13 - 00:03:50:06

Kolff

So, yeah, just wanted to clarify that.

00:03:50:09 - 00:03:51:12

Buhler

So that's.

00:03:51:14 - 00:03:53:16

Kolff

Yeah. Go ahead please, for that.

00:03:53:19 - 00:04:28:17

Buhler

Like, we each board had to, approve on its own, the any, any kind of major, decision set before. So because there are seven versus five. So, you know, in order instead of just having a majority vote, each board had to approve it before it would become, a rule or in,

well, you know.

00:04:28:19 - 00:04:35:08

Kolff

Yes. Plus there was a weighted voting at the P authority. It had to be it was.

00:04:35:08 - 00:04:36:21

McComas

Going to take a supermajority.

00:04:36:21 - 00:05:25:12

Kolff

It's going to take a supermajority. And therefore it was going to take, permission from, you know, compliance from the board, from, Jefferson Healthcare in order for any decision to be made. But the key thing, I think, is that, the shared services, for example, radiation oncology or cardiology or whatever that each board agreed would be a shared service in some way, would then be, adopted and or managed by the and shared as this shows, both in Clallam County and Jefferson County, along with the host of services that each entity continues to serve as well.

00:05:25:15 - 00:05:59:15

Kolff

And I'm I love this concept, and I hope that we can still use this concept in some way, even with, the new arrangement that OMC has with U-Dub and and who knows, there was even a dream of, and not a dream. A vision of adding other entities, clinical entities like forks or, perhaps even the tribe in some kind of broader, health care system approach here, for the North Olympic Peninsula, right?

00:05:59:22 - 00:06:35:28

Glenn

Yeah. I want to be more clear case because because the the ongoing discussion to the contrary has been frustrating for me that the, the, Peninsula Health Alliance, I'll talk about governance structure and then operational structure, the, the governance structure where that where the org chart, shows the seven members, Jefferson Olympic and five members of Jefferson that that a point of that was to demonstrate everybody's in, everybody's in.

00:06:35:28 - 00:07:22:29

Glenn

So this is as public as it can possibly be by having 100% of the publicly elected officials, sitting on the, the governance structure of, the Health Alliance, as we've said many times, and as we reiterated during our presentation to, the Olympic Medical Center, that, that as as this discussion continues, there would either be Prairie proration of, of votes or supermajority, so that each organization would have equal voice and, and, we I've said that several times, and I am I am am saying it once again.

00:07:22:29 - 00:07:59:06

Glenn

So so any discussion to the contrary is just not true. And as Bruce, in case no, this was shared to the Olympic Medical Center, board members and their leadership team. And it was clearly the intent from the get go. So that was governance and so there would be this board, equal representation, that would include all board members speak to, the, the Peninsula Health Alliance, operational plan.

00:07:59:08 - 00:08:31:24

Glenn

And then that they would provide direction to the Peninsula Health Alliance, leadership team, on how to prioritize different opportunities. And then, those opportunities would go down to the Olympic board and the Jefferson Board, to be voted on again. So basically it was this clunky, but erring on the side of, of over public governance by, by the discussion going on at the big table.

00:08:31:26 - 00:08:54:29

Glenn

Presumably both organization would say, yeah, if we can save \$5 million buying supplies, if we do it together, we should look into that, and then it would go down to the hospital level. And the Jefferson Health Care and Olympic Medical Center boards would act on that recommendation from the public health, from the Peninsula Health Alliance. So it'd be there'd be two steps.

00:08:54:29 - 00:09:21:14

Glenn

One, the board would have 50% of the of, the vote. And the second, clearly for Jefferson Health Care 100% of the vote. And secondly, the the leadership structure we recommended because, you know, there there needs to be some direction at the Peninsula Health Alliance, including an executive director. And that would have been me. That would've been the CEO, Jefferson Health Care.

00:09:21:17 - 00:10:07:27

Glenn

And then, one of my tasks would be to compile a leadership team. Well, that leadership team would have looked a hell of a lot like the Jefferson health care leadership team. So, the the notion that this, this was anything that this wouldn't be steered, by Jefferson health care, is is is nonsense and part of the frustration in, in, obliging and not just not just by the letter of the law, or or the, the, the, the NBA commitment, but also the commitment I made to Darryl and Jefferson and Olympic Medical Center that.

00:10:07:27 - 00:10:51:12

Glenn

Yep. If we're in, we will be quiet about this. I get it. That's that's the rules of the road. And I'm agreeing to that, so that it has been particularly challenging, to not be able to speak to, these mistruths that have, I think, tarnished what this opportunity could, could have been. And I, I appreciate the board talking about this, in open session and in public, because I think it's helpful and not, and I'm happy that you're raising your hand, Matt, because, I

think this is a great discussion to have as a board.

00:10:51:15 - 00:10:55:19

Buhler

Go ahead. Matt.

00:10:55:22 - 00:11:25:18

Matt Ready

Yeah. Well, I'm glad we're having this discussion in public. Well, I mean, first of all, the law decides what a public hospital district has to disclose. The law sets through the Open Public Meeting Act and the Public Records Act. It says what we have to tell the public. Signing a non-disclosure agreement doesn't override the law. If we deliberate a topic that the public has a right to know about, it has a right to know about it.

00:11:25:21 - 00:11:50:24

Matt Ready

So I think there's actually a I think it's really worth getting, you know, asking for legal clarity on, really whether there's any way it's appropriate to sign a non-disclosure agreement on a topic of this level and then expect the board to violate its fiduciary duty to be to tell the public everything it has the absolute right to know and to withhold that information in any way.

00:11:50:26 - 00:12:13:07

Matt Ready

It seems to me there's a problem there. And it seems there's a problem with the CEO signing a non-disclosure agreement with not telling the board that he's doing it without asking permission from the board, and not showing the non-disclosure agreement to the board until today. This is the first time we're actually getting to see it. That's one comment.

00:12:13:09 - 00:12:16:17

Matt Ready

I mean, the other one is we have.

00:12:16:19 - 00:12:32:01

Buhler

We have someone else who would like to make a comment. I'm going to go ahead with the second comment and then we can come back to you, ma'am. Go ahead. Bruce.

00:12:32:03 - 00:13:03:09

McComas

Yeah. I'm I guess for me, this is beneficial to see this document. I mean, I've been involved in other nondisclosure agreements and, you know, confidentiality ality agreements and staff business. And seeing this to me really just adds more background information and clarity to what I already believe to be the case. And.

00:13:03:11 - 00:13:05:00

Buhler

Yeah. Okay.

00:13:05:03 - 00:13:08:06

McComas

I'm not going to get into a debate on that. So anyway.

00:13:08:08 - 00:13:41:26

Buhler

Oh, no, we don't need. Okay, Matt, you had another, point you wanted to make.

Glenn

Well, Jill, can I respond to something?

Buhler

Yes, yes please.

Glenn

Matt, the question of whether the CEO can enter into the agreements that, the CEO entered into has been asked and answered. That was that was part of the legal review.

That that we requested and we and we received, the hospital CEO has has wide ability To explore, different opportunities, has very narrow ability to bound the organization. And we provided all these documents, to Oscar, and that legal firm has a different legal interpretation than you do on one. The, the ability for the CEO to enter into those agreements, during the exploration phase and then two, to be able to manage this process In a, in a confidential way, which, fascinatingly, Olympic Medical Center is a public hospital district, bound by the same exact law that we are bound by and may not they manage this, since last November, with, you know, ten different applications, and nearly all of those discussions in executive session. So there are different, different legal opinions. And the one that you hold, the ones that you hold, Matt.

Buhler

Okay. All right. Matt, you had a second comment you wanted to make.

00:14:52:06 - 00:15:21:14

Matt Ready

Yeah. I mean, I think, you know, talking about truth is really important. And I've said in a sworn statement that during that executive session, I asked the CEO if you want it, it was if he was seeking approval for this, submitting this proposal. And he said, yes. And each of

you chimed in expressing your support for the proposal during that executive session. When you guys published that letter that said, "at no time did CEO Mike Land seek consent on either the content or request permission of the board to submit the proposal during the executive session." You were saying something untrue. You voted on that, and you publish it to the public as an official act. That is, I just think it's, it's unfortunate that was wrong. And it's. I understand why you don't want to admit that you approved it.

00:15:50:17 - 00:16:19:09

Buhler

I think I think you're you're getting you're you're going over the line. Matt, you're accusing us of things that, we don't necessarily agree with. So, you said them. We have said them, we have gotten clarity from legal authority. And, I think we need to put this at rest now, Marie and I.

Glenn

And Matt, Just because you say something is so doesn't make it so I don't have. I do not have recollection of of saying what you said. I said and and I think that the other commissioners, share that, share that sentiment.

00:16:35:25 - 00:16:57:22

Dressler

So my question is, did anybody make a motion, to make it to vote? Did any of us five commissioners make a motion to authorize Mr. Glenn, as head of operations, to go ahead and ask permission? Did anybody make that motion?

00:16:57:25 - 00:16:59:07

Kolff

No. Nobody. Nobody.

00:16:59:09 - 00:17:00:09

Dressler

Nobody made a motion.

00:17:00:10 - 00:17:01:15

McComas

There was no motion.

00:17:01:15 - 00:17:05:14

Dressler

So? So that already didn't make a motion either, right?

00:17:05:16 - 00:17:07:17

Buhler

No action was taken.

00:17:07:20 - 00:17:39:14

Dressler

No action was taken. Thank you very much. So. So what I believe is the truth is we might have nodded. We might have said something I can't remember. I thought it was a discussion, and certainly it was if we needed to get to give Mr. Glenn permission to do this, somebody, one of the five of us would have made a motion which we could have then voted on, and we didn't need to, because he has the ability in his position to do this.

00:17:39:14 - 00:17:46:09

Dressler

So I don't know what the argument is, and I certainly don't understand why you can't understand that yourself.

00:17:46:11 - 00:18:22:06

Buhler

Okay. This is I'm going to close this discussion unless there is something that, I have a question for the board whether or not we want to publicize the information we have now with, with since the, it's gone public. We can do one more, Document and, send it to the public, or we can let it rest here. So, Okay, so Kees go ahead. I'll give you the floor for now.

00:18:29:01 - 00:18:39:20

Kolff

I would just recommend that we do a quick round on this. Have everybody say no more than one minute on what to do with this. In for.

{transcript jumps to a few minutes later in the meeting}

00:18:39:22 - 00:19:01:14

Matt Ready

Well, I mean, this document, I think is a public record now because it was emailed to us. Yeah. I think it should just be released. I my question actually is about the Ogden Murphy Wallace memo. I think since you guys published a letter based upon that memo, I think the public has the right to read the memo to see what the lawyers actually said. So I would I don't know, I'd like to make a motion that that memo is also released to the public.

00:19:08:19 - 00:19:23:20

Buhler

That was privileged information we did not disclose. We did not disclose that. That's. I don't believe that. That is so, Has anyone does anyone else feel that same way?

Glenn

it's a it's a, attorney client privilege document. It states it's states right from the beginning, and that was the intent of it. And because it because of the the sensitive issues that it deals with.

Buhler

Okay. So, what is your answer on whether or not we publicize this, Matt. Yes or no?

00:19:56:03 - 00:20:03:12

Matt Ready

This document? Yeah, the document, should be released. I mean, it's public record. Anyone can request it. I would release it.

00:20:03:14 - 00:20:06:29

Buhler

Okay. Bruce.

00:20:07:01 - 00:20:16:28

McComas

Yeah, I mean, I would release it. I mean, we've talked about it in public session here, so it's, you know, Laurie.

00:20:17:01 - 00:20:20:27

Dressler

You're talking about the document, the project driftwood, correct?

00:20:21:00 - 00:20:23:06

Buhler

Well, the one I sent.

00:20:23:09 - 00:20:54:25

Dressler

Yes, you when we've just been discussing and it's been on the screen. Yes, I think it's there's no problem with it being released and sent to the later, if that's what unfinished this for. We been doing this for several months now and a lot of it is not correct. That's been distributed and therefore I think if the public wants to it's a leader wants to do anything with it, or if the public wants to get it, they can get it and see that it's clean.

00:20:54:29 - 00:20:59:13

Dressler

And just as we said in our letters.

00:20:59:15 - 00:21:40:28

Glenn

Okay, then, it looks like consensus is we do that. So we we can disseminate it. I don't think we need to take a vote. This is it's good enough.

Glenn

And and also, just for the record, that that I have been operating for years and I don't know if this is in the board book or if it's just how we choose to operate that if the board if a board member wants a piece of information from the hospital, that, that that request either comes from the entire board or it comes through a request from the chair.

00:21:41:01 - 00:22:13:15

Glenn

Or a third rule could be open public record. And that the, the logic behind that is to prevent, you know, just, the worst case scenario, five board members, sending in 4 or 5 different. Hey, can I get a look at this document? Can I get a look at that document? And the difficulty in managing that, so my direction and our process has been if a board, member wants any piece of information, they go through.

00:22:13:15 - 00:22:40:10

Glenn

Jill. And and Jill makes, makes that request or it comes to the entire board. So, after saying that no, no board member made the request for that for the NDA. And so if there's board members that wish they would have had it, that that would have that would have been something that, administration would have responded to.

00:22:40:13 - 00:22:42:13

Glenn

But there was no request made.

00:22:42:16 - 00:22:57:06

Matt Ready

I asked for it during the executive session. And he looked at it and he said, I don't see any reason why we couldn't share this. That was what happened during the executive session with Skip or buddy, whatever his name was.

00:22:57:09 - 00:23:18:23

Kolff

I don't we don't I don't recall during which session it was made, but I do recall that it was brought up and, which is why I think Jill appropriately, sent it out to everybody. So I think, I

think that's right. And what I would recommend, I know we're trying to schedule, another retreat with karma.

00:23:18:26 - 00:23:49:10

Kolff

I think maybe we should take a look at, the board book, from the perspective of, of our experience, having dealt with this particular issue, whether it's, making it, very clear, that we do empower Mike Glenn to enter into, nondisclosure agreements, whatever it is. So I think the retreat would be an excellent time to, to look at that.

00:23:49:13 - 00:23:55:16

Buhler

Okay. I can we can certainly consider that you have something that.

00:23:55:18 - 00:24:19:11

Matt Ready

Yeah. I just think, I really think we need legal clarity. If the CEO can sign an NDA like this without even telling the board. And I'd like to know, Mike, have you signed any other NDAs that that affect information that you're giving to the board or that would restrict the board from giving any information to the public?

00:24:19:13 - 00:24:27:00

Buhler

I, I think that's I don't think that's an appropriate question. We're not putting somebody on a hot seat here.

00:24:27:03 - 00:24:32:11

Matt Ready

I mean, don't we have a right to know that as a board? If there are any NDAs like that that are being that have been signed.

00:24:32:12 - 00:25:02:04

Buhler

And discussed, that and we're not

Glenn

...is disingenuous, Matt. I mean, I think that we, without providing the document, from pretty early on, interactions with the board and the whole notion of why is this confidential? What was discussed because of it, because we signed an NDA. So, I know I don't understand the basis of that question. It just it seems disingenuous to me. My.

00:25:06:27 - 00:25:23:28

Dressler

My question is, why do we need to get another lawyer? You know, when we've had lawyers give us opinions, you don't accept them. Mr. Reddy. And so why would we do that again? So certainly I'm not interested in doing that at all.

00:25:24:00 - 00:25:41:02

Buhler

All right. I think at this point, unless, someone has, something else to say, we will. End this and go into agenda evaluation.

00:25:41:04 - 00:25:44:03

Kolff

And. Okay. I'd be happy to start that.

9/2/2025 Email from Kkolff subject “Building Trust”

Hi Matt,

Thanks for your technology help the other day.

In your blog I came across the following:

- ***What Happened:*** *Ready proposed forming a legal and ethics subcommittee. Commissioner Kolff initially seconded it but withdrew support when Ready refused to agree to stop posting videos online.*
- ***Legal Assessment:***
 - ***Conditioning support for a governance motion on a commissioner’s public speech is improper.*** *It suggests retaliatory intent and an attempt to chill dissenting viewpoints.*
 - *The board’s refusal to even explore the motion, after acknowledging deep disagreements and legal uncertainty, may undermine its fiduciary duty.*

My recollection is that I have always supported your recording of minutes and have never complained about your posting videos.

What I was referring to was your sharing of information about the PHA which was made available to us in an executive session at a time when we had not yet had a legal opinion of its legality.

I feel disappointed with your making suggestions of my intent.

Also, would it really make a difference to you if I swear in court or on a bible that in my opinion Mike was not trying to get agreement regarding the PHA at that meeting in February? Making that request seems to say that somebody is not telling the truth. It’s a veiled way of saying “you’re lying.” Is that really what you think?

On a different note, I wonder if you still believe that the PHA was a “merger” and that Mike signed a “binding agreement” as your blogging has claimed.

Even if you had not seen the actual NDA until later, you could have started with the assumption that he was telling the truth that it was non-binding.

At some point it might be good for Jefferson Healthcare if you would own up to some of

your false assumptions.

That might help your working relationship with the Board and with Mike.

I hope we can continue to work together in a productive way.

Respectfully, Kees

9/4/2025 Reply from Sheriff Pernsteiner

Matt,

JCSO has already addressed this matter and after consulting with the Prosecutor's office they are not going to pursue charges on OPMA violations. I have to prioritize the case load of my detectives, we only have 3 detectives and they have active case loads for violent crimes against persons. Knowing that even if the violations did occur (assuming anyone remembers from a meeting held 7 months ago) it would be a fairly weak case and I just don't have the resources to investigate this knowing it wouldn't likely be prosecuted and having pressing crimes that need investigated.

Andy

9/4/2025 Matt Ready Reply to Sheriff Pernsteiner

Andy,

Thank you for your thoughtful response. As I noted in my complaint, I continue to believe that knowingly issuing false statements to the public in an official capacity could plausibly constitute *official misconduct*—a gross misdemeanor—rather than merely a civil OPMA violation. Based upon that, I considered it my fiduciary duty to report it to your office. That said, I am not a legal expert and base my view only on my own legal research. I recognize, as you said, that even if I am correct, this would be a relatively minor crime compared to the violent cases that rightly demand your detectives' full attention.

I will forward my complaint to the Washington State Auditor to supplement the OPMA case I already opened with them, in hopes that some accountability, education, and improvements may result from this matter.

I want to emphasize again how grateful I am for your professional attention to my complaints. Thank you for your service. If there is ever any way I can be of assistance to you or your office, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Matt Ready

9/4/2025 Reply to Commissioner Kolff from Matt Ready

Hi Kees,

I was happy to help with your PowerPoint the other day—you did a great job with that presentation.

As for your other comments:

On the Legal/Ethics Subcommittee Motion

You wrote:

In your blog I came across the following:

What Happened: Ready proposed forming a legal and ethics subcommittee. Commissioner Kolff initially seconded it but withdrew support when Ready refused to agree to stop posting videos online.

Legal Assessment: Conditioning support for a governance motion on a commissioner's public speech is improper. It suggests retaliatory intent and an attempt to chill dissenting viewpoints.

My recollection is that I have always supported your recording of minutes and have never complained about your posting videos.

What I was referring to was your sharing of information about the PHA which was made available to us in an executive session at a time when we had not yet had a legal opinion of its legality.

I feel disappointed with your making suggestions of my intent.

My Response:

Here is what you said from the March 26 transcript:

Kees Kolff:

“...I will, I’m happy to spend some time with you exploring what an ethics committee would look like... but I’m only willing to do that if, starting now, you stop doing what you’re doing, which is posting on YouTube... If you would agree to stop doing that... then I’m going to vote in favor of this particular motion. But you’re going to need to agree to that before I do that. So would you care to amend your motion to include that commitment?”

That statement did not limit itself to a specific topic; it was a blanket condition that I stop posting. Even if you intended it to mean PHA-related videos, conditioning support for a board motion on whether another commissioner refrains from public speech is improper.

On the February 5 Executive Session

You wrote:

Also, would it really make a difference to you if I swear in court or on a bible that in my opinion Mike was not trying to get agreement regarding the PHA at that meeting in February?

During that session, I asked Mike directly: *“Are you seeking some sort of approval today to proceed with submitting this proposal?”* He replied, *“Yes.”* Each commissioner then stated whether they supported him moving forward. That was, in effect, a straw poll—an action prohibited in executive session.

The session did not include any real estate discussion, meaning it had no lawful basis to be closed. I have already submitted this account under oath in criminal complaints, with potential perjury consequences if my statement is false. I cannot say whether others are lying or have convinced themselves to remember it differently, but what I know is this: Mike was seeking a red or green light, and he received a clear green light from the majority of the board.

In addition, you collaborated on the wording of the proposal outside a public meeting. That amounts to implicit support for the proposal, though you could argue your edits were ultimatums—that you would only support it if they were included. Either way, it was an expression of opinion on board action outside a public meeting.

On “Merger” and “Binding Proposal”

You wrote:

On a different note, I wonder if you still believe that the PHA was a “merger” and that Mike signed a “binding agreement” ...

I have not referred to PHA as a “merger.” In my written response to the Leader, I specifically said when asked if PHA was a merger: **“It is not being called a “merger,” but**

the effects would be similar. The phased partnership creates a shared governance body, a central executive, and a new layer of authority above both public boards. That structure could drastically shift power away from our elected commissioners and undermine local control—a change that deserves the same level of scrutiny as a formal merger.” I think that response was reasonable. In my presentations and discussions of this, I don’t use the word “merger” to describe it. If you see an example somewhere I do, please let me know.

As for “binding,” the only place I’ve used that word is when describing Mike Glenn’s and Brad Berg’s own phrase, a “binding non-binding agreement.” This is what I wrote to the Leader and published on my blog:

In early February, the Jefferson Healthcare Board was presented in executive session with a draft proposal for a new nonprofit entity called the *Peninsula Health Alliance*. The plan would create a “super board” above both Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center (OMC), shifting significant governance authority to this new structure.

The proposed board would give Clallam County 7 seats and Jefferson County 5, creating an automatic voting majority for Clallam over decisions that affect both communities. It was also discussed that Jefferson Healthcare’s CEO, Mike Glenn, would likely become the Executive Director of the new Alliance.

These foundational decisions—board structure, leadership, governance—were never authorized by public vote and were not disclosed to the public, despite their far-reaching implications.

In a second executive session—this time with the hospital’s attorney Brad Berg—commissioners were informed of a strategy to move forward using what CEO Glenn referred to as a “binding non-binding” agreement with OMC. The intent was to appear as though public input was still pending, while legally committing Jefferson Healthcare to the plan. Brad Berg confirmed this could be achieved by having the board authorize the CEO to sign a letter of intent, effectively binding the district before public engagement.

I’ve never said the initial February 12 proposal was binding. If you can point to a blog or transcript where I said otherwise, please do. I don’t know why it keeps being repeated that I claimed it was a “binding proposal”.

Telling the Truth is Important

Telling the truth is important, and I have worked to do that at every step of this unfortunate episode. The latest breach of truth came at the last board meeting, when I raised my concern about the Non-Disclosure Agreement. Here is what I said, followed by

Mike's response:

Matt Ready

Yeah. Well, I'm glad we're having this discussion in public. Well, I mean, first of all, the law decides what a public hospital district has to disclose. The law sets through the Open Public Meeting Act and the Public Records Act. It says what we have to tell the public. Signing a non-disclosure agreement doesn't override the law. If we deliberate a topic that the public has a right to know about, it has a right to know about it.

So I think there's actually a I think it's really worth getting, you know, asking for legal clarity on, really whether there's any way it's appropriate to sign a non-disclosure agreement on a topic of this level and then expect the board to violate its fiduciary duty to be to tell the public everything it has the absolute right to know and to withhold that information in any way.

It seems to me there's a problem there. And it seems there's a problem with the CEO signing a non-disclosure agreement with not telling the board that he's doing it without asking permission from the board, and not showing the non-disclosure agreement to the board until today. This is the first time we're actually getting to see it...

Mikes Response (a few minutes later)

Matt, the question of whether the CEO can enter into the agreements that, the CEO entered into has been asked and answered. That was that was part of the legal review. That that we requested and we and we received, the hospital CEO has has wide ability To explore, different opportunities, has very narrow ability to bound the organization. And we provided all these documents, to Oscar, and that legal firm has a different legal interpretation than you do on one.

Mike's reply is false. The OMW memo says nothing about whether an NDA affects the public's right to know under OPMA or PRA. Glenn told the public the memo answered my concern when it did not. That is a misleading and false statement—an appeal to authority while refusing to allow the public to read what the authority actually said.

Moreover, the priority of the law over any NDA or internal policy is a critical fact every board member must fully understand. By misrepresenting what legal authorities said, Glenn reinforced a dangerously mistaken viewpoint: that a contract can override state law. It cannot. The law alone decides what the public has a right to know.

Telling the Truth Is Important

At all times I have tried to tell the truth about these events as accurately as I can. I will not apologize for statements I never made. What matters now is ensuring transparency, legal compliance, and protecting public trust.

Please also remember all our emails are public records. I am compiling all emails relevant to this saga into a book for publication. Do not reply with anything you are not comfortable having the public and press fully read.

Respectfully,

Matt

9/14/2025 Matt Ready submits Op Ed to Port Townsend Leader titled: **“Sunlight Is the Best Medicine for Democracy”**

Sunlight Is the Best Medicine for Democracy

By Matt Ready

Twelve years ago, I ran for hospital commissioner as an activist for healthcare access for all. Since then, I've pushed the board to improve the quality of its deliberations, listen to patients and employees, champion universal healthcare, and keep community health at the center. Along the way, I've been at the heart of two major controversies—both rooted in transparency and the public's right to know.

Winning the Right to Record

Soon after taking office in 2014, I began recording board meetings so we could learn from every word, but the CEO and commissioners then in office fiercely opposed it. It took nine years, the arrival of two new commissioners—Kolff and McComas—and a legal opinion the CEO had withheld for five years to confirm what I had argued all along: commissioners and citizens have the absolute right to record public meetings.

Today, the board records on-site meetings but still refuses to record off-site ones, so I do it myself at my own expense. The long fight over something as basic as recording meetings exposed a deep hostility to transparency and set the stage for the next crisis: the Peninsula Health Alliance.

The Secret Alliance That Broke the Law

On February 5, 2025, the Jefferson Healthcare board went into executive session citing the “real estate” exemption of the Open Public Meetings Act. Instead of real estate, we were shown a plan to form a private nonprofit—the Peninsula Health Alliance—with CEO Mike Glenn as administrator and a 12-member “super-board” (7 OMC, 5 Jefferson), handing Clallam County control. When I asked if he was seeking board approval, the CEO said “yes,” and one by one the other commissioners voiced support. That was an illegal straw

poll.

In the weeks that followed, I warned my colleagues the session was unlawful. They dismissed my concerns and refused to seek a second legal opinion—even after I shared that my own attorney agreed. At the same time, the CEO and board publicly denied the proposal existed and insisted the February 5 session was only about real estate.

I would not be complicit in deceiving the public over such a sweeping proposal, so I filed a criminal complaint with the sheriff and reported the violations to the State Auditor. At the March 26 meeting, when I tried to tell the public, the chair muted me and cut off my microphone. Thankfully, *The Port Townsend Leader* investigated and broke the story. The sheriff's office later concluded the board had “likely violated the OPMA”—the state's Open Public Meetings Act. The prosecutor declined to file charges.

Only after the press exposed the proposal did the CEO and commissioners admit it existed—claiming secrecy was required by a nondisclosure agreement (NDA). But an NDA is a private corporate tool, not a shield for public officials. It cannot override a public hospital district's duty of transparency; the law—not private contracts—defines the public's right to know.

The board refuses to hire an independent attorney, instead letting the CEO investigate with lawyers he controls and pays with your tax dollars. Even those lawyers, however, could not dispute what multiple outside attorneys found: the February 5 executive session broke the law.

The CEO and board now claim a recent legal memo “asks and answers” every question about the NDA. I have the memo and that claim is false. They refuse to release this memo to the public to read for themselves.

Could an alliance such as the Peninsula Health Alliance be a good idea? Yes. But as crafted, it was dangerous—a step toward corporate secrecy replacing democratic oversight. In such a structure, a single vote could have pushed decisions out of public view. Ideas this significant must face public scrutiny from the start.

The Path to Trust

Jefferson Healthcare is one of the most important institutions in our county, and it provides excellent patient care. The concerns I've raised are not about our doctors, nurses, or staff—they're about governance at the top.

Public hospital commissioners must lead with integrity, understanding that a public institution is not a private corporation. They must hold their CEO accountable and rely on independent counsel to resolve controversies openly and fairly. Transparency is not a burden to escape with legal maneuvers or backroom deals—it is the foundation of

democratic oversight.

I stand by my record, and if re-elected, I will continue to serve with honesty, integrity, and thoughtfulness as your hospital commissioner. Looking forward, my priority is clear: keep our hospital locally controlled, financially stable, and always focused on the health of our community.

If you'd like to learn more or contact me, visit <http://readyforhealthcare.org>, where I've posted detailed blogs about my eleven years in office along with recordings of the meetings I've referenced.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matt Ready

Jefferson County Public Hospital Commissioner

10/22/2025 PT Leader Publishes Op Ed from Commissioner Kees Kolff on the Peninsula Health Alliance

I have known Stu's opponent Matt Ready for many years. I voted for him when he first won a seat on the Board 12 years ago and he supported my campaign 2 years later. To his credit, he got the Board to start recording public meetings. In addition, he and I were the first to raise questions about one executive session last February 5th. Several attorneys later confirmed that the Board had "inadvertently" exceeded what was allowed under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) real-estate exemption. We should have used the legal exemption with an attorney present. We publicly apologized for the error.

Matt went on to publicize inaccurate information from that meeting that he was not allowed to share. He has now completely destroyed his ability to work effectively on the Board because of his wide-ranging conspiracy theory.

I find it very hard to believe that anyone would accuse all the Board Members of Jefferson Healthcare (JHC), CEO Mike Glenn, and Mike's entire top leadership team, of conspiring to give away local control of the healthcare system we work so hard to build and maintain. He reported us, and all of our counterparts at Olympic Medical Center (OMC), to the Sheriffs' offices in both Jefferson and Clallam Counties for criminal activity. He claims that 3 attorneys from different firms, and our long-term professional board consultant Karma Bass, all violated the OPMA. There are too many unsubstantiated claims to list.

Some community members have raised questions about Matt's conspiracy claims in

regards to the Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA) proposal sent to OMC earlier this year. OMC had sent out a request for proposals. The PHA was our creative, non-binding proposal to have JHC and OMC collaborate more effectively in the future. It was crafted by Mike and his leadership team with major input from Commissioners Bruce McComas and Jill Buhler Rienstra, as allowed by the OPMA.

When Commissioners Marie Dressler, Matt Ready and I first learned of the PHA in February, I was concerned that the draft organizational chart in the proposal did not clearly show what was intended. To clarify my understanding, I sent my own org chart to the Board and our CEO the very next day. It showed and described the two Boards governing locally and independently, voluntarily and publicly sharing resources, services and collective purchasing through the PHA, a completely separate organization. Matt Ready and the other commissioners did not disagree with this interpretation, and Mike Glenn confirmed that it accurately depicted how the proposal would work, and not Matt Ready's claim.

I was there in Sequim on March 28 when we presented the PHA proposal to OMC, and we emphasized the following:

- No merger or takeover was ever proposed.
- No financial bailout was involved.
- No loss of local control was contemplated.
- No negotiations would proceed without public involvement.
- The PHA Board would include all 7 OMC and 5 JHC Board members, with a voting mechanism to share power equally.

I described to OMC the problem we were having with Matt's misinformation and conspiracy claims, and they were shocked. Mike had signed a non-disclosure agreement, which is standard practice and was required by OMC. We were one of 4 finalists in their selection process, but were dropped from consideration in part due to Matt's behavior. He continues to insist it was a binding proposal, similar to a merger, that would have destroyed our local control and financial stability.

OMC has now signed a non-binding "Letter of Intent" to explore a partnership with the University of Washington. Their success is crucial to ours, since we share many patients. Given cuts in healthcare funding and proposed reductions in Medicaid, we may want to consider partnering in a larger peninsulawide alliance in the near future. As is customary when even public entities seek partnerships, public input comes after the initial, non-binding proposals have been submitted. All final decisions are made in public, after public input.

In this election we have a clear choice. Stu Kerber works for a small financial services firm he helped start, helping farmers in Eastern Washington work through generational transitions and financial problems. He built his career on relationships and knows how to manage conflicts professionally. As the father of 2 small children, he will bring a young parent's perspective to the Board. We need challenging and different opinions on the board, but we also need collaboration. Stu Kerber will add both. The value of local control has and will always guide our Board, our CEO Mike Glen, and his leadership team in the future as we continue to expand the secular healthcare services this community needs.

NOTE: This opinion is mine alone and does not necessarily reflect the views of my fellow Board members.

10/1/2025 Radio Interview Transcripts without names of public interview and forum featuring Matt Ready and Stu Kerber

Below is the raw transcript of an interview and public forum featuring Matt Ready and Stu Kerber, candidates for Public Hospital Commissioner in Jefferson County Wa in 2025. The date of this file is 10/1/2025 several days before the election of 2025. The outcome is unknown, but Matt's friend Paul has a prediction.

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:14:00

Speaker 1

That we have upcoming, the League of Women Voters on Thursday the 16th at 6 p.m.. 6 p.m. at 6 p.m.. And it'll be carried live on KCPT. And you guys are having a

00:00:14:00 - 00:00:14:21

Speaker 1

question?

00:00:14:23 - 00:00:16:15

Speaker 2

Can I have your attention, please?

00:00:16:17 - 00:00:17:28

Speaker 3

Can I have your attention, please?

00:00:17:28 - 00:00:20:28

Speaker 4

May I have your attention, please?

00:00:21:01 - 00:00:43:06

Speaker 1

And thank you for your attention. I'm Taylor Clark, host of, this week of attention, please. And this week, we are talking to the two candidates for, hospital commissioner. Position one, we're talking to, Matt. Ready? Hi, Matt. Is it position two, position three. Position three. Did I say position one? Yeah, I was thinking the city council got position three.

00:00:43:11 - 00:00:45:14

Speaker 1

Matt. Ready? And, Stu

00:00:45:14 - 00:01:06:25

Speaker 1

Kerber. Kerber. Kerber. Q thank you. Yeah. Thank you for joining us. Thank you both for joining us here today. And, I want to just start out by saying we talked about this a minute ago that we have upcoming, the League of Women Voters on Thursday the 16th at 6 p.m., 6 p.m. at 6 p.m. and it'll be carried live on Kcpt.

00:01:06:28 - 00:01:33:02

Speaker 1

And you guys are having a an official League of Women Voters debate, which is handled much more formally than attention, please, at, your own local volunteer community radio station. So, I'm not really trying to have a debate here today. So much as I think it's important just have a conversation, with you guys as candidates to talk about, I think to talk about, health care in general, to talk about our rural hospitals.

00:01:33:04 - 00:01:44:22

Speaker 1

To talk about also to talk about, why why you ran what's important to you? And maybe a little bit about what you want to want to do. Does that make some sense? Yeah. Okay.

00:01:44:22 - 00:02:00:13

Speaker 1

Let's start off, Stu, I know you have a, a great interest in, in finance. Your your, your spouse was, was the CFO for the hospital and the chief administrative officer, and I get it.

00:02:00:13 - 00:02:01:12

Speaker 1

You said you had,

00:02:01:12 - 00:02:19:19

Speaker 1

What did you call it? Dinner, dinnertime, conversations that involve hospital finance. And I also have, partner that's involved in public life. And you can learn a lot just by paying attention to what their what they're thinking about and doing. Is it the is it hospital

finance that's sort of your main interest in this.

00:02:19:21 - 00:02:42:20

Speaker 4

Yeah. I mean, I'm, I'm interested in the, in ensuring that the hospital, remains financially sound. That's my that's the main reason that I got involved. Yeah. And why I'm excited about running. I think that we have a very challenging landscape ahead of us as a, both as a hospital, a district, as well as a larger health care system in the country.

00:02:42:23 - 00:02:52:23

Speaker 4

And I think that my, for the country. Yeah, for the country as a whole. But, my my wife's experience aside, my background is also in finance. And,

00:02:52:23 - 00:03:03:03

Speaker 4

And I'm a partner of a small financial services, firm that works primarily with, federal. And I appreciate for the opportunity to speak.

00:03:03:03 - 00:03:06:14

Speaker 4

My name is Dr.. For her, and I'm really excited about running for hospital.

00:03:06:14 - 00:03:15:13

Speaker 4

I'm. I'm a Pacific Northwest native, and I live to where I live with my wife nine years ago, and we love it there.

00:03:15:15 - 00:03:23:25

Speaker 4

More intentionally, we've decided to raise two young boys here, and, we have a six and three year old that I just before.

00:03:23:28 - 00:03:24:08

Speaker 5

But.

00:03:24:10 - 00:03:26:10

Speaker 4

As a father, I am,

00:03:26:10 - 00:03:47:25

Speaker 4

deeply invested in the future of our community. And I've also been looking for a way to get more involved in our community, and give back, be of service in what I believe is a pretty unique skill set to use. My, professional background is in finance and organizational, problem solving.

00:03:47:27 - 00:04:14:06

Speaker 4

I worked a lot in commercial banking, and, for the last eight years, I've been a partner of a small financial services, firm that works primarily with, with family farms in eastern Washington and helping them to navigate challenges around generational change and, financial recovery. The agricultural market of Washington looks very similar to, the healthcare landscape that that we're experiencing.

00:04:14:08 - 00:04:26:07

Speaker 4

And and as such, I believe that I'm uniquely positioned to, complement the board with my experience. I was introduced to the hospital quite some time ago, fortunately, through my wife,

00:04:26:07 - 00:04:37:00

Speaker 4

Hillary Clinton, and she served as the chief financial officer and chief administrative officer, for nine years for Jefferson Healthcare. And she's been, gone now for about five, moved on in her career.

00:04:37:00 - 00:04:54:27

Speaker 4

But, what that's done is provide over a decade of, dinner room conversations, about, not just Jefferson health care, but health care in general at the heart of our national health care policy. And what the health care landscape looks like.

00:04:54:27 - 00:05:09:06

Speaker 4

The big reason that I got involved in the race and wanted to and want to serve on the board is because I truly believe that all of the majority of challenges that our hospital district are going to face are going to be financial in nature.

00:05:09:08 - 00:05:24:21

Speaker 4

And I think we're starting to see that already. We're seeing decreases in reimbursement,

increased regulation, and we're seeing increased expenses for hospitals. And it creates a really, different environment than what we've operated in, over the last ten years.

00:05:24:21 - 00:05:31:04

Speaker 4

I believe that Jefferson Healthcare has done a really good job. Being a financial steward and,

00:05:31:04 - 00:05:32:01

Speaker 4

protecting them,

00:05:32:01 - 00:05:34:09

Speaker 4

having a strong financial position.

00:05:34:11 - 00:05:35:13

Speaker 5

But yet also.

00:05:35:20 - 00:05:40:10

Speaker 4

Growing services and access for our community in ways that our community needs.

00:05:40:10 - 00:05:41:17

Speaker 3

With.

00:05:41:20 - 00:06:06:28

Speaker 4

All of that said, I, I also believe that an organization can only risk as much as it's for financial professional policy and to explain how that relates to Jefferson health care in our hospital district. The hospital has done a really good job of remaining financially sound, and what that's allowed it to do is to bring on more risk.

00:06:06:28 - 00:06:22:00

Speaker 4

And that risk really, comes through in creativity, which drives access for our community. So we think about it by having a strong financial position in the hospitals, being able to do some amazing things, like the 55,000 square foot expansion,

00:06:22:00 - 00:06:24:03

Speaker 4

replacement building and expansion,

00:06:24:03 - 00:06:43:27

Speaker 4

providing and getting into a retail pharmacy and opening that up, the, for a Ludlow clinic that's been opened in the last five, six years, or even getting into, down based care in essentially a hospital clinic setting, which is extremely problematic for hospitals from a group payment standpoint.

00:06:44:00 - 00:07:01:02

Speaker 4

But yet they've been able to do it and been a leader in the state in providing that. So all of those things in in deuce risk to the business. But yet the business has been able to do that, want to use that risk because they've been financially strong and it provides access for our community.

00:07:01:02 - 00:07:04:01

Speaker 4

My objectives, if elected, are pretty straightforward.

00:07:04:01 - 00:07:13:03

Speaker 4

First off, as I've been talking, I want to make sure that the hospital remains financially sound, secular and independent. And I believe that those are all things that resonate with our community.

00:07:13:03 - 00:07:15:27

Speaker 4

I also, though, want to,

00:07:15:29 - 00:07:16:26

Speaker 3

Qemu to.

00:07:16:29 - 00:07:45:21

Speaker 4

Remove barriers to access and solve barriers to access for our population, but specifically for our younger families and for our aging adults. Our younger families provide the vibrancy for our community, and they're the ones that are going to step into our shoes as

leaders of the community in the future. But also we need to ensure that our aging adults have the ability to age in place with grace and enjoy the benefits in the community that they've built.

00:07:45:21 - 00:08:19:11

Speaker 4

I'm also really focused on ensuring that Jefferson Healthcare remains both an excellent place to work, but also the best place to practice medicine in the region. And we're going to need that because we need the ability to attract talent to the hospital. And, to throw as we are. But we also need to make sure that we're retaining our staff and developing the skills of our staff and promoting internally whenever we're able to, because at the end of the day, we're staff is really our most valuable resource at Jefferson Health Care.

00:08:19:11 - 00:08:22:03

Speaker 4

And without them, access to care means nothing.

00:08:23:20 - 00:08:32:00

Speaker 4

I would say. Lastly, I am focused on increasing the transparency and professionalism of the board. I think that,

00:08:32:00 - 00:08:46:17

Speaker 4

the board, has a wide variety of skill sets that I compliment. But, I and but I would say that a board shouldn't have consensus. That's not a sign of a healthy board. Disagreement is a sign of a healthy board.

00:08:46:19 - 00:09:00:21

Speaker 4

But we need to make sure that we resolve those disagreements in a professional manner, and we don't do so in a way that jeopardizes, the or disparages the staff, the hospital and the reputation of hospital. Within our public.

00:09:01:09 - 00:09:24:23

Speaker 4

I believe that our public institutions work better when they're working together. I also believe that the role of a commissioner who's publicly elected to be the conduit, between the board and the hospital is doing an what the public's calls are. And the policy for that is the role of of being a publicly elected official in a job like this.

00:09:24:23 - 00:09:36:10

Speaker 4

To that point, I've spent a lot of time this summer connecting with other institutions, our public institutions in our community that have relationships with the hospital. So that includes meeting with,

00:09:36:10 - 00:09:48:16

Speaker 4

city and county government, meeting with, law enforcement and fire, chiefs, meeting with superintendents, meeting with other executive directors. And my goal in doing so has really been two things.

00:09:48:16 - 00:09:49:01

Speaker 4

One,

00:09:49:01 - 00:09:54:21

Speaker 4

asking them what is the relationship with the hospital from their perspective so I can more on that.

00:09:54:23 - 00:09:55:29

Speaker 3

But also to.

00:09:56:01 - 00:10:01:18

Speaker 4

Asking them where their opportunity opportunities to remove friction or to,

00:10:01:18 - 00:10:03:08

Speaker 4

what I found is one,

00:10:03:08 - 00:10:17:01

Speaker 4

everybody has pretty good relationships in our community. I think that's something that we kind of come to expect, and that's not surprising. But the other thing that I found is that there's always room, you know, they're sitting on the sidelines. They really need to speak in public.

00:10:17:01 - 00:10:28:15

Speaker 4

You're a champion for the board for all of them going to work. No, that's that's just not the reality of it. But some of them probably will. And the ones I don't really try really finding interesting conversations.

00:10:28:15 - 00:10:29:07

Speaker 5

That ultimately are

00:10:29:07 - 00:10:30:03

Speaker 5

for our community.

00:10:30:03 - 00:10:31:02

Speaker 5

At the end of the day.

00:10:31:10 - 00:10:41:02

Speaker 4

I believe that I understand what is at stake here, which is our ability to serve our way of life that we enjoy and.

00:10:41:04 - 00:10:41:23

Speaker 3

To,

00:10:41:25 - 00:10:43:28

Speaker 4

To live in this remote,

00:10:43:28 - 00:10:46:23

Speaker 4

beautiful, yet rural part of the state.

00:10:46:23 - 00:10:54:08

Speaker 4

I believe that health care is something that everybody should have access to, regardless of age or circumstance.

00:10:54:08 - 00:11:01:19

Speaker 4

And I'm running to ensure that the hospital remains financially sound so that generations to come, to continue to build their lives here.

00:11:01:19 - 00:11:02:05

Speaker 4

Thank you.

00:11:02:05 - 00:11:02:17

Unknown

So.

00:11:02:19 - 00:11:03:10

Unknown

I just do.

00:11:03:10 - 00:11:03:24

Speaker 3

Okay.

00:11:03:24 - 00:11:06:01

Speaker 3

If I can sit or stand, whatever you want to do.

00:11:06:01 - 00:11:07:07

Speaker 1

I'm giving my ten minute intro.

00:11:07:07 - 00:11:08:14

Speaker 3

Now for your,

00:11:08:14 - 00:11:09:04

Speaker 3

perfect.

00:11:09:04 - 00:11:11:22

Speaker 1

All right. Well, thank you all for being here.

00:11:11:22 - 00:11:15:23

Speaker 1

I've written down my statement because I want to be really specific.

00:11:15:23 - 00:11:21:16

Speaker 1

12 years ago, I ran for hospital commissioner as an activist for health care and, minister at the time.

00:11:21:16 - 00:11:22:01

Speaker 3

Commissioner,

00:11:22:01 - 00:11:22:16

Speaker 3

let.

00:11:22:18 - 00:11:23:02

Speaker 5

Me take you.

00:11:23:02 - 00:11:24:06

Speaker 1

Take your.

00:11:24:08 - 00:11:25:27

Speaker 3

Heart. That's why I'm here.

Rotary Forum

00:11:26:00 - 00:11:48:08

Speaker 1

I ran for hospital commissioner as an activist for health care access for all. Since then, I pushed the board to improve the quality of its deliberation, listen to patients and employees, championed universal health care, and keep our community health at its center. Along the way meant the heart of two major controversies, both rooted in transparency and the public's right to know.

00:11:48:08 - 00:12:10:17

Speaker 1

Soon after taking office in 2014, I began recording our board meetings so that we could learn from every word for the CEO and the commissioners. Then in office fiercely opposed it. It took nine years the arrival of two new commissioners, calls and comments, and a legal opinion that the CEO had withheld from the board for five years to confirm what I had argued all along.

00:12:10:19 - 00:12:22:07

Speaker 1

I commissioners and citizens, have the right, the absolute right, to record our public meetings without any interference, because we live in a country where the people have a right to know and our elected leaders, and what our elected leaders are talking about

00:12:22:07 - 00:12:31:01

Speaker 1

today. The board records all onsite meetings, but it still refuses to record our offsite meetings, which often go to six hours or more.

00:12:31:04 - 00:12:33:15

Speaker 1

So I record those myself at my own expense.

00:12:33:15 - 00:12:48:27

Speaker 1

The long fight over something as basic as recording meetings, preserving an accurate and truthful record of our board deliberations exposed a deep hostility to transparent AC and set the stage for the next crisis. The Peninsula Health Alliance, which I'm sure some of you have heard about.

00:12:48:27 - 00:12:57:11

Speaker 1

On February 5th this year, the Jefferson Health Care Board went into executive session citing the real estate exemption of the Open Public Meetings Act.

00:12:57:13 - 00:13:26:27

Speaker 1

But instead of real estate, we were shown a plan to form a private nonprofit corporation, the Peninsula Health Alliance, with CEO Mike Glenn as administrator and a 12 member super board with seven seats for OMC and five seats for Jefferson, giving Blount County instant majority control. When I asked the CEO of us seeking board approval, the CEO said yes, and one by one, the other commissioners showed their support.

00:13:26:29 - 00:13:36:01

Speaker 1

It was unfortunately, unbelievably held deliberation and an illegal straw poll taken outside of public view.

00:13:36:01 - 00:13:52:03

Speaker 1

At a second executive session, the CEO described the strategy of eventually releasing this proposal to the public, but only after Jefferson and OMC had agreed in principle to proceeding with it. He called this strategy setting up a binding, non-binding agreement,

00:13:52:03 - 00:13:57:09

Speaker 1

and the hospital attorney present at that meeting gave advice on how to accomplish this neat trick.

00:13:57:09 - 00:14:14:27

Speaker 1

In the weeks that followed, I warned my colleagues the session and the process was unlawful and unlawfully hidden from the public. My own attorney and legal research indicated we were getting seriously flawed legal guidance from the hospital attorney, who said it was okay to hide these talks under the guise of real estate discussions.

00:14:14:27 - 00:14:20:21

Speaker 1

They dismissed my concerns and refused to seek a simple second legal opinion.

00:14:20:24 - 00:14:33:06

Speaker 1

At the same time, the CEO and other board members publicly denied the proposal existed and insisted that the February 5th session was indeed only about real estate, which was blatantly false.

00:14:33:06 - 00:14:52:05

Speaker 1

I would not be complicit in deceiving the public over such a sweeping proposal. So after careful and stressful, painstaking deliberation, I filed a criminal complaint with the sheriff and I reported the violations to the state auditor, and I reported the advising attorney to the Washington State Bar Association

00:14:52:05 - 00:14:54:00

Speaker 1

at the March 26th meeting.

00:14:54:02 - 00:15:09:21

Speaker 1

I told the public what was happening, and the chair cut off my microphone twice, once during public comment. Now, can you imagine our city mayor cutting off the microphone of a city council member during their allotted time to speak as a representative of the people?

00:15:09:21 - 00:15:19:20

Speaker 1

If our meetings were not recorded, then you may have never heard about this, and this abuse of power may have just succeeded in keeping this whole process secret.

00:15:19:22 - 00:15:44:21

Speaker 1

But thankfully, the Port Townsend leader listened to our meeting recordings. Sometimes they investigated this and they broke the story. The sheriff later concluded that the board had likely violated the OPM, the state's Open Public Meetings Act. Now, I sincerely think before Time Leader and Sheriff Andy Steiner and Detective Derek Allen for their thorough and professional investigation into this matter.

00:15:44:24 - 00:15:49:29

Speaker 1

That is how the press and other institutions are supposed to work to support the integrity of one another.

00:15:49:29 - 00:16:00:09

Speaker 1

Now, it was only after the press exposed the proposal did the CEO and other commissioners admit it existed, claiming secrecy was required by a non-disclosure agreement.

00:16:00:09 - 00:16:06:19

Speaker 1

But a nondisclosure agreement is a private corporate tool, not a shield for public officials.

00:16:06:21 - 00:16:13:22

Speaker 1

It cannot override a public hospital district's duty of transparency. It is the law that defines the public's right to know.

00:16:13:22 - 00:16:23:19

Speaker 1

Two CEOs cannot just get together and sign a piece of paper, and suddenly public records are no longer public records, which is what our CEO and the board seem to be claiming.

00:16:23:19 - 00:16:33:09

Speaker 1

This entire situation continues to need a thorough, impartial analysis by the institution, Jefferson Healthcare internally so that the board and CEO can learn from it.

00:16:33:11 - 00:16:37:16

Speaker 1

What went wrong? Why and how can we avoid a mess like this in the future?

00:16:37:16 - 00:16:47:09

Speaker 1

But the board refuses to hire an independent attorney, instead letting the CEO investigate good lawyers he employs and pays with our tax dollars.

00:16:47:09 - 00:16:56:21

Speaker 1

But even those lawyers, however, are biased and could not dispute what multiple outside attorneys have found. That February. This session indeed broke the law.

00:16:56:22 - 00:16:59:03

Speaker 1

It was not about real estate at all.

00:16:59:03 - 00:17:19:17

Speaker 1

The CEO and board now claim that they have a new legal memo, by one of the new CEO controlled and employed lawyers that drafts and answers every question that I'm raising about this non-disclosure agreement. But I have that memo, I read it. That claim is not true. And the board and CEO refused to just release the memo to the public.

00:17:19:17 - 00:17:21:28

Speaker 1

So you can read for yourselves and see what's going on.

00:17:21:28 - 00:17:39:09

Speaker 1

I put in the lines such as a mental health alliance, be a good idea. Absolutely. But as this one was crafted, it was dangerous. It was a step towards corporate secrecy, replacing democratic oversight in such a structure. A single vote of that board could have taken decisions out of public view.

00:17:39:09 - 00:17:49:28

Speaker 1

Ideas, this powerful and significant must face public scrutiny from the start. And really, with a little forethought, we could have easily found a path to do that with this proposal.

00:17:49:28 - 00:17:56:23

Speaker 1

Jefferson Health Care is one of the most important institutions in our county. It provides incredibly high quality patient care,

00:17:56:23 - 00:18:01:00

Speaker 1

and the concerns I've raised are not about our doctors, nurses or staff.

00:18:01:03 - 00:18:02:20

Speaker 1

They're about the governance at the top.

00:18:02:20 - 00:18:24:16

Speaker 1

Public hospital commissioners must lead with integrity, understanding that a public institution is not a private corporation. They must hold their CEOs accountable, evaluate them for the CEO in a meaningful way, such as using the best practices of a 360 evaluation. And they must rely on independent counsel to resolve controversies such as this quickly, openly and fairly.

00:18:24:18 - 00:18:35:05

Speaker 1

Transparency is not a burden to escape legal maneuvers or backroom deals. It is the foundation of democracy. Transparency is the sunlight that protects us all from the abuse of power.

00:18:35:05 - 00:18:42:17

Speaker 1

I stand by my record. If reelected, I will continue to serve with honesty, integrity and

thoughtfulness. As your hospital commissioner,

00:18:42:17 - 00:18:50:03

Speaker 1

looking forward, my priority is clear keep our hospital locally controlled, financially stable, and always focused on the health of our community.

00:18:50:05 - 00:18:58:20

Speaker 1

And if you would like to learn more or actually listen to some of these board meetings that I've been describing, there's recordings on my website ready for health care board.

00:18:58:20 - 00:19:07:17

Speaker 1

So I'll just say, remember, we shine light into our public institutions. We don't weaken them. We make them worthy of the trust they hold.

00:19:07:20 - 00:19:08:04

Speaker 3

Thank you.

00:19:08:04 - 00:19:08:16

Speaker 3

And

00:19:08:16 - 00:19:10:21

Speaker 3

okay, so what we're going to do is just to,

00:19:10:21 - 00:19:13:25

Speaker 3

try to take five minutes here and they can ask at least,

00:19:13:25 - 00:19:17:29

Speaker 3

at least one question from each other. Okay. So,

00:19:17:29 - 00:19:20:09

Speaker 3

would you like to ask a question about.

00:19:20:09 - 00:19:21:05

Speaker 3

Yeah. That's fine.

00:19:21:05 - 00:19:25:28

Speaker 4

Yeah, it's what I ask is how how do you address that?

00:19:25:28 - 00:19:30:11

Speaker 4

Your basis, in fact, is very different than what,

00:19:30:11 - 00:19:32:10

Speaker 4

the other board members in the,

00:19:32:10 - 00:19:38:20

Speaker 4

the executive team have come out. They've, they've at the last couple of meetings, they've discussed it. They have discussed it in here,

00:19:38:20 - 00:19:46:25

Speaker 4

and, around some of the items, like the, waiting or not, the waiting, the structure of the board and giving away our

00:19:46:25 - 00:19:47:06

Speaker 4

right.

00:19:47:08 - 00:19:58:27

Speaker 4

Our governance essentially. Because I, I guess I, I think that our executive team and our boards, competent enough that they want structure something that would give away our control.

00:19:58:27 - 00:20:10:05

Speaker 5

Can I interject for just one moment? Deborah, can you hear back for what? The people need to speak up a little more? I think more pretty well. Okay. Pretty well. Okay. So, you know, that's fine. Actually working pretty well. But just to remind.

00:20:10:07 - 00:20:10:20

Speaker 3

The board.

00:20:10:22 - 00:20:14:22

Speaker 5

To speak up and maybe even stand up when you're speaking so that we.

00:20:14:22 - 00:20:19:21

Speaker 3

Could regroup. And also, if you want to sit up here, you can sit here or over here if you'd like to.

00:20:19:27 - 00:20:20:10

Speaker 5

Okay.

00:20:20:10 - 00:20:22:12

Speaker 3

I would like okay to do that.

00:20:22:15 - 00:20:23:15

Speaker 5

Thank you.

00:20:23:17 - 00:20:23:23

Speaker 3

The

00:20:23:23 - 00:20:26:16

Speaker 3

one sorry about this. Oh no. It's okay. I.

00:20:27:23 - 00:20:47:20

Speaker 1

Yeah. So, if you read the proposal that's been published, it says the the board would be a supermajority, would have seven seats for LMC and five for Jefferson. And it says that board would select an administrator for the organization, and that administrator would run it. So it seems

00:20:47:20 - 00:20:54:11

Speaker 1

that that's what the proposal set is a seven for them, but it doesn't actually specify a decision making process beyond that.

00:20:54:11 - 00:20:58:18

Speaker 3

Do you have an interest? Well, I guess you read the book. Yeah, I remember the whole proposal.

00:20:58:19 - 00:21:27:29

Speaker 4

I guess what I, I mean, it's my understanding it was a document that was provided. No, c to outline the structure, but it's not it, it was part of a presentation, and it wasn't something that was fully developed yet. And so I guess I struggle because it seems like the, the insinuation is that there is whether it's malfeasance or incompetence, I, I it's I have a higher expectation of our board.

00:21:28:02 - 00:21:46:05

Speaker 4

And I think it's disingenuous to, to pull that piece out when the executive team has addressed that specifically and the other boards address that specifically. And yet it continues to be a point that continues. And I, I guess I'm struggling to to understand how how you rectify that piece.

00:21:46:05 - 00:21:55:27

Speaker 1

Yeah, I was just going by what the proposal I was given. That's what it says. 72 problems in five. I agree it seems to be a bad idea. Like I don't think

00:21:55:27 - 00:22:04:24

Speaker 1

I mean, if we had a public discussion, I think one of the first things we would have said was, why does this say 74 on C5? For us, that looks like it's giving us a majority.

00:22:04:27 - 00:22:26:11

Speaker 1

And the thing that they've said is there have been other discussions they had behind the scenes that they say corrected it. They've said there's there is agreement to make it a supermajority for decision making that there. What that would have meant, would that how many votes? I don't know what the decision making structure is that they said they agreed to behind the scenes.

00:22:26:13 - 00:22:35:16

Speaker 1

So yeah, I'm just going by what the proposal was, given that it says 75, which is yeah, it looks absurd to anyone that looks at it. Why would we make it unbalanced like that?

00:22:35:16 - 00:23:03:03

Speaker 4

But yeah, I guess I just, I, I, I think that there's a context that's been communicated and it's kind of like doing a PowerPoint presentation and reading a PowerPoint presentation without having the presentation. And, you know, I'm trying to understand why that continues to be a, I guess, why that continues to be a talking point that seems very resolved, that that's the document which obviously premature for public consumption.

00:23:03:03 - 00:23:07:13

Speaker 4

It wasn't prepared in that manner and that there's a,

00:23:07:15 - 00:23:07:29

Speaker 3

That it.

00:23:07:29 - 00:23:27:15

Speaker 4

Was part of a larger delivery of the proposal to, obviously. And I don't want to get into the specifics of litigating that, but it's I think there's, there's of there seems to be a lot of items like this that there's a direct conflict with what the hospital is said and what the existing board has said publicly and what you're pointing at.

00:23:27:15 - 00:23:30:00

Speaker 4

So I'm just trying to understand how those.

00:23:30:02 - 00:23:31:24

Speaker 3

Are rectified, if that makes sense.

00:23:31:24 - 00:23:33:23

Speaker 3

Okay. Can we go to the next one?

00:23:33:23 - 00:23:37:02

Speaker 3

Would you like that as my turn, ask a question. Yeah. You that those.

00:23:37:02 - 00:23:38:10

Speaker 1

Well, we kind of talked about one.

00:23:38:10 - 00:23:40:24

Speaker 3

Of the questions because,

00:23:40:24 - 00:23:43:19

Speaker 3

So. Okay, if.

00:23:43:22 - 00:23:57:13

Speaker 1

When there's a serious disagreement on the board about the legality of the CEO's actions, should the board hire an independent attorney to advise, or should it simply rely on lawyers that are hired and employed by the CEO?

00:23:57:13 - 00:24:17:06

Speaker 4

I guess it would depend on the circumstance. I don't have any problem with a having an outside attorney. I also know, would, I guess, trust that any attorney that the hospitals retain is not going to your right or to risk their, professional reputation and livelihood for.

00:24:17:06 - 00:24:17:14

Speaker 3

What.

00:24:17:14 - 00:24:22:16

Speaker 4

Would be a in the scheme of things, or rather, minor engagement from their perspective.

00:24:22:16 - 00:24:25:02

Speaker 4

So it seems like the hospital is

00:24:25:02 - 00:24:26:25

Speaker 4

hiring attorneys that are competent.

00:24:26:25 - 00:24:30:27

Speaker 4

I'm not opposed to engaging in an outside attorney. If there's cause.

00:24:30:29 - 00:24:32:21

Speaker 3

I'm good. All right,

00:24:32:21 - 00:24:39:18

Speaker 3

now, we'll take, questions from the rotary members first. Who wants to be cursory? The question

00:24:39:18 - 00:24:40:02

Speaker 3

read

00:24:40:02 - 00:24:46:25

Speaker 3

this is the both of you. Do either one of you want to fire the, CEO of Jefferson Health Care?

00:24:46:27 - 00:25:06:15

Speaker 4

Maybe I can go first. No, I mean, I don't I don't at this point in time, I don't have any reason to fire the CEO. I believe that is a core function of the job of, commissioner is governance, and it's to hire and fire their one employee, which is the CEO. And management. As long as.

00:25:06:15 - 00:25:10:28

Speaker 3

The the, the, the Board of Control doesn't get involved.

00:25:10:28 - 00:25:34:14

Speaker 4

In operations, they stay governance. They set the policy in the direction of the organization, and they delegate the operation to the CEO. So as long as the CEO is, is operating the hospital district in alignment with what the board has laid out for direction the strategic plan of governance. I know I don't if that changes or if there is an issue that's the future.

00:25:34:14 - 00:25:37:27

Speaker 4

And and yeah, that's absolutely a conversation that I think has worked. And and having.

00:25:37:29 - 00:26:01:09

Speaker 1

And and no, I just want the board to be professional and thorough in how it evaluates the CEO and how it deals with things like this. When, when you have a, a problem, like a crisis, a huge controversy like this, you need to do a, a realignment of impartial internal review that the public doesn't need to be involved.

00:26:01:09 - 00:26:18:11

Speaker 1

You need to see what happened, why it happened, and how can you prevent it from ever happening again. And I mean, I'm disappointed that the commissioners and the CEO haven't done that. But, you know, I'll just I will continue to push for, I think, how we should proceed, how we should try to resolve things.

00:26:18:13 - 00:26:19:13

Speaker 3

Next question.

00:26:19:13 - 00:26:20:15

Speaker 3

Yes, sir. Paul,

00:26:20:15 - 00:26:30:13

Speaker 3

as a Port Townsend resident, why should the population of Port Townsend support this combination of the two hospitals

00:26:30:13 - 00:26:40:01

Speaker 3

and it basically seats control to the other one? Despite this mirage of the supermajority needing to do something,

00:26:40:01 - 00:26:45:08

Speaker 3

could you help me as to why I should be enthusiastic to allow this to occur?

00:26:45:08 - 00:26:46:11

Speaker 3

Okay, so

00:26:46:11 - 00:26:46:26

Speaker 3

that's great.

00:26:46:26 - 00:26:47:04

Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:26:47:12 - 00:26:59:05

Speaker 1

So if you tell me about the Peninsula Health Alliance, I was describing it. Well, it's it is no longer on the table. It's apparently, not being considered anymore. So that's one thing to be clear. Thank you.

00:26:59:05 - 00:26:59:28

Speaker 1

And

00:26:59:28 - 00:27:06:04

Speaker 1

so and I, I, I didn't think it was a good idea, so I'm not going to give you any reasons why we should have pursued it.

00:27:06:06 - 00:27:13:06

Speaker 1

I wasn't clear on, why it was a good idea. So I guess I have enough of an answer for you.

00:27:13:12 - 00:27:14:21

Speaker 3

Yeah, I think that's good.

00:27:14:24 - 00:27:32:18

Speaker 4

Yeah. So just to to to, I would say that, a couple of things. One, from my understanding of it, it did not seek control. It was a alliance that kept the hospitals independent, which our own independent hospital districts in their own in courts, decision making,

00:27:32:18 - 00:27:34:01

Speaker 4

assets could be,

00:27:34:01 - 00:27:38:13

Speaker 4

worked collaboratively. There was an opportunity for sharing and expense savings.

00:27:38:15 - 00:28:02:06

Speaker 4

I think the details of that and the benefits were, are unfortunately largely lost through the results of how the process played out. What I would say, though, is as a Port Townsend resident, we are we are deeply vested in the interest of Omcs health. 25% of our current emergency department volume is coming from Clallam County.

00:28:02:08 - 00:28:12:28

Speaker 4

So the counties are really a dotted line. Despite taxing districts. And we have a lot of patients that go from here over to swim in, for treatment. So in

00:28:12:28 - 00:28:27:21

Speaker 4

it's something that we need to be concerned about. I don't believe that it was a it was a fiscal alignment to to provide expertise and knowledge transfer. And I would say that Jefferson Health Care is really good at running a critical access hospital.

00:28:27:21 - 00:28:57:19

Speaker 4

We're one of the leading critical access hospitals in the state where, it when 70% of all hospitals in Washington are with money, we're we've been able to maintain a 2.2% average operating margin over the last five, six years. So, you know, whether it plays out what the exact benefits are, I don't know, but we should be concerned with on see and we should be deeply, vested in their, in their health as well, because at the end of the day, this is all one big area.

00:28:57:21 - 00:28:59:21

Speaker 3

Could I make it clear? Yeah.

00:28:59:23 - 00:29:05:23

Speaker 5

What I asked was, why was the structure fundamentally see you control.

00:29:05:26 - 00:29:08:26

Speaker 4

Oh, I'm sorry I misunderstood your head.

00:29:09:02 - 00:29:12:00

Speaker 5

Seven and five. I've done

00:29:12:00 - 00:29:12:23

Speaker 5

hundreds of.

00:29:12:23 - 00:29:17:11

Speaker 3

Millions of dollars of mergers and combinations of organizations.

00:29:17:11 - 00:29:18:12

Speaker 5

And not.

00:29:18:14 - 00:29:21:28

Speaker 3

One of those is the leading organization.

00:29:22:01 - 00:29:28:00

Speaker 5

Ever sees cede control to the one who needed more help.

00:29:28:02 - 00:29:32:06

Speaker 3

Yeah. That's how you structure this. Well, I think that's all I think I.

00:29:32:06 - 00:29:49:29

Speaker 4

Just going to say I think that's only structured from the board count. So what we what it was was the start from what we understood it was five board. We have a five member publicly like before. They have a seven member publicly elected board. But that there was

going to be a waiting to the voting to ensure that everything was essentially equal.

00:29:49:29 - 00:30:08:22

Speaker 4

There's, you know, with any board structure you can wait for, you can structure board voting to ensure that everything stays, equal. That's my understanding. I was part of the conversations. I haven't been involved in the process. Like I said, I, I do have the things that are executive. Thank you.

00:30:08:22 - 00:30:21:01

Speaker 3

I didn't appreciate we were dealing with Alice in Wonderland. Seven votes didn't count anymore. Can we take a question in some other area? I don't care about health care. Yeah.

00:30:21:08 - 00:30:30:22

Speaker 5

But what if this is a question for both of you? What do you see is the role of consensus and boards integrations?

00:30:30:22 - 00:30:31:10

Speaker 1

So,

00:30:31:10 - 00:30:51:04

Speaker 1

yeah, I mean, I think, a healthy board has a diversity of views and it's okay to have, disagreements and different, opinions on votes. But I think it is incredibly healthy to work towards consensus, to try to find solutions that the all the board members feel good

about. That's I think that's the best way to move forward.

00:30:51:04 - 00:30:53:12

Speaker 1

I'm a big believer in consensus building.

00:30:53:12 - 00:30:59:24

Speaker 1

But, you know, you know, it's it may not be practical at all times. So you may have votes that there are dissenting opinions.

00:30:59:24 - 00:31:27:00

Speaker 4

Yeah. We just say, hey, I, I think that dissent is a sign of a healthy board. Obviously we all want to move forward and step together, but we all have a different world experience and and professional experience, and you view the world differently. I would say I'm less concerned about consensus. I'm more, concerned about how we resolve differences and to ensure that we're doing so in a professional manner that supports the hospital and the sole employer being the CEO.

00:31:27:02 - 00:31:32:19

Speaker 3

Okay. Another rotary member strategy joke was it was asked quite okay.

00:31:32:19 - 00:31:35:14

Speaker 3

Mr. president, any other questions?

00:31:35:14 - 00:31:36:02

Speaker 3

Yes.

00:31:36:04 - 00:31:39:23

Speaker 5

I guess I heard a lot about what

00:31:39:23 - 00:32:00:00

Speaker 5

the hospital district has done for the community in terms of providing services. What do you see going forward? I mean, I'm wondering that maybe there is a time for a little breath and a pause in endeavors, but that's never the case for a public entity. There's always something. What do you see going forward in the next 3 to 5 years?

00:32:00:00 - 00:32:03:05

Speaker 5

With the hospital district, the needs or the desires?

00:32:03:07 - 00:32:23:21

Speaker 4

Yeah. So I think that as we look forward, I mean, we we've got some, simple things on the list. Not simple, but. Well, identify things on the landscape, like the expansion with the, imaging and services center in Port Ludlow that will be built out of the old Kitsap Bank building. The mobile dental clinic is going to be, scaled up and rolling more.

00:32:23:21 - 00:32:43:23

Speaker 4

And I think the hospital wants to continue to meet the needs of the community there, also continuing to staff the the new hospital building, bringing more additional services. You know, other areas that I think the hospital can look, I know that rehab has been one that's come up a lot as I've been talking to the community.

00:32:43:25 - 00:33:09:03

Speaker 4

It's a challenging area for the hospital, but it might be the the hospital to at least look at what what are the barriers that we're not. If we have that much demand, why are we not having private practitioners solving that in our community? And in the end, is that a hospital, all or somebody else's? I say largely we're we're going to be challenged, in what the financial landscape looks like.

00:33:09:03 - 00:33:12:19

Speaker 4

And we're going to have to consider priorities, know,

00:33:12:19 - 00:33:16:27

Speaker 4

if our financial landscape gets more challenged, which I believe it will be.

00:33:16:29 - 00:33:35:21

Speaker 1

Yeah. I mean, I think the thing of the immediate future is the impact of the, the massive, the tax bill that is going to cut, that is going to severely cut health care funding. So we're going to have to, look at that in for the next year when the cuts start to take place and see how that that impacts our bottom line.

00:33:35:23 - 00:33:57:06

Speaker 1

So that's the first stressor. We are continuously, you know, it's our job to assess the health care needs of the community. And see if we need to expand, services, or change them in any way. And there's already talk of, talk about another, well, you know, it just the beginnings of talks about another construction project.

00:33:57:08 - 00:33:58:17

Speaker 1

So that is also,

00:33:58:17 - 00:33:59:26

Speaker 1

something that's on the horizon.

00:33:59:26 - 00:34:01:28

Speaker 5

I just follow up. So speaking of.

00:34:01:28 - 00:34:05:28

Speaker 2

Funding, is there any projection at this point about how that.

00:34:06:01 - 00:34:09:07

Speaker 5

Funding change will affect Jefferson health care?

00:34:09:10 - 00:34:16:13

Speaker 1

The, the estimate, that the CEO gave was that at a minimum, about \$250,000 a year,

00:34:16:13 - 00:34:23:08

Speaker 1

less, funding and but potentially an increase of like 1 to \$2 million a year of charity care, that we have to do.

00:34:23:08 - 00:34:33:05

Speaker 1

And also just massive stress on our Medicaid community having to, jump through many more bureaucratic hoops to stay on Medicare.

00:34:33:07 - 00:34:38:21

Speaker 1

And so we'll have we'll be spending money to try to help our community know about that and staying on top of that.

00:34:38:23 - 00:35:04:07

Speaker 4

Yeah. That's the that that's the the big piece is going to be access and coverage. The projections about 3000 people in our community losing Medicaid the best that the hospital is going to need to, to care for those patients, which, means that the expenses are still there, but the revenue is not our charity care. We have one of the the best charity care programs in the state, which I think is extremely commendable and it provides access

for our community.

00:35:04:09 - 00:35:15:19

Speaker 4

Last year, we spent \$9.2 million on it on an annualized basis. Based on August, we're going to be at \$12.5 million this year, which is a quite substantial growth. And that's prior to the impact. Know,

00:35:15:19 - 00:35:30:21

Speaker 4

yeah. I mean, this is this is going to be, I think, charity care and in bad debt forgiveness, it's going to be a, an issue that the board is going to have to figure out how to address if funding becomes tight, because that is a critical piece of how we drive access for our community.

00:35:30:27 - 00:35:33:17

Speaker 3

You know? Okay. Okay. So your.

00:35:33:17 - 00:35:51:00

Speaker 5

Question. Yeah. Since, currently property tax for some people in Jefferson County provides about \$500,000 per year, of revenue, which is less than one day operation of the hospital district.

00:35:51:00 - 00:35:53:05

Speaker 5

Would you be in favor of,

00:35:53:05 - 00:35:55:16

Speaker 5

considering raising the,

00:35:55:16 - 00:35:57:17

Speaker 5

levy? When,

00:35:57:17 - 00:36:06:15

Speaker 5

in order to provide an additional, perhaps \$3 million to help cover some of the required, charity costs.

00:36:06:18 - 00:36:17:06

Speaker 5

Currently, I pay per year for my property taxes, \$48 a year in order to have access to a full service, 24 seven emergency room.

00:36:17:08 - 00:36:22:20

Speaker 4

Yeah. So I would say I generally am not in favor of raising taxes.

00:36:22:20 - 00:36:32:21

Speaker 4

All of that being said, so our tax revenue last year was \$530,000. We're the second lowest

taxing district, public hospital district in the state of Washington.

00:36:32:23 - 00:36:34:15

Speaker 1

Yeah, well, well below.

00:36:34:15 - 00:36:52:28

Speaker 4

All of our peers. I'm not in favor of raising taxes for, construction projects and things like that. I see charity care as being one of the areas where, if that's the only way that we can fill that gap to continue access to our community, then that's probably a conversation that's worth having.

00:36:52:28 - 00:36:53:14

Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:36:53:14 - 00:37:06:03

Speaker 1

Well, I mean, we often say we only get \$500,000 a year of tax money, but 70% of our patients are Medicare, Medicaid, which is all tax funded. So, you know, I,

00:37:06:03 - 00:37:07:14

Speaker 1

I mean, I'm open to,

00:37:07:14 - 00:37:21:06

Speaker 1

I'm open. If the board wants to discuss changing the tax basis, I would be open to discuss that. But I think our the big picture is that our entire health care system is, an inefficient bureaucratic mess.

00:37:21:06 - 00:37:29:05

Speaker 1

And that's why I favor, you know, big reform such as single payer health care, so that we just we can streamline and, as a nation,

00:37:29:05 - 00:37:34:03

Speaker 1

our health care costs, and we can make a little bit more sense. And I'd also be really open to some.

00:37:34:03 - 00:37:35:13

Speaker 3

Sort of regional.

00:37:35:15 - 00:37:45:07

Speaker 1

Single payer, health care solution. If we could get it together and accomplish that. But those, those kind of reforms and goals are seen by far away.

00:37:45:10 - 00:37:47:00

Speaker 3

With our the way our.

00:37:47:03 - 00:37:49:02

Speaker 1

Our current legislators work together.

00:37:49:02 - 00:37:52:02

Speaker 3

Thank you. Other questions

00:37:52:02 - 00:37:54:13

Speaker 3

from other folks? Yes, sir.

00:37:54:16 - 00:38:01:08

Speaker 5

Well, I keep on rephrasing this question in my head. I initially came in wondering about,

00:38:01:08 - 00:38:28:10

Speaker 5

coziness with the CEO and what it means when a candidate for the boards. Why was the chief financial officer? So that was a concern of mine. But as I've sat here, I keep on hearing we've, And I say specifically to you still, you keep on talking about we as though you're a part of the hospital and you're already on the board.

00:38:28:13 - 00:38:33:26

Speaker 5

And that makes me really uncomfortable in terms of some kind of critical distance.

00:38:33:26 - 00:38:43:12

Speaker 5

Also, there seems to be exceptions that somehow that there's this fact that somehow matching no.

00:38:43:12 - 00:38:59:04

Speaker 5

And I'm saying this to both of you, that the seven and five wasn't really what people conceive. So therefore Matt was, obviously left out of the discussion. That's the only way I can make sense of this.

00:38:59:07 - 00:39:17:21

Speaker 5

So then the question is, was Matt left out of the discussion because he was a whistleblower? And if so, are we kind of experiencing the community shunning? So all of these questions are going on in my head, and I would appreciate if both of you would address them.

00:39:17:23 - 00:39:20:06

Speaker 3

Yeah. It sounds like you have two questions.

00:39:20:09 - 00:39:20:26

Speaker 5

Well, yes.

00:39:20:26 - 00:39:23:03

Speaker 3

One, we've already talked about

00:39:23:03 - 00:39:26:28

Speaker 3

which is the the, the super majority issue.

00:39:27:01 - 00:39:31:17

Speaker 5

Well, except I don't feel satisfied by the answer obviously. So I'm asking a lot of

00:39:31:17 - 00:39:58:12

Speaker 5

it. It's not because of a lack of intelligence. It's because I don't hear an answer that sorry, what I hear is an answer that is coming from people who are on the board who are, of course, going to defend their position. Right. So if could I have addressed the ones that I just I don't think that's a fair question for Stuart because he is not on the board and he doesn't know what happened.

00:39:58:15 - 00:40:24:04

Speaker 5

I think your question is a fair question for those of us who are currently on the board, but that's really not what this forum is for. This forum is for you to try to make a decision as to which one would be the better candidate. So I think your first question is appropriate. Your second question is one that you should take to the current board so that you can

hear from Bruce.

00:40:24:06 - 00:40:46:04

Speaker 5

This my wrestler, myself and Jill Bueller because we're the ones who have the disagreement with Matthew in terms of what happened and how it happened. And I'd be happy to talk to you afterwards about that to help you facilitate an answer to your question. But I think for the purposes of this forum, your first question is appropriate.

00:40:46:04 - 00:40:48:12

Speaker 3

But not the second we get to the first question.

00:40:48:18 - 00:41:07:12

Speaker 5

Well, I, I excuse me, but it seems to be totally outrageous that a member of the hospital board would now tell me what is appropriate and not appropriate to ask for candidates. That's ridiculous. I agree, that is patently ridiculous.

00:41:07:12 - 00:41:11:19

Speaker 3

What you're asking and what you're saying. Can we just take the first question?

00:41:11:19 - 00:41:16:24

Speaker 3

Yes. You remember what it was? Yeah. Yeah. What I'm saying this. Yeah. Yeah. No. This way.

00:41:17:00 - 00:41:39:11

Speaker 4

Yeah. No, I think that's that's a fair question. It's a good observation. And it's not something I probably need to watch in my delivery. I, I, I've been obviously around Jefferson Health Care and it's important to my family. And I feel that I got it deeply vested interest in the health. I also am running for the position to be on the board, and I very much see myself acting in that role.

00:41:39:11 - 00:41:43:01

Speaker 4

Not yet, but to come. And so,

00:41:43:01 - 00:41:47:00

Speaker 4

yeah. And your point is well taken. I don't want to give, the,

00:41:47:00 - 00:42:05:08

Speaker 4

the appearance of coziness because that's not there. Yeah. And, I could say that I've got a, you know, I know the executive team. I don't have a deep relationship with them. My wife's, experience in relationship is not my own.

00:42:05:11 - 00:42:20:14

Speaker 4

And she's also been gone for five years, and, and chose to make a career decision to go somewhere else. So I think it's I think it's a keen observation. I think it's a good point. I think it's something that I need to be mindful of. And I appreciate you raising it today.

00:42:20:14 - 00:42:23:10

Speaker 3

Is there another different kind of question?

00:42:23:12 - 00:42:24:11

Speaker 2

So it's not.

00:42:24:13 - 00:42:26:16

Speaker 5

What I actually I'm so happy.

00:42:26:19 - 00:42:34:04

Speaker 4

I'm happy. I'm happy to address the second one. Go for a second. What my what my question was is not assuming that

00:42:34:04 - 00:42:55:11

Speaker 4

my question was is why Matt continues to address the five and seven member board when and not in the beginning, but now where the board has come out and the leader with, an editorial addressing it and at the last two board meetings has addressed it.

00:42:55:14 - 00:43:24:14

Speaker 4

I'm I'm approaching this as a public, you're not as it's not a member of the public. My my information is limited to what everybody else is here. But I do attend the board meetings, and, and I read the letter, and I read everything that comes out, and and so that's what my my question was around is why the messaging continued when it appears from my perspective that the board has addressed this issue head on multiple times.

00:43:24:17 - 00:43:40:06

Speaker 4

That's what that's where I was going. You and I, I don't know what happened at the board level. I don't know what, what Matt was, participant in it or not. And I don't want to make any assumptions there. So I just want to clarify from my perspective around my question.

00:43:40:08 - 00:43:47:14

Speaker 3

Okay. We were almost done in here. You have something with, Matt that you can add quickly to that. We have one more question after this.

00:43:47:20 - 00:44:08:11

Speaker 1

So when I blew the whistle, I was based on what information I was given, which was a document that's at seven and five and that no indication of any other decision making process, the fact that they've come out saying they had some backroom discussions where they modified it just like meaningless to me. I didn't have that information, I wasn't involved.

00:44:08:14 - 00:44:11:22

Speaker 1

What validity could those backroom discussions have had? They weren't

00:44:11:22 - 00:44:14:10

Speaker 1

we didn't agree on what we weren't told them. So anyways,

00:44:14:10 - 00:44:17:08

Speaker 1

and that's Okay. So thank you for your questions. I agree they were.

00:44:17:08 - 00:44:17:13

Speaker 3

There.

00:44:17:17 - 00:44:22:04

Speaker 5

But I'm allowed to make one comment. No no no.

00:44:22:06 - 00:44:23:03

Speaker 3

No no

00:44:23:03 - 00:44:32:20

Speaker 3

questions. Bruce. Yeah, my question is, is it ever okay to disclose confidential information to the public?

00:44:32:22 - 00:44:56:05

Speaker 1

Absolutely. If there is illegal action taken in, executive session, your oath is to the Constitution. Who is not to, obey the executive session rules, regardless of whether wrongdoing occurs. There. I was put in a position of either participate in what? It seemed like a fraud deceiving the public in obey executive session rules, or break executive session rules.

00:44:56:05 - 00:44:59:26

Speaker 1

And I had to search my heart to see what was the right thing to do.

00:44:59:28 - 00:45:01:18

Speaker 3

Steve, what's your answer to that?

00:45:01:20 - 00:45:29:07

Speaker 4

Yeah, I mean, I think there's times that are appropriate, but, I would want to if, if I were, if I was given confidential information in an executive session, I would want to make, darn sure that I knew that the, the executive session was invalid. And then what I would probably do is go to, we have a legal we I should say we the board has,

00:45:29:07 - 00:45:36:23

Speaker 4

that's available to them of attorneys and, through the state, and they weigh in on matters like this.

00:45:36:25 - 00:45:54:15

Speaker 4

And I think that that would be the next logical step before going forward would be to determine whether it was appropriate to bring forward, that confidential information and, and how, what the implications of doing so from an executive session, because executive session is still executive session.

00:45:54:17 - 00:45:56:29

Speaker 3

Labor attorneys do disagree on.

00:45:57:02 - 00:45:58:03

Speaker 1

The when it crosses from.

00:45:58:03 - 00:46:07:13

Speaker 4

What they do. But that's where I think half of the, the, the information you're going to get from the state. And I forget the acronym. It's like I'm Chris.

00:46:07:15 - 00:46:08:06

Speaker 5

Morris and.

00:46:08:13 - 00:46:11:28

Speaker 4

I see it. Yeah. Thank you. You know, they work with with.

00:46:11:28 - 00:46:13:13

Speaker 3

The,

00:46:13:16 - 00:46:21:19

Speaker 4

They work with the state and are probably some of the best attorneys in tune with, the issues. And it's probably more appropriate to go there than to announce that you're doing

00:46:21:19 - 00:46:22:26

Speaker 4

okay.

00:46:22:28 - 00:46:23:18

Speaker 3

Thank you

00:46:23:18 - 00:46:27:12

Speaker 3

to the two of you for your time and for coming today. That's it.

00:46:27:12 - 00:46:28:01

Speaker 3

Oh.

00:46:28:03 - 00:46:36:11

Speaker 3

Really? In the morning, we start. So, yeah, we didn't start like we have regular. We definitely have something for.

00:46:36:13 - 00:46:41:28

Speaker 5

Those people who bought raffle tickets. Stick around. Who's the mascot? Oh.

League of Womens Voters Debate

00:46:42:00 - 00:46:48:19

Speaker 2

Good evening, and welcome to tonight's League of Women Voters candidates forum.

00:46:48:19 - 00:47:09:11

Speaker 2

Tonight, we are featuring the two general election candidates for East Jefferson County Hospital District Commissioner position three. They are Stu Kerber and Matt Ready. My name is Shelley Reese Randall. I'm a member of the Jefferson County League of Women Voters. And it's my pleasure to be your moderator tonight.

00:47:09:11 - 00:47:28:16

Speaker 2

This is a 60 minute live online and on the air forum through our media partner, Kcpt 91.9 FM. And joining me are the two candidates for the position three commissioner seat, incumbent Matt Ready and challenger Stu Kerber.

00:47:28:16 - 00:47:42:21

Speaker 2

Now, before we dive in to the questions that have been submitted, a little bit about this position, and this is from the voter website, run by the National League of Women Voters Education Fund, which you may visit, vote for 11 talk.

00:47:42:21 - 00:48:02:06

Speaker 2

So in our state public hospital, district commissioners are responsible for the policies and quality of care provided at public hospitals. The Commission sets the general policies of the district, which are implemented by the hired professional district administrator and hospital medical staff and personnel.

00:48:02:06 - 00:48:11:07

Speaker 2

The commissioners set for a six year term and do not receive a salary, but get reimbursements for their time in meetings and health insurance.

00:48:11:10 - 00:48:15:14

Speaker 2

All voters in a public hospital district vote for all seats.

00:48:15:14 - 00:48:35:20

Speaker 2

So here in Jefferson County, Jefferson Health Care is our public hospital. Mike Glenn is our hired administrator. And there are five total members of our hospital commission. I wanted to just share those names so that you can put this in context. The current sitting

commissioners are Marie Dressler, case cough and Bruce McComas.

00:48:35:22 - 00:48:51:29

Speaker 2

So there are two positions open this cycle. Longtime commissioner Jill Buehler is stepping down. So position five will be on your ballot. But Patty Rodin I hope I pronounced that right is running unopposed. So we do not have her in a forum

00:48:51:29 - 00:48:58:23

Speaker 2

again tonight I am joined by the two candidates running for position three, Stu Kerber and Not Ready.

00:48:58:26 - 00:49:01:15

Speaker 2

And thank you both for being with us tonight.

00:49:01:15 - 00:49:25:02

Speaker 2

All right then, this forum, just to give you some background of where we're at, it's a collaboration of the League of Women Voters, Jefferson County and Kcpt 91.9 Port Townsend Community Radio. We're excited to report that a video recording recording of this forum will be available in a few days on the league's website and on our YouTube channel, so go follow us there.

00:49:25:02 - 00:49:49:28

Speaker 2

Those of you who are listening live on the radio who would like to watch the candidates in

action, you can find the zoom link to join and see the pictures on our website. And that is L
pouvoir.org for League of Women Voters washington.org backlash Jefferson. And for
those of you on the zoom. If you have any technical difficulties, you can tune into the
audio at 91.9 FM or streaming on kcpt.org.

00:49:50:00 - 00:49:56:13

Speaker 2

Voting is absolutely the cornerstone of our democracy, and we appreciate the time that
you are taking to listen tonight.

00:49:56:13 - 00:50:08:01

Speaker 2

If you are interested in closed captioning and you're on the zoom, you will see a button or
box at the lower part of your screen with the letters CC on it, and you can click to see the
captions that zoom generates live.

00:50:08:03 - 00:50:10:22

Speaker 2

No guarantees as to their absolute accuracy, though.

00:50:10:22 - 00:50:19:17

Speaker 2

So without further ado, we want to get into questions for our candidates tonight, because
this is really a chance for, voters to get to know them.

00:50:19:17 - 00:50:30:10

Speaker 2

Over the past month, the local league has solicited, and received many thoughtful

questions from our community. So the questions you hear tonight are your questions.

00:50:30:14 - 00:50:32:24

Speaker 2

We thank everyone who took the time to submit them.

00:50:32:24 - 00:50:51:01

Speaker 2

We have done some checking of the questions against the job responsibility to make sure we're asking questions that do relate to the job. And in the cases where multiple people submitted similar questions, we have done our best to combine them in a way that allows us to cover, as many questions as we can on a wide range of topics.

00:50:51:08 - 00:51:06:07

Speaker 2

We'll try to get through as many of them as we can this evening. Please note that we are unable to take live questions from the audience during this forum, and the candidates did not receive these questions in advance, so they are also answering on the spot. Live.

00:51:06:07 - 00:51:13:04

Speaker 2

Before we began this forum, we made sure all the candidates were able to see our two minute timer and we'd now like to put that to use.

00:51:13:06 - 00:51:34:23

Speaker 2

So each candidate will give a two minute opening statement. And after that we will move to the question period. And at the end of the forum, each candidate will give a two minute

closing statement. We drew names to see who will go first and candidate ready was drawn. So candidate ready you will go first with your opening statement.

00:51:34:23 - 00:51:35:13

Speaker 2

Go ahead.

00:51:35:15 - 00:51:58:24

Speaker 1

Thank you. Well, 12 years ago I ran for hospital commissioner to fight for health care access for all. And as commissioner, I've kept my focus on our mission, which is the health of our community. I've advocated for the district to learn about and helped push for universal health care. Both creative regional solutions and the ultimate solution of a federal single payer system.

00:51:58:26 - 00:52:15:08

Speaker 1

I've strived to listen and learn from both patients and employees about their experiences. I've. I've pushed the district to maintain the most generous charity care policy in the state. I'm very proud of. And of course, I've been a staunch advocate for transparency

00:52:15:08 - 00:52:28:02

Speaker 1

today at Jefferson Health Care. Board meetings are audio recorded only because I have fought for that level of transparency so that the public and commissioners can use the truth of our words as a foundation to build on.

00:52:28:02 - 00:52:50:18

Speaker 1

I blew the whistle on the secret negotiations with the Olympic Medical Center to form a private, nonprofit corporation called the Peninsula Health Alliance, a plan illegally concealed from the public under the real estate exemption of the Open Public Meetings Act and unfortunately, illegally approved by the other commissioners in a secret straw poll outside a public meeting,

00:52:50:18 - 00:53:02:12

Speaker 1

the Jefferson County Sheriff Sheriff's Office investigated this and found the board likely violated the law and that the evidence leans towards unauthorized board actions and suppression of transparency.

00:53:02:12 - 00:53:08:04

Speaker 1

The secret plan should never have been hidden from you. This is not how a public institution should operate.

00:53:08:04 - 00:53:26:17

Speaker 1

The difference between myself and the other commissioners is not our values as they relate to high quality health care or sound financial management. The difference is in our attitude towards the transparency and democratic oversight of a public institution. It's about the principle that a public hospital is not a private corporation.

00:53:26:24 - 00:53:31:00

Speaker 1

The people, not lawyers or CEOs, decide what happens. Thank you.

00:53:31:00 - 00:53:36:17

Speaker 2

Thank you very much. Now we will hear an opening statement from Commission candidate Herbert.

00:53:36:17 - 00:53:52:14

Speaker 4

Hey, my name is Drew Kerber, and I'm really excited to be running for hospital commissioner. I care deeply about our community. And as a father here, raising two young boys along with my wife in Port Ludlow. I'm deeply invested in our community's future.

00:53:52:14 - 00:54:03:00

Speaker 4

And through having kids and three generations of family that, live around me, I really come to appreciate, how critical our hospital is.

00:54:03:00 - 00:54:29:18

Speaker 4

And our hospital district, both for our health, and as well as, our access to care with my kids both in school. Now, I have additional capacity to get more involved and truly be of service. And I have a skill set that I believe really complements the existing skills of board members. My professional background is in finance, commercial banking and solving organizational challenges.

00:54:29:18 - 00:54:36:15

Speaker 4

But ultimately, I've been successful professionally because I build relationships and I solve problems.

00:54:36:15 - 00:54:47:21

Speaker 4

My goals, if elected, are to ensure Jefferson Healthcare remains financially sound, but also secular and independent. I want to continue to solve barriers of access for care in our community,

00:54:47:21 - 00:54:59:17

Speaker 4

and I want to ensure that Jefferson Health Care remains the best place to practice medicine in the region, because we're going to need it to ensure that we can hire and recruit the talent we need and retain the talent that we have.

00:54:59:19 - 00:55:06:24

Speaker 4

Lastly, I prioritizing increasing both transparency and professionalism at the board.

00:55:06:24 - 00:55:25:00

Speaker 4

I believe that the coming decade for health care is going to look very different than the previous decade, and I'm really excited to be involved in what I can see as the opportunity to truly level up the board in the board's performance and ensure that our hospital remains an anchor of our community while driving care and access for all.

00:55:25:02 - 00:55:25:18

Speaker 4

Thank you.

00:55:25:18 - 00:55:52:28

Speaker 2

All right. Thank you both. So we'll turn to the questions here. And ultimately who answers first. So, we'll have candidate Kerber answer this first question first. I'm going to ask you both just to elaborate a bit more on your agenda for getting elected. For sitting on the on the five member commission, of course, where you are only one voice in five and you each shared a little bit about why you are running in your opening statements.

00:55:52:28 - 00:56:06:26

Speaker 2

Thanks. So much, but I think I'd like to have you explore a bit more about that and take two more minutes to just tell us a bit more about what you would hope to accomplish in a six year term. Starting in 2026 if elected. So candidate Kerber, go ahead.

00:56:06:28 - 00:56:11:27

Speaker 4

Yeah. I, so what I hope to accomplish and what I'm running on.

00:56:11:27 - 00:56:33:15

Speaker 4

So I talked about my goals and what do I want to achieve. And obviously the first is to have Jefferson health Care remain financially sound and, and secular and independent. I believe that that financial strength is critical not only for ensuring our hospital is here in the future, but to allow the risks that drives creativity and access to care in our community.

00:56:33:17 - 00:56:55:23

Speaker 4

I want to continue to solve barriers to access and not just for, for our whole community, but also for, focused on our, our young families, which provide a vibrancy for our

community and our aging adults, which, deserve the ability to age in place with grace and to enjoy the benefits of what they've built in our community.

00:56:55:23 - 00:56:56:09

Speaker 4

I

00:56:56:09 - 00:57:14:10

Speaker 4

stated that I want Jefferson Health Care to remain the best place to practice medicine in the region. And and I talked a little bit about that, but we need to ensure that because hiring here is a challenge, we're never going to be able to pay the top wage. And so we need to culturally have an environment that is attractive to caregivers.

00:57:14:12 - 00:57:46:12

Speaker 4

Because without them, we don't have access to care. And lastly, I talked about priorities, prioritizing transparency and professionalism at the board. I believe that the board is, it has the opportunity to I talked about it leveling up. I also believe that high performing organizations require high performing boards, and that leadership starts at the top. I also believe that healthy boards have disagreement, but that disagreement needs to be handled and resolved in a professional manner, and it doesn't drag the staff.

00:57:46:12 - 00:57:48:18

Speaker 4

The hospital or the hospital district.

00:57:50:29 - 00:57:59:21

Speaker 4

It doesn't talk about them disparagingly out in public. So if I can accomplish those things in my term, I would say that I would be successful as my role and a commissioner.

00:57:59:21 - 00:58:02:09

Speaker 2

Thank you. Candidate ready?

00:58:02:09 - 00:58:03:19

Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:58:03:19 - 00:58:04:08

Speaker 1

I mean,

00:58:04:08 - 00:58:29:22

Speaker 1

my goal is to have a board that has integrity and leads with open, you know, honest, collaborative dialog. Does it you know, its primary job is to oversee the CEO. That's our that's our the one employee that we are directly responsible for overseeing and managing. So it's our job to to do that in a responsible, professional way.

00:58:29:25 - 00:58:55:02

Speaker 1

One of the things I've tried to push the board to do is to do a 360 evaluation of the CEO each year, which is a standard, business practice. It's a best practice. And the board and

the CEO resisted that. It's where you you gather information and feedback from people, peers surrounding the CEO, and you ask what they're doing well and what their, challenges are.

00:58:55:06 - 00:59:27:00

Speaker 1

And that's the type of information that can give the board, really good feedback to help, you know, improve management. As always, I'm an advocate for single payer health care, and I think hospital districts and hospital commissioners can be more work, harder to do to, advocate for that. And we have the Association of Public Hospital Districts and the Washington State Hospital Association, which are the primary means that hospital commissioners and districts network.

00:59:27:03 - 01:00:01:00

Speaker 1

But unfortunately, those organizations don't really allow for, hospital commissioners to suggest advocacy priorities. And so when I've gone to those organizations and tried to get them to talk about single payer health care and how we can advocate for it, there's been resistance. So I think there's more that can be done, amongst commissioners to advocate in that way and to organize and maybe to create an organization in which, hospital commissioners are empowered to come up with our advocacy priorities so that we can help this country move health care in the direction it needs to go.

01:00:01:00 - 01:00:01:24

Speaker 3

Yeah.

01:00:01:26 - 01:00:02:16

Speaker 2

Interesting.

01:00:02:16 - 01:00:21:19

Speaker 2

Well, we're going to dive into some substantive issues, but let's continue down this track of just having you tell the voters a bit more about your leadership experience and style. So candidate ready, we'll rotate and you'll go first. Just tell us a little bit more about your experience, both on and off of the commission.

01:00:21:19 - 01:00:27:05

Speaker 2

Since you're an incumbent and kind of what voters might expect, as your leadership style.

01:00:27:07 - 01:00:55:15

Speaker 1

Well, I mean, my main style is to. Listen, I'm a, I'm a group facilitator, and I was an organizer during the occupy Wall Street movement, and I helped organize Occupy Port Townsend, where I facilitated massive groups of very diverse groups, using consensus facilitation. I've been a volleyball coach. I was which is, you know, a high school volleyball coach, which is a challenging endeavor in itself.

01:00:55:18 - 01:01:17:05

Speaker 1

I've, when I worked at the hospital, I started in the IT department, and I worked there for, some eight years. And then I was for a brief time, the director of the IT department, and, which was very challenging, and I, I'm incredibly, impressed with the work directors do to manage employees.

01:01:17:05 - 01:01:24:21

Speaker 1

And so then in the last 11 years, I've been a commissioner, which has been an incredibly eye opening experience.

01:01:24:23 - 01:01:44:25

Speaker 1

And, I have learned so much about how public hospital districts fit into the picture, how, how public hospital commissioners, interface with elected, with legislators and, and of course, the intricacies of how a board works.

01:01:44:25 - 01:01:52:20

Speaker 1

So, yeah, I mean, my, my style is to listen and to ask questions and to not be afraid to ask questions.

01:01:52:20 - 01:01:57:19

Speaker 1

If I don't understand something, and to strive to be,

01:01:57:19 - 01:02:04:27

Speaker 1

honest and clear about, what I think we should do and to listen to alternate ideas.

01:02:04:27 - 01:02:07:24

Speaker 1

Yeah. I mean, I think that's basically what I have to say about that.

01:02:07:26 - 01:02:12:08

Speaker 2

Thank you, candidate Kerber. Your leadership experience and style.

01:02:12:10 - 01:02:38:18

Speaker 4

Yeah, I would say so. As far as my my leadership style, I would say it's one of collaboration and of building relationships. My, experience is largely from my professional, world. And I have a strong background in finance. Sure, but, ultimately, what I do and what I've done well is that I build relationships and I connect people.

01:02:38:20 - 01:02:47:28

Speaker 4

And as we face challenging times, that is one of the ways that we solve problems is through having really strong relationships and then applying creativity.

01:02:47:28 - 01:03:01:04

Speaker 4

I would say that I also listen, but I listen to find ways to solve problems and to do so in a way that benefits all stakeholders, that are, that are there.

01:03:01:07 - 01:03:09:16

Speaker 4

And I, I think that that's a, that's a unique characteristic in something, that a strong attribute of my leadership style.

01:03:09:16 - 01:03:22:11

Speaker 4

I also believe that, I've done a lot of work leading teams, and professionally. And, and when you lead a team, I like to lead a team from the front. I don't think that it's.

01:03:22:11 - 01:03:40:14

Speaker 4

You can ask other people to do the work that you are unwilling to do. But essentially, I would say it's my my leadership style is collaborative. It's building relationships. It's listening for ways to solve problems. And it's really leading by being out in front and leading through example.

01:03:40:14 - 01:04:12:10

Speaker 2

Thank you. Yeah, it's sometimes difficult to be so self-aware, but I appreciate both of you tackling that. I'd like to ask, our timer for a one minute timer. And before we dive into the community questions, I'd like for you each to just take a minute and starting with candidate Kerber, tell us, you, as you have been campaigning and out with your meet and greets and door belling or, you know, people coming up to you in the food co-op, what what sort of things are you hearing that our community feels are the most pressing issues facing our hospital district?

01:04:12:12 - 01:04:21:13

Speaker 2

So I'd really just like to kind of get a reflection as to what you're hearing from the community. And and you know what what you're willing to take forth, as a, as a commissioner

01:04:21:13 - 01:04:22:21

Speaker 2

candidate. Kerber.

01:04:22:23 - 01:05:08:27

Speaker 4

Yeah, I would say that there's a lot of concern over the, changes in the financial landscape, know, for hospitals and what health care landscape looks like going forward with decreasing reimbursements, increasing regulation and increasing expenses. And I think that that's one that the hospital is well situated to navigate but presents significant headwinds. I also think that the so one of the other themes that I've heard a lot is that, people really want to see a, a, increase in the performance of the board and both, through transparency, which, in a way that we can that the board can deliver information to the community in a digestible manner.

01:05:08:29 - 01:05:15:27

Speaker 4

And, really to help drive public engagement with the board. And I think that those are both critical areas for the board to focus on.

01:05:15:27 - 01:05:21:22

Speaker 2

All right. Thanks. And candidate ready, your response to what you're hearing from the community?

01:05:21:24 - 01:05:41:08

Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, I mean, the number one is concern about the the big federal, financial health care bill that is going to cut funding for, public hospitals and Medicaid and other services. So there's a lot of concern about that and a lot of questions of what creative solutions we can come up with, to deal with that.

01:05:41:11 - 01:06:11:17

Speaker 1

There's there's definitely, big concern about staying secular and not becoming, controlled by, religious organization. A lot of talk about the Peninsula Health Alliance, situation, a lot of confusion about that, about what happened. And, so a lot of questions about that, concern about being able to get into, specialty services and how can we, you know, increase access.

01:06:11:19 - 01:06:21:24

Speaker 1

And, definitely I get a lot of questions about my relationship with the other commissioners, and the CEO and, you know, I've talked about that a lot. Those are the things I've come up.

01:06:21:24 - 01:06:52:24

Speaker 2

Yeah. Sounds good. All right, well, with that groundwork, we have received questions from our, our submitters on all those topics. I think we'll stay high level with the federal funding changes. And so, let's see. Candidate ready. We'll answer this one first. Just give us some high level thoughts on how our hospital district may be needing to handle the loss of revenue caused by reduced Medicaid payments and other federal funding changes.

01:06:52:26 - 01:06:55:29

Speaker 2

What do you know about that, and what are some thoughts you can share with the voters?

01:06:55:29 - 01:07:12:21

Speaker 1

Yeah, we are going to if nothing changes, if the law stays exactly the way it is, then we are immediately going to be impacted by losing, probably at least \$250,000 a year just from

Snap, funding being cut.

01:07:12:21 - 01:07:14:08

Speaker 1

And then there's going to be,

01:07:14:08 - 01:07:34:13

Speaker 1

thousands of people cut off of, Medicaid in our county. And this is going to lead to potentially an additional 2 to \$3 million of, charity care and bad debt that the organization's going to have to provide in addition to the \$11 million of charity care and bad that we already have.

01:07:34:15 - 01:07:57:27

Speaker 1

And it's going to complicate things. It's going to increase, the number of difficult to discharge patients that we have. So it is it is a it's a challenging situation. I am I'm hoping and hopeful that things can be corrected. A little bit, that I'm hoping there can be changes before these big financial hits.

01:07:58:00 - 01:08:08:21

Speaker 1

Get us in there about a year out from now. There's also a, a rural health fund, was created that potentially we might.

10/22/2025 JHC Commissioners vote to Censure Commissioner Matt Ready for violating the board policy of defying the board majority

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2

RESOLUTION 2025 -26

A RESOLUTION OF CENSURE BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COMMISSIONER MATT READY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Commissioner Matt Ready is in violation of the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board Book; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Commissioner Ready has wrongly accused CEO Mike Glenn of illegal action regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal despite the following rule contained in our Board Book bylaws which states:

“The Board retains ultimate responsibility for all actions and operations of the District, but grants all operational authority, per RCW 70.44.080, to the Board-appointed Hospital District Superintendent, also known as Administrator or Chief Executive Officer, hereafter referred to as the ‘CEO.’”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Commissioner Ready claims that it was illegal for Commissioners Bruce McComas and Jill Buhler Rienstra to participate in crafting the Peninsula Health Alliance with Mike Glenn and his leadership team, when this type of collaborative work is legal under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) if it involves a minority of the Board members; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Commissioner Ready insisted that the District’s contracted professional consultant Karma Bass and an independent attorney Oskar Rey violated the Open Public Meetings Act by performing “serial meetings” while gathering input from individual members of the board in preparation for retreats and a legal opinion, even though attorneys at the state-funded Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), and an independent attorney confirmed that those actions were legal; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Commissioner Ready filed criminal charges with both Jefferson and Clallam County sheriffs and the Washington State Attorney General’s office against the Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center boards, staff and attorneys involved in their RFP process for violations of the OPMA,

despite the declaration within the 47 violations section of OPMA RCW 42.30.120 (3), which states, “A violation of this chapter does not constitute a crime...”; and

WHEREAS, the Board Book of Jefferson County Public Hospital District #2 serves as our bylaws and has a code of conduct section specifying among other things that:

“Commissioners will support the legitimacy and authority of the final determination or action of the Board on any matter, both publicly and privately, irrespective of the individual Commissioner’s personal position on the issue.”;

and WHEREAS the Board Book also states that: “Any action taken by a commissioner found in violation of any Board or District policies may subject the offending Commissioner to Board sanctions, including, but not limited to, official censure.”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The undersigned Board of Commissioners feel obliged to and do officially censure Commissioner Matt Ready for his continued violation of the Code of Conduct specified in our Board Book

APPROVED this 22nd day of October 2025.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

Commission Chair Jill Buhler Rienstra: ___y_____

Commission Secretary Marie Dressler: ___y_____

Commissioner Bruce McComas: _____y_____

Commissioner Kees Kolff: _____y_____

Commissioner Matt Ready: _____Nay_____

10/23/2025 Matt Ready Press Release Responds to JHC Board Censure Resolution

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2025

Contact:

Matt Ready, Hospital Commissioner

 readyforhealthcare@gmail.com

 www.ReadyForHealthcare.org

Jefferson Healthcare Board Censures Whistleblower Commissioner Matt Ready

Summary for Editors:

Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner **Matt Ready** was formally censured by a 4–1 board vote Wednesday night. He contends the resolution contains multiple false statements, asserts that corporate loyalty supersedes the law, and represents retaliation for his efforts to expose violations of Washington’s **Open Public Meetings Act** and to report potential criminal conduct to authorities.

On October 22, 2025, the Jefferson County Public Hospital District #2 Board of Commissioners voted 4–1 to censure Commissioner **Matt Ready**, who cast the lone dissenting vote.

The resolution accuses Ready of violating the board’s *Code of Conduct* for publicly criticizing the board and for reporting potential violations of Washington’s **Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)** and possible criminal conduct to authorities.

Commissioner Ready responded:

“This censure isn’t about professionalism—it’s about punishing transparency. I will never agree that loyalty to the board outweighs loyalty to the people and the law.”

Background

The dispute stems from the **Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA)** proposal—a non-binding plan created by Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn and two commissioners to explore partnership with Olympic Medical Center (OMC).

The document proposed a new nonprofit governed by all 12 elected commissioners—seven from OMC and five from Jefferson Healthcare. It contained no alternate or “equal-voting” formula, giving OMC an inherent majority.

The proposal was first presented to the Jefferson board in an executive session on **February 5, 2025**, labeled under the “real-estate” exemption of the OPMA.

According to a confidential legal review by **Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC**, commissioned by Jefferson Healthcare itself, this session violated the OPMA because it discussed matters unrelated to real estate. An independent attorney, **Austin Hatcher**, reached the same conclusion.

Ready further contends the board conducted an **illegal straw poll** during the February 5 executive session, effectively approving the submission of the proposal to OMC outside a lawful public meeting.

He also alleges that the **CEO and several commissioners made false or misleading statements to the public** regarding the proposal in an effort to conceal its existence—actions he reported to law enforcement as **possible acts of fraud**.

Ready's Position

“The district’s own lawyers confirmed the February 5 meeting violated the Open Public Meetings Act,” Ready said.

“Rather than conduct a professional root-cause analysis and correct course, the majority has chosen to censure the one commissioner who insisted on following the law.”

Ready denies claims in the resolution that he attempted to file OPMA violations as criminal charges. He clarifies that his reports to the Jefferson and Clallam County sheriffs alleged potential **fraud and official misconduct by leadership—not staff**—and that **reporting potential criminal acts is part of a commissioner’s oath of office**.

He adds that denying the existence of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and claiming the February 5 executive session concerned real estate were false statements that warranted investigation as **possible criminal fraud, a felony**.

Also, approving or advancing the proposal during executive session constituted **unauthorized board action** and potentially **official misconduct, a gross misdemeanor under state law**.

Code of Conduct Questioned

The censure cites a Jefferson Healthcare policy requiring commissioners to “support the legitimacy and authority” of all board actions, even when they disagree.

Ready calls that interpretation unethical and unconstitutional:

“No public official is obligated to support the legitimacy of an illegal act.

My oath of office to defend the Constitution supersedes any corporate policy.

The people of Washington did not give public servants the right to decide what’s good for them to know and what isn’t. The Open Public Meetings Act exists to stop exactly this kind of secrecy.”

Broader Implications

The censure follows months of public controversy since Ready revealed the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal in March 2025—prompting front-page coverage in the *Port Townsend Leader* and multiple independent legal reviews.

Ready contends the censure constitutes **retaliation against a whistleblower**, an act explicitly prohibited under Washington law.

“The board majority has spent a year denying wrongdoing instead of confronting the illegal secrecy that started all this,” Ready said.

“Tonight’s censure confirms their commitment to retaliation over transparency, learning, and genuine reform.”

Closing Statement

“I’ve tried to serve this community with honesty and transparency.

It’s surreal to watch colleagues argue that seven equals five and secrecy equals openness. The voters will soon decide whether they want a hospital board that values accountability, openness, and lawful process.

If I’m reelected, I’ll keep fighting for transparent, responsible governance.

If not, I’ll leave grateful for the chance to serve—and confident that truth eventually prevails.”

For Full Context and Public Record

Commissioner Ready maintains a full archive of **11 years of blogs, meeting videos, and public records**, including video of the **October 22, 2025 meeting** where this censure was discussed and passed, available at:

 www.ReadyForHealthcare.org

Background Links

 **Video:** *The Peninsula Health Alliance Story*
https://youtu.be/5MzIY0g1XoY?si=fqF8tA_HJ7Ud9R30

 **Video:** *Public Meeting—Jefferson Healthcare Board Discusses and Passes the Censure Resolution*
https://youtu.be/50atzlro_RQ?si=8NslPRv1sNaB9zDw

 **Document:** *Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal* ([PDF](#))

This statement reflects the views of Commissioner Matt Ready and is provided as a matter of public record and transparency.

Full Text of the Censure Resolution

(Reprinted for transparency and public access.)

10/23/2025 Commissioner Bruce McComas Comments on Commissioner Ready's Facebook Post Sharing the Peninsula Health Alliance Video Story

I'm sure this will get filtered out.

It is sad that Matt is basing his campaign on misinformation and debunked claims. Even though all but one claim were found to have no legal basis, by 3 different attorneys, he continues to spread the claims as true. If he had spent the time to learn the facts about what was being legally discussed concerning a potential healthcare alliance rather than going with his opinion, he would have known that no negotiations or commitments were being made. I guess it's easier to go with conspiracy theories than do work to get the facts and the truth.

10/23/2025 OPMA Lawsuit Filed by Arthur West

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

Arthur West,
Plaintiff,

v.

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2, d/b/a *Jefferson Healthcare*;
Jill Buhler-Rienstra, Board Chair; **Bruce MacFarlane**, Commissioner; **Kees Kolff**,
Commissioner; **Teresa Bradley**, Commissioner; **Thomas O'Brien**, Commissioner; and **Mike
Glenn**, CEO,

Defendants.

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This is an action under RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act ("OPMA"), arising from unlawful secret deliberations by Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 ("Jefferson Healthcare") and its governing board concerning creation of a private nonprofit entity known as the Peninsula Health Alliance ("PHA"), intended to merge or coordinate governance with Olympic Medical Center ("OMC").

1.2 Between February and May 2025, Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn and Board Chair Jill Buhler-Rienstra convened and facilitated multiple meetings, executive sessions, and serial communications among a quorum of commissioners without proper public notice, agenda posting, or lawful statutory exemption.

1.3 Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, statutory penalties against the governing-body members, and such further equitable remedies as may be just.

II. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

2.1 Plaintiff Arthur West is "any person" within the meaning of RCW 42.30.130, and resides in Olympia, Washington.

2.2 Defendant Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 ("Jefferson Healthcare") is a public hospital district and "public agency" under RCW 42.30.020(1)(a).

2.3 Defendants Jill Buhler-Rienstra, Kees Kolff, Bruce MacFarlane, Teresa Bradley, and Thomas O'Brien are elected commissioners and members of the governing body of

Jefferson Healthcare, subject to RCW 42.30.

2.4 Defendant Mike Glenn is the appointed Chief Executive Officer of Jefferson Healthcare. He is not a member of the governing body but is named as a non-member participant who knowingly facilitated or directed acts violating the OPMA. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief against him under RCW 42.30.050 and .060 but does not seek personal penalties under RCW 42.30.120.

2.5 Jurisdiction and venue are proper in Jefferson County Superior Court under RCW 4.12.025 and RCW 42.30.120.

III. ALLEGATIONS

3.1 On or about February 5, 2025, Jefferson Healthcare commissioners met in executive session to discuss the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal. No valid exemption under RCW 42.30.110 applied, as no pending litigation, specific threatened litigation, or real-estate transaction existed.

3.2 **March 26, 2025 Board Meeting (“Project Driftwood”)** – During this meeting, Commissioner Matt Ready attempted to raise concerns regarding undisclosed negotiations with OMC. Chair Buhler-Rienstra silenced discussion and adjourned into executive session under purported “legal advice” grounds. Emails later disclosed show that drafts of the merger proposal were circulated privately among a subset of commissioners and Jefferson Healthcare’s counsel, Brad Berg.

3.3 **April 2025 Serial Meetings** – After Ready’s objections, CEO Glenn and Chair Buhler-Rienstra arranged one-on-one, unrecorded telephone meetings between consultant Karma Bass and each commissioner regarding the merger. These meetings were un-noticed, undocumented, and occurred outside public view. Such “hub-and-spoke” communications constitute unlawful serial meetings under *Wood v. Battle Ground Sch. Dist. No. 119*, 107 Wn. App. 550 (2001), and *Egan v. City of Seattle*, 173 Wn. App. 492 (2013).

3.4 **May 23, 2025 Meetings with Legal Counsel** – An executive assistant, acting under CEO Glenn’s direction, scheduled private one-hour meetings between each commissioner and attorneys from Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC concerning the alliance. These separate, sequential interviews again constituted a prohibited serial meeting.

3.5 **Non-Disclosure Agreement** – Commissioners and staff represented to the public that discussions were bound by an NDA that was never approved or voted upon by the full board. Even fellow commissioners were denied access to the document. Use of such an NDA is incompatible with the fiduciary obligations of public officers and violates the

public-access policy of RCW 42.30.010. Approval of the NDA by the Board appears to have been accomplished in violation of the OPMA.

3.6 Independent Legal Opinion – On May 23, 2025, journalist Alison Arthur obtained an opinion from attorney Michele Earl-Hubbard of Allied Law Group, confirming that no exemption under RCW 42.30.110 authorized any executive session to discuss alliances or mergers. Her conclusion:

“No, the agency absolutely cannot legally use the ‘real estate’ or ‘potential litigation’ executive-session grounds to discuss creation of this new entity... So no — they are breaking the law meeting in secret under either of those two exemptions.”

3.7 Sheriff’s Investigation – Detective Sergeant Derek Allen of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office investigated and reported:

“The actions likely violate the OPMA and may constitute official misconduct if intent is proven.”

The report was transmitted to the Jefferson and Clallam County Sheriffs, the State Auditor, and the Washington Attorney General’s Office.

3.8 Despite these findings, the board has neither rescinded the NDA nor conducted any public review of the Peninsula Health Alliance plan.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

4.1 Violation of the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30)

Defendants held one or more meetings in violation of the OPMA by:

- Conducting secret deliberations and serial meetings;
- Using false statutory exemptions;
- Approving or ratifying actions outside public session;
- Failing to provide proper notice or maintain minutes.

4.2 Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (RCW 42.30.130)

Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory judgment that these actions violated the OPMA and to injunctive relief restraining future violations.

4.3 Civil Penalties (RCW 42.30.120)

Each member of the governing body who knowingly attended a meeting where action was taken in violation of the OPMA is personally liable for a \$500 penalty for the first violation

and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation.

4.4 Attorney Fees and Costs (RCW 42.30.120(4))

As the prevailing party, plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and all costs of suit.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff Arthur West respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Declare that Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 and its board violated the Open Public Meetings Act;
 2. Enjoin defendants from further violations of RCW 42.30;
 3. Impose statutory civil penalties on the individual commissioners;
 4. Award plaintiff his costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and
 5. Grant such further equitable or legal relief as the Court deems just and proper.
-

Dated: [undated in provided copy]

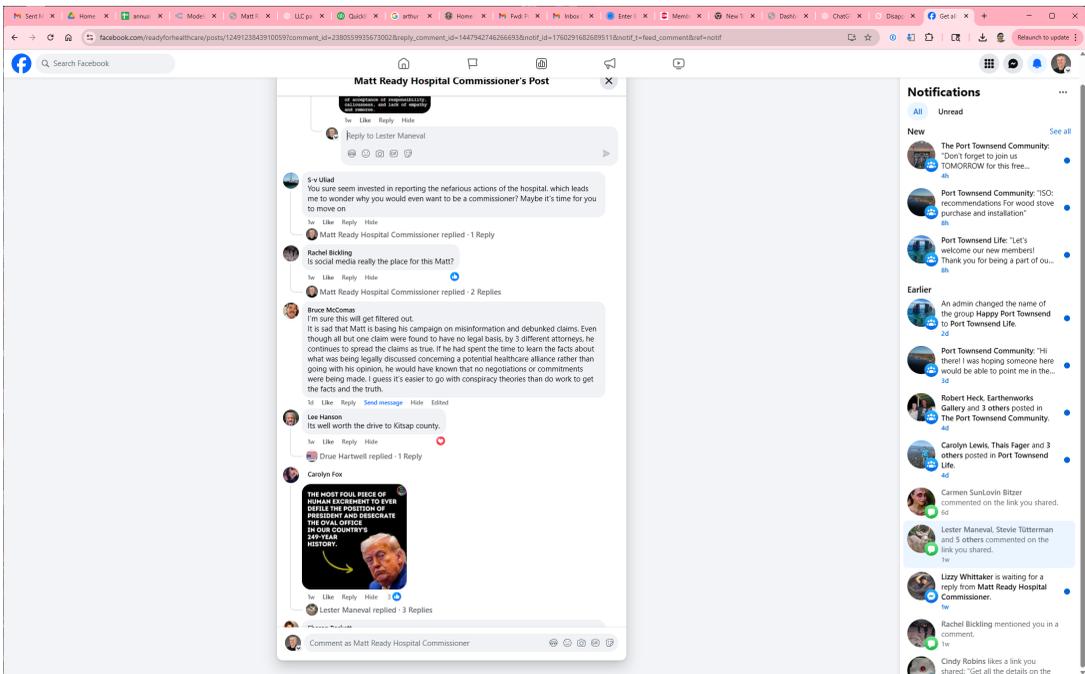
Respectfully submitted,

Arthur West

120 State Ave. NE #1497

Olympia, WA 98501

Pro Se Plaintiff



10/24/2025 Vernon Lauridsen Letter to Commissioners and PT Leader Critiquing Censure Resolution and Peninsula Health Alliance

To: Commissioners Rienstra, McComas, Dressler, and Kolff
From: Vernon Lauridsen, 141 Pine Dr, Port Townsend, WA 98368
Re: Open Public Meetings

As a member of the public—and more particularly, a patient of Jefferson Healthcare—I think we deserve better. You are commissioners of a public entity. You took an oath swearing to adhere to the laws of Washington State. Certainly now the facts and law are clear. Are you so full of hubris and vindictiveness that you will not simply acknowledge your mistakes? Rather, your response is to attack the messenger. Censure him. Really, in this day and age?

The Open Public Meetings Act declares:

“Public agencies... exist to aid in the conduct of the people’s business. It is the intent of this chapter that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.”

“The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed and informing the people’s public servants of their views so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.”

(RCW 42.30.010)

“All meetings of the governing body of a public agency shall be open and public...” (RCW 42.30.030).

A meeting takes place when a majority of the members of a governing body gather, either in the presence of one another or electronically, with the collective intent of transacting the official business of the public agency. A series of gatherings among less than a majority of the governing body that eventually turns into a majority qualifies as a meeting.

(Open Public Meetings Act, Municipal Research and Service Center, pages 6–7, July 2024).

Importantly, every member must complete training on the requirements of the Act within 90 days of taking their oath of office and at least once every four years thereafter *(RCW 42.30.205)*. Ignorance or inadvertence is really not a viable excuse (online training is available through the MRSC). Members who attend meetings where action is taken in violation of the Act are subject to consequences. Violations, although not criminal, may result in a \$500 monetary penalty *(RCW 42.30.120)*.

But the critical consequence is that any ordinance, resolution, rule, order, or directive adopted in violation of the Act is simply null and void *(RCW 42.30.060)*.

The events described in Commissioner Kolff’s opinion piece published in the October 22nd edition of *The Leader* constitute a meeting in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. A proposal was drafted with the participation of a minority of the commissioners. The proposal was then distributed to the remaining members. Commissioner Kolff had concerns with the proposed organizational chart. He sent his own organizational chart to the entire board and CEO, which was then collectively discussed and agreed upon with the exception of one member.

You held a plainly illegal meeting in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. The non-disclosure agreement signed by your CEO did not take precedence over state law. If that were the case, state law would be meaningless. Your effort to ratify the proposal through an admittedly illegally convened executive session grounded upon a “real estate purchase” exception hardly changes the outcome.

The whole process was folly from the outset. Olympic Medical Center’s demand for a non-disclosure agreement should have been a nonstarter. You were required to violate the Act in order to participate. Censuring the one commissioner who had the good sense to object

just compounds the senselessness of the entire process. **Vernon Lauridsen**

cc: Matt Ready

Editor of *The Leader*

Readyforhealthcare.org Post: 10/24/2025

Matt Ready Blog Post on Censure and Lawsuit:

As I sit down to write this on October 24, 2025, I find myself reflecting on the events of the past few days with a heavy heart. Serving as a commissioner for Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 has been one of the great privileges of my life, but it has also brought moments of profound disappointment. The actions of my fellow commissioners, our CEO Mike Glenn, and even the commissioners at Olympic Medical Center (OMC) have culminated in a series of decisions that prioritize secrecy over openness, loyalty to internal policies over adherence to the law, and retaliation over accountability. It's disheartening to see public servants—people I respect and have worked alongside—choose paths that erode the trust our community places in us. Yet, amid this disappointment, I hold onto hope that the legal process now underway can serve as a catalyst for truth, healing, and a stronger foundation for Jefferson Healthcare and the people it serves.

Let me share the full context of what has transpired, starting with the board's decision to censure me on October 22, 2025.

The Censure Resolution: A Step Backward for Accountability

On Wednesday evening, the Jefferson Healthcare Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to pass Resolution 2025-26, officially censuring me for what they describe as violations of our Board Book's Code of Conduct. I was the sole dissenting vote. The resolution accuses me of wrongly challenging the legality of certain actions related to the Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA) proposal—a non-binding plan to explore a partnership with OMC that would have created a new nonprofit governed by all 12 elected commissioners from both districts, inherently giving OMC a majority.

Here's the full text of the resolution for transparency:

[Copy of Censure Resolution see earlier copy]

This resolution, in my view, misrepresents the facts and elevates internal policy above state law. It disappoints me deeply that my colleagues would frame my efforts to uphold transparency as a breach of conduct, especially when independent legal reviews—including one commissioned by Jefferson Healthcare itself—have confirmed violations of

the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Reporting potential misconduct isn't defiance; it's fulfilling my oath of office.

My Response: Standing Firm for Transparency

The day after the censure, on October 23, 2025, I issued a press release to address these accusations directly. I believe it's important for the community to hear my side unfiltered, so I'm including the full text here:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2025

Contact:

Matt Ready, Hospital Commissioner

readyforhealthcare@gmail.com

www.ReadyForHealthcare.org

Jefferson Healthcare Board Censures Whistleblower Commissioner Matt Ready

Summary for Editors:

Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Matt Ready was formally censured by a 4–1 board vote Wednesday night. He contends the resolution contains multiple false statements, asserts that corporate loyalty supersedes the law, and represents retaliation for his efforts to expose violations of Washington's Open Public Meetings Act and to report potential criminal conduct to authorities.

On October 22, 2025, the Jefferson County Public Hospital District #2 Board of Commissioners voted 4–1 to censure Commissioner Matt Ready, who cast the lone dissenting vote.

The resolution accuses Ready of violating the board's Code of Conduct for publicly criticizing the board and for reporting potential violations of Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and possible criminal conduct to authorities.

Commissioner Ready responded:

"This censure isn't about professionalism—it's about punishing transparency. I will never agree that loyalty to the board outweighs loyalty to the people and the law."

Background

The dispute stems from the Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA) proposal—a non-binding plan created by Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn and two commissioners to explore partnership with Olympic Medical Center (OMC).

The document proposed a new nonprofit governed by all 12 elected commissioners—seven from OMC and five from Jefferson Healthcare. It contained no alternate or “equal-voting” formula, giving OMC an inherent majority.

The proposal was first presented to the Jefferson board in an executive session on February 5, 2025, labeled under the “real-estate” exemption of the OPMA.

According to a confidential legal review by Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC, commissioned by Jefferson Healthcare itself, this session violated the OPMA because it discussed matters unrelated to real estate. An independent attorney, Austin Hatcher, reached the same conclusion.

Ready further contends the board conducted an illegal straw poll during the February 5 executive session, effectively approving the submission of the proposal to OMC outside a lawful public meeting.

He also alleges that the CEO and several commissioners made false or misleading statements to the public regarding the proposal in an effort to conceal its existence—actions he reported to law enforcement as possible acts of fraud.

Ready’s Position

“The district’s own lawyers confirmed the February 5 meeting violated the Open Public Meetings Act,” Ready said.

“Rather than conduct a professional root-cause analysis and correct course, the majority has chosen to censure the one commissioner who insisted on following the law.”

Ready denies claims in the resolution that he attempted to file OPMA violations as criminal charges. He clarifies that his reports to the Jefferson and Clallam County sheriffs alleged potential fraud and official misconduct by leadership—not staff—and that reporting potential criminal acts is part of a commissioner’s oath of office.

He adds that denying the existence of the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal and claiming the February 5 executive session concerned real estate were false statements that warranted investigation as possible criminal fraud, a felony.

Also, approving or advancing the proposal during executive session constituted unauthorized board action and potentially official misconduct, a gross misdemeanor under state law.

Code of Conduct Questioned

The censure cites a Jefferson Healthcare policy requiring commissioners to “support the legitimacy and authority” of all board actions, even when they disagree.

Ready calls that interpretation unethical and unconstitutional:

“No public official is obligated to support the legitimacy of an illegal act.

My oath of office to defend the Constitution supersedes any corporate policy. The people of Washington did not give public servants the right to decide what's good for them to know and what isn't. The Open Public Meetings Act exists to stop exactly this kind of secrecy."

Broader Implications

The censure follows months of public controversy since Ready revealed the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal in March 2025—prompting front-page coverage in the Port Townsend Leader and multiple independent legal reviews.

Ready contends the censure constitutes retaliation against a whistleblower, an act explicitly prohibited under Washington law.

"The board majority has spent a year denying wrongdoing instead of confronting the illegal secrecy that started all this," Ready said.

"Tonight's censure confirms their commitment to retaliation over transparency, learning, and genuine reform."

Closing Statement

"I've tried to serve this community with honesty and transparency.

It's surreal to watch colleagues argue that seven equals five and secrecy equals openness. The voters will soon decide whether they want a hospital board that values accountability, openness, and lawful process.

If I'm reelected, I'll keep fighting for transparent, responsible governance.

If not, I'll leave grateful for the chance to serve—and confident that truth eventually prevails."

For Full Context and Public Record

Commissioner Ready maintains a full archive of 11 years of blogs, meeting videos, and public records, including video of the October 22, 2025 meeting where this censure was discussed and passed, available at:

www.ReadyForHealthcare.org

Background Links

Video: The Peninsula Health Alliance Story

https://youtu.be/5MzIY0g1XoY?si=fqF8tA_HJ7Ud9R30

Video: Public Meeting—Jefferson Healthcare Board Discusses and Passes the Censure Resolution

https://youtu.be/50atzlro_RQ?si=8NslPRv1sNaB9zDw

Document: Peninsula Health Alliance Proposal ([PDF](#))

This statement reflects the views of Commissioner Matt Ready and is provided as a matter of public record and transparency.

Full Text of the Censure Resolution

(Reprinted for transparency and public access.)

In sharing this, I want to emphasize my disappointment—not in disagreement itself, which is healthy in any board—but in the choice to punish calls for transparency rather than address the underlying issues.

The OPMA Lawsuit: Perhaps A Necessary Step Toward Truth

Adding to this unfolding story, on October 23, 2025—the same day as my press release—community advocate Arthur West filed a lawsuit in Jefferson County Superior Court against Jefferson Healthcare, several commissioners, and CEO Mike Glenn. The complaint alleges multiple violations of the OPMA related to the handling of the PHA proposal, including unlawful executive sessions, serial meetings, and misuse of exemptions. I had no idea such a lawsuit was coming.

For the sake of completeness, here's the key content from the complaint. (Note, the lawsuit misnames some of the commissioners of Jefferson Healthcare, an oversight I am sure they will correct.): Direct link to pdf ([link](#))

Lawsuit Text Reprinted (See earlier copy)

This lawsuit echoes many of the concerns I've raised over the past months. It's disappointing that it has come to this—legal action against our own district—but it underscores how far we've strayed from the principles of open governance. The involvement of OMC commissioners in the PHA discussions without proper transparency only compounds the issue, as it affects communities across the peninsula.

Looking Forward: Hope in the Pursuit of Truth

As we navigate this challenging chapter, I remain hopeful. A legal process like this lawsuit can be cathartic, forcing us to confront uncomfortable truths through evidence and impartial review. It offers a chance for Jefferson Healthcare to rebuild on a foundation of genuine accountability, where decisions are made in the light of day, and where loyalty to the law and our community comes first. For the residents who depend on us—patients, staff, and families—this could mark the beginning of a more transparent, resilient institution.

I invite you to review the full archives on my website, www.ReadyForHealthcare.org,

including videos and documents linked in the press release. Your thoughts and feedback are always welcome; together, we can advocate for the healthcare system our community deserves.

With respect and optimism,
Matt Ready
Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner

10/29/2025 Port Townsend Leader Article: “Healthcare board censures whistleblowing commissioner”

Posted Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:00 am

By Mallory Kruml

Jefferson Healthcare’s hospital commissioners formally censured Commissioner Matt Ready, following his allegations that the board violated the state’s Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) in discussions about the proposed Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA).

The censure resolution, approved with a 4-1 vote on Oct. 22, accuses Ready of violating the board’s bylaws, filing unfounded criminal charges, falsely insisting serial meeting OPMA violations occurred and accusing CEO Mike Glenn and other commissioners of acting illegally.

Ready, who cast the lone dissenting vote, said, “if someone suspects possible criminal action, it is their civic duty, especially for an elected official that swears an oath to the Constitution, to report that, and that is what I did. This censure is essentially condemning me for following my oath of office.”

Ready blew the whistle on the proposed alliance — dubbed “Project Driftwood” — during a board meeting in March when he said, “I regretfully need to inform the public that Jefferson Healthcare is in secret negotiations with Olympic Medical Center (OMC) to create something called the Peninsula Health Alliance.”

In a later interview, he told The Leader that in February, the Jefferson Healthcare Board

was presented, in executive session, with a draft proposal for the new nonprofit.

“In a second executive session—this time with the hospital’s attorney Brad Berg—commissioners were informed of a strategy to move forward using what CEO Glenn referred to as a “binding non-binding” agreement with OMC,” Ready said. “The intent was to appear as though public input was still pending, while legally committing Jefferson Healthcare to the plan. Brad Berg confirmed this could be achieved by having the board authorize the CEO to sign a letter of intent, effectively binding the district before public engagement.”

Given what he saw, Ready alleged that members of the Jefferson Healthcare Board had violated open meeting laws, abused the use of executive sessions and suppressed public information. He presented his claims to local law enforcement and the state attorney general.

The healthcare board has admitted some fault regarding the Feb. 5 executive session, but denies Ready’s other allegations. The board blames Ready, in part, for the failure of Project Driftwood.

Board Chair Jill Buhler Rienstra when asked what she hopes the board gains from the censure said, “The board is hoping for closure on the matters included in the censure. It does not affect Commissioner Ready’s role on the Jefferson Healthcare board.”

Each commissioner commented on the censure at the meeting, with Ready taking issue with several of the claims made against him.

“The line where it says, Commissioner Ready claims it was illegal for Commissioner McCommas and Buhler to participate, I think it’s just false,” he said. “I never singled out Commissioner Buhler or McCommas for that event. I didn’t know about that event.”

He confirmed that he had accused all the commissioners of participating in “illegal deliberations and hidden approval” of the PHA.

“The lines about the filing criminal charges for OPMA violations is false on multiple accounts. I never reported Open Public Meeting Act violations as criminal acts; I reported possible criminal acts, specifically the fraudulent misrepresentation to the public and the potential official misconduct in unauthorized board action conducted in secret regarding the Peninsula Health Alliance.”

Ready continued, saying, “The conduct of hiding this proposal from the public and making false statements about it, misrepresenting it, that was fraud. That was deceptive, and doing it all together was potentially a conspiracy to commit fraud, and that is a criminal act. That’s why it was reported.”

Buhler cut Ready off at least twice, saying he was going “of on another tangent” and accusing him “repeating false statements.”

Kees Kolff, up next, called Ready’s actions “shocking and unbelievable.”

“What disturbs me most, is after working for Jefferson Healthcare for more than a decade I believe, and now on the board for almost 12 years, Commissioner Ready would possibly think that the board and the staff who work tirelessly to keep this hospital district the miraculous place it is, to think that the board, the staff and Mike Glenn, would secretly conspire to give up local control.”

Marie Dressler said it’s been a difficult time for the board.

“Any secret meetings that he has accused us of, I think, are totally a figment of his imagination,” she said. “I’ve spent a majority of my nursing career here, and as I said at the time, Mr. Ready, I take exception to your accusations because you didn’t specify and you didn’t say who had or who hadn’t, which means you’re just throwing mud on the wall and hope it sticks. And that I find absolutely reprehensible.”

Dressler described Ready’s behavior as despicable, saying, “he has certainly not served this hospital district with any glory.”

Buhler, the last to comment on the censure before the board vote, said, “I’m really sad, this is a very sad day for me, and I am sure for a lot of other people too, because a lot of people have their hearts and souls in this place. For someone to trash it like you have, the administration and the board, is, as Marie said, reprehensible.”

10/29/2025 – Port Townsend Leader Article: “Lawsuit filed against Jefferson Healthcare, commissioners, CEO”

Posted Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:00 am

By Mallory Kruml

An Olympia-based, self-proclaimed “open government advocate” has filed a lawsuit against Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2, the hospital CEO and several of its board members, alleging violations of the state’s Open Public Meetings Act.

Arthur West, the plaintiff, filed the lawsuit in Jefferson County Superior Court on Oct. 23 — the day after Matt Ready was censured by the Jefferson Healthcare Hospital Commission.

“This lawsuit echoes many of the concerns I’ve raised over the past months,” Ready wrote on his website, saying he had no prior knowledge of it. “It’s disappointing that it has come to this—legal action against our own district—but it underscores how far we’ve strayed from the principles of open governance.”

According to the filing, the lawsuit centers around hospital officials participating in “unlawful secret deliberations” to form a new regional health entity known as the Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA).

“Their whole scheme to set up a private entity seems sketchy, and if it is on the level and in the public interest, what have they got to hide?” West told The Leader.

West has filed OPMA lawsuits against several cities in Washington with varying success.

“As a person who has experience with our broken health care system I am concerned that the Jefferson County Health District appears to be seeking to privatize health care under the cover of darkness,” West said.

The suit alleges that “between February and May 2025, Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn and Board Chair Jill Buhler Rienstra convened and facilitated multiple meetings, executive sessions and serial communications among a quorum of commissioners without proper public notice, agenda posting, or lawful statutory exemption.”

West names Glenn, Rienstra, and all other board members, minus Ready, as defendants in the suit, as well as Jefferson Healthcare as a governing body.

“The filing appears to pertain to previously disclosed, reviewed and addressed issues,” Rienstra said when asked to comment on the suit. “We do not believe that there is merit to the filing or that the OPMA has been violated by the Board, and should this matter proceed further we look forward to responding in court.

West is requesting that the court declare that Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 and its commissioners violated the OPMA, and that it impose a \$500, per commissioner fine, for each violation under RCW 42.30.120, to be awarded to the plaintiff. He also requests that the court urge the defendants from conducting unauthorized meetings, serial communications or executive sessions, and to void any actions or decisions made during unlawful meetings.

11/5/2025 – Port Townsend Leader Editorial

“Citizens are served best when government operates in the open”

November 05, 2025

JAMES ROBINSON



JAMES ROBINSON

Jefferson Healthcare hospital commissioners officially reprimanded co-commissioner Matt Ready on Oct. 22, using words such as “despicable,” and “reprehensible” to describe Ready’s actions surrounding his allegations that his co-commissioners and hospital executives had abused the state’s open meeting laws while working to form a regional health alliance with Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles. They gave the alliance a codename: “Project Driftwood.”

While the commissioners — Ready excluded — remain indignant at the suggestion of any wrongdoing, others are scrutinizing the health board’s actions.

Arthur West, an Olympia-based, self-described advocate for open government filed suit in Jefferson County Superior Court on Oct. 23, alleging that health board commissioners and hospital officials participated in “unlawful secret deliberations,” during their push to form an alliance with Olympic Medical Center. We will monitor West’s suit as it makes its way through the court.

Ultimately, and beyond the court, staff with the state auditor's office will also scrutinize the board's actions over the last year during the auditor's regular, annual accountability audit. That process, scheduled to begin this fall, will produce findings that will be available to the public. We will review those findings when they are published. An accountability audit is part of open government and that's what Ready's concerns are about: elected officials making decisions behind closed doors, not in the light of day.

Closed door meetings are called executive sessions and state law is specific about how and when they can be used. Executive sessions are allowed only in limited circumstances and must be noticed in advance and in accordance with state law. Specifically, the notice must cite the statute and the statute's subsection which gives the reason that allows for the session – RCW 42.30.110 lists the reasons, in the subsections, a governing body can hold an executive session.

Since January 2025, the Jefferson Health Care board has scheduled nine executive sessions.

On Jan. 22, the Jefferson Health Care board posted an executive session, cited statute, yet omitted the reason for the session, stating the "subcategory would be announced at the beginning of the meeting."

On Feb. 5, the board convened an executive session for "real estate" matters and "potential litigation." The board later admitted to overstepping during this executive session, and in doing so, violated the state's open meetings laws.

A Feb. 19 executive session notice gave no subcategory. That meeting was cancelled.

On March 18, the board convened an executive session to "discuss with legal counsel ... the legal risks of a proposed action."

On March 26, another executive session was scheduled without a statutory subcategory. That executive session was ultimately cancelled. On April 23, an executive session was scheduled with a statutory subcategory "to be announced at the beginning of the meeting." The board then convened an executive session to "discuss the evaluation of a public employee."

On June 18, the board posted a notice for executive session to discuss "real estate."

On Sept. 24, they used "litigation" as a reason for executive session. And on Oct. 22 they used the "purchase of property" exemption.

For reporters and others charged with monitoring government's actions, a board's propensity to schedule, and enter into, executive sessions is a red flag. Vaguely worded executive session notices are another. Moreover, an attorney's presence doesn't

inherently legalize an executive session or allow a board to enter into closed door discussions. Executive sessions, attorneys present or not, must follow the protocols outlined in statute.

With the Nov. 4 election complete, we encourage the Jefferson Healthcare board to take note. Attorneys and the state auditor's office have begun their fact-finding. The board's behavior regarding Project Driftwood will be illuminated.

Sunshine laws exist for a reason. Governing bodies and boards are stewards of taxpayer dollars and are answerable to the electorate. It is easy to disparage a commissioner who won't play ball, yet it will be up to the court and the state auditor's office to determine whether the healthcare board played by the rules. We will also take note. Our recommendation for the next hospital board: Let the sunshine in.

11/12/2025 – Port Townsend Leader Article: **“Ready secures another term”**

November 12, 2025

BY MALLORY KRUML



MATT READY HOSPITAL COMMISSIONER

Despite the hospital board's recent censure, Jefferson Healthcare Commissioner Matt

Ready will serve another six-year term.

Ready received 54.17% of the vote as of Nov. 6 at 4:58 p.m.

"I was pleasantly surprised that people really took the time to look at what was being said and what was going on," Ready said. "It just made me feel sort of proud of the community, because it's a weird election and it's all revolving around a very serious controversy or scandal with massive legal implications. It was like the community was kind of playing judge and jury in a way."

The election followed months of tension on the board, prompted by Ready alerting the public of a potential alliance between Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare, dubbed "Project Driftwood," during a March board meeting. He later alleged that the board violated open meeting laws, abused executive sessions and suppressed public information.

His actions prompted the board to formally censure him in October.

"It's hard to take it seriously, because of the actual things the censure said," Ready said. "It had several factual false statements in it, and it was claiming that I was violating a board policy about respecting the authority of the board on any issue, regardless of my opinion. As I said in the meeting, 'Are you saying you expect a commissioner to respect the board even if it takes illegal action?'"

Ready said the campaign was friendly despite the controversy, saying it shaped nearly every discussion between him and his opponent, Stu Kerber.

"I mean, this is one of the craziest scandals in public hospital commission history," he said. "If it had not happened, I have no idea what this election season would have been like, or what we would have been talking about."

Regardless, Ready hopes the election results send a clear message to the board.

"I'm hoping that this is the way for the entire community to say to them, 'You guys messed up and now, can you please act professional and take corrective measures and acknowledge mistakes that were made?'" he said. "I don't know if they are capable of doing that."

Signing up to serve another six years on the board, with several members who approved his censure, Ready remains committed to advocating for open government and access to healthcare.

"The people on the board don't have to be best buddies," Ready said. "I'm just there to do my job the best I can."

11/11/2025 Peninsula Daily News Article “Lawsuit alleges Jefferson board violated public meetings act”

Hospital commissioner says discussions were held inappropriately

- by [Elijah Sussman](#)
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025 1:30am
- [NewsJefferson County](#)

PORT TOWNSEND — A lawsuit has been filed against most of Jefferson Healthcare’s board of commissioners as well as its CEO, Mike Glenn, for allegedly violating the Open Public Meetings Act.

The suit was filed with the Jefferson County Superior Court. No hearings have been scheduled.

An initial complaint was filed Oct. 23 by Arthur West of Olympia, an Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) advocate. In an amended complaint filed Nov. 3, he named hospital board chair Jill Buhler Rienstra, commissioners Kees Kolff, Bruce McComas and Marie Dressler, along with Glenn, as defendants.

West alleged that in a Feb. 5 meeting, the defendants discussed a Peninsula Health Alliance (PHA) proposal in executive session, without a valid exemption from OPMA. No pending litigation, threatened litigation or real-estate transaction existed to justify the executive session, according to the complaint.

Recently reelected Commissioner Matt Ready, the only commissioner omitted as a defendant in the suit, wrote a blog post on his website addressing what was discussed in the meeting, which he said had been called under the guise of the real-estate exemption.

“Once in this ‘real estate’ meeting, instead of real estate, we were shown a proposal to create a new nonprofit — the Peninsula Health Alliance — that would oversee both Jefferson Healthcare and Olympic Medical Center in significant and extensive ways,” he wrote. “The plan called for a ‘super-board’ of 12 commissioners: seven from OMC and five from Jefferson, giving Clallam County a permanent majority. When I asked the CEO if he was seeking board approval, he said, ‘Yes.’ Then, one by one, the other commissioners voiced support for proceeding with this proposal. Even if the proposal had been a good

idea — which it was not — the way it was introduced broke the law.”

In a March 26 meeting, Ready attempted to raise concerns regarding undisclosed negotiations with Olympic Medical Center, the filing states.

The discussion was silenced when Buhler Rienstra adjourned into executive session, citing legal grounds. The complaint asserts that emails later showed that drafts of merger proposals were circulated privately among a subset of commissioners, as well as with Jefferson Healthcare legal counsel Brad Berg.

The complaint alleges that one-on-one unrecorded telephone meetings between consultant Karma Bass and each of the commissioners were organized by Glenn and Buhler Rienstra in April. The meetings were not recorded, noticed or otherwise documented and occurred outside of public view, West claimed.

Those meetings constituted unlawful serial meetings, the suit alleged, citing *Wood v. Battle Ground School District* and *Egan v. The City of Seattle*.

West’s complaint also alleged that an executive assistant, following Glenn’s direction, scheduled private one-on-one meetings between each commissioner and attorneys from Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC, concerning the PHA. Those meetings constituted prohibited serial meetings, West alleged.

Commissioners and staff represented that the discussions of PHA were bound by a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), according to West’s complaint. The NDA was not voted for or approved by the full board of commissioners, some of whom were denied access to the document. Use of such an NDA goes contrary to public officers’ fiduciary obligations and is in violation of the OPMA, according to the complaint.

West included in the complaint the legal opinion of attorney Michele Earl-Hubbard of Allied Law Group, ascertained by journalist Alison Arthur.

“The agency absolutely cannot legally use the ‘real estate’ or ‘potential litigation’ executive session grounds to discuss the creation of this new entity,” Earl-Hubbard concluded. “They are breaking the law meeting in secret under either of those two exemptions.”

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Detective Sgt. Derek Allen investigated and reported that the actions likely violated OPMA and could constitute official misconduct if intent is proven, according to the complaint, which included a quote from Allen.

The report was sent to Jefferson and Clallam County Sheriff’s Offices as well as the State Auditor’s Office and the state Attorney General’s Office, according to the filing.

West requested that the court declare the defendants were in violation of the OPMA in

using executive sessions to discuss PHA and conducting unlawful serial meetings, enjoin them from conducting further such meetings, nullify any actions taken while in violation, impose penalties of \$500 per defendant, grant costs and fees to the plaintiff and grant further relief as justice requires.

West has been involved as the plaintiff in multiple lawsuits around the violation of the OPMA.

Ready, who was censured by a board-passed resolution on Oct. 22, addressed the lawsuit on his blog.

“This lawsuit echoes many of the concerns I’ve raised over the past months,” Ready wrote. “It’s disappointing that it has come to this — legal action against our own district — but it underscores how far we’ve strayed from the principles of open governance. The involvement of OMC commissioners in the PHA discussions without proper transparency only compounds the issue, as it affects communities across the peninsula.”

Ready wrote that he did not know about the lawsuit before it was filed.

During deliberation, before passing the resolution to censure Ready, Kolff and Dressler expressed regret in taking action against a fellow board member.

“I’ve already stated in public that I’ve not been involved in any secret meetings,” Dressler said. “Any secret meetings that he has accused us of I think are totally a figment of his imagination.”

She said in her deliberation that censure was the least the board could do, calling Ready inexperienced in business transactions and saying that his behavior was despicable and reprehensible.

Buhler Rienstra said in her 30 years of experience with the hospital, she never imagined a commissioner could take a tangent so far.

Reporter Elijah Sussman can be reached by email at elijah.sussman@peninsuladailynews.com.

11/13/2025 Lawsuit Records

Smart Search Search Results

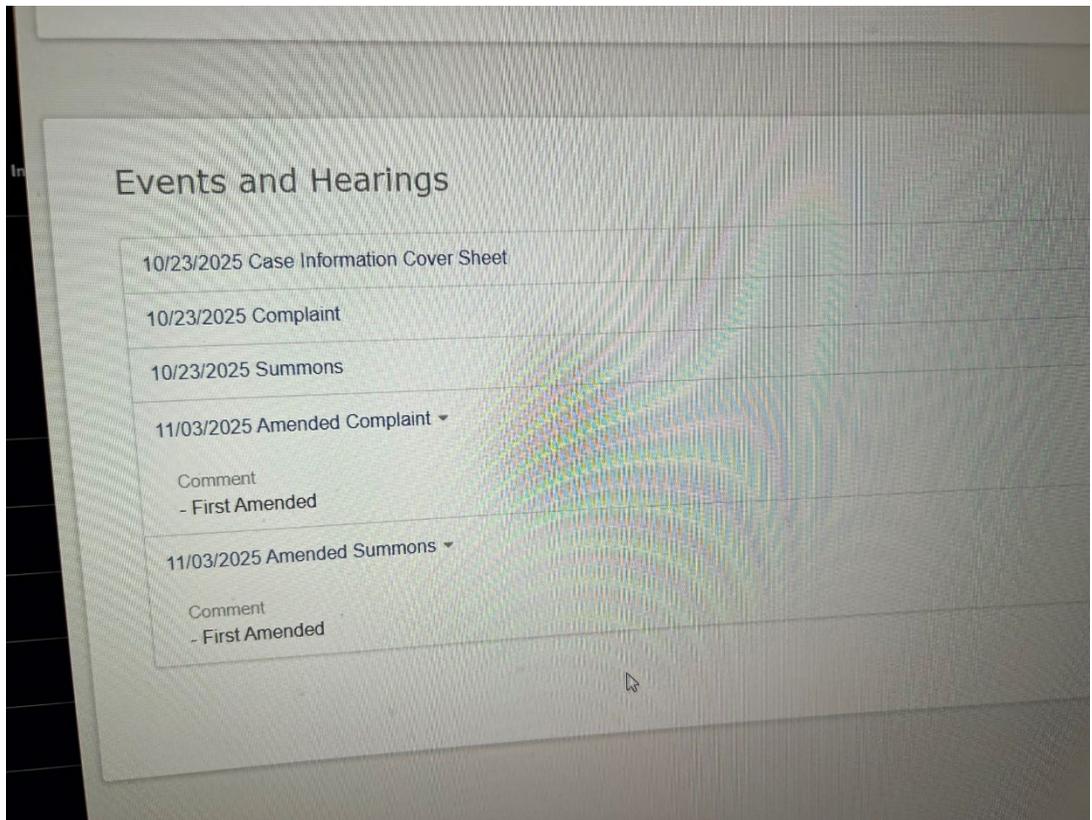
Case Information

25-2-00220-16 | Arthur West vs Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 et al

Case Number	Court	Case Status
25-2-00220-16	Jefferson	Active
File Date	Case Type	
10/23/2025	PRA Public Records Act	

Party

Plaintiff	Active Attorneys +
West, Arthur	Pro Se



11/13/2025 Lawsuit latest Case Information

25-2-00220-16 | Arthur West vs Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 et al

Case Number
25-2-00220-16

Court
Jefferson

File Date
10/23/2025

Case Type
PRA Public Records Act

Case Status
Active

Party

Plaintiff

West, Arthur

Active Attorneys

Pro Se

Defendant

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2

Defendant

Jefferson Health Care

Defendant

Buhler-Rienstra, Jill

Defendant

MacFarlane, Bruce

Defendant

Kolff, Kees

Defendant
Bradley, Teresa

Defendant
O'Brien, Thomas

Defendant
Glenn, Mike

Events and Hearings

- 10/23/2025 Case Information Cover Sheet
- 10/23/2025 Complaint
- 10/23/2025 Summons
- 11/03/2025 Amended Complaint

Comment
- First Amended

- 11/03/2025 Amended Summons

Comment
- First Amended

11/15/2025 Matt Ready emails all commissioners: “**Subject: Immediate Need for Board Action Regarding OPMA Lawsuit**”

From: Ready, Matthew <mready@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2025 12:24 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Subject: Immediate Need for Board Action Regarding OPMA Lawsuit

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ensure we are all aware of the critical legal posture of the hospital district following the lawsuit filed by Arthur West on October 23, 2025 (Case No. 25-2-00220-16).

1. The hospital district’s 20-day deadline to respond has passed.

The district, CEO Mike Glenn, and Commissioner Jill Buhler are now past their response deadline and are in a position where default judgment may be requested at any time.

2. No appearance or response has been filed on behalf of the district or these defendants.

As of today, November 15, the public docket still shows no response from any counsel representing the district.

3. The board has not been convened to address the lawsuit.

Since receiving notice of the lawsuit, the board has not held a public meeting or special session to discuss legal representation, strategy, or the consequences of missing the statutory deadline.

4. Only the board—not the CEO—has authority to select counsel or direct litigation.

Under RCW 70.44, decisions about legal representation and litigation responses must be made by the board in a properly noticed meeting. The district currently has no formally authorized attorney of record for this litigation.

5. A special public meeting is urgently required.

Even though the district has missed its response deadline, it is still the board’s duty to meet, discuss options, and decide how to proceed. This may include hiring independent legal counsel and considering whether to seek relief from default.

6. The amended complaint creates later deadlines for the three newly added commissioners, but this does not cure the district’s default.

The deadlines for Commissioners Kolff, McComas, and Dressler do not affect the district's already-passed deadline.

In light of these facts, I recommend that a special public session be called immediately so that the board can fulfill its statutory duties, receive independent legal advice, and openly discuss our options.

Thank you,
Matt Ready
Hospital Commissioner

11/17/2025 Jill Buhler response to Matt Ready's urgent letter

From: Buhler, Jill <jbuhler@jeffersonhealthcare.org>

Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 12:31 PM

To: Ready, Matthew

Cc: Glenn, Mike

Subject: Re: Immediate Need for Board Action Regarding OPMA Lawsuit

Dear Commissioner Ready,

I have added an executive session to our commission meeting on Wednesday to address the concerns you outline in this message.

You will see the notice of such on the agenda in the commissioners' packet being sent today by Brittany.

Jill Buhler Rienstra

Chair, Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners

11/25/2025 Matt Ready emails all commissioners and CEO of personal representation with Austin Hatcher and notes potential conflicts of interest due to individual potential criminal liability.

Dear Jill, Marie, Kees, Bruce and CEO Mike Glenn,

I am writing to formally notify you that I have retained Austin Hatcher to represent my individual interests in the ongoing lawsuit, as well as any other legal matters relevant to my role as a hospital commissioner.

I also want to make it clear that by abstaining from the recent vote, I did not in any way consent to the district attorney chosen to represent the district and the other commissioners in this lawsuit to represent me personally. In fact, I would like to formally state that I believe it is a conflict of interest for the same attorney to represent the district and to represent individual commissioners who may have potential personal or even criminal liability.

Therefore, I request that all communication and correspondence regarding my representation be directed or copied to Mr. Hatcher. Please also inform Arthur West and his legal team that I have independent counsel, and they should include my representative in any relevant discussions.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,
Matt Ready

11/28/2025 Matt Ready emails a pdf of this document in response to the public records request to Jefferson Healthcare staff.