



The Board of Commissioners of North Valley Hospital hereby adopts the following policy regarding public participation at Board of Commissioners meetings:

A. General Guidelines

1. Any person wishing to speak at a Board meeting must register on the speaker sign-up sheet prior to the start of such meeting and must indicate his/her full name, address, whether he/she is speaking in his/her individual capacity or as a representative of a group, and the agenda item or topic he/she will address.

2. Each speaker will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to speak, except that an individual representing an organization or association will be allowed up to five (5) minutes.

3. Testimony will be grouped by agenda item and will be heard in the order in which such items appear on the meeting agenda. Individuals wishing to address items that do not appear on the agenda will be given the opportunity to speak if there is time remaining during the public testimony period, after speakers addressing agenda items have offered their testimony.

4. Amongst individuals speaking on the same topic, they will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

5. If more individuals sign up to speak than can be accommodated during the time set aside for public testimony, the President may, in his/her discretion, limit the number of individuals speaking on each subject and/or reduce the time allocated to each speaker, in order to allow more individuals the opportunity to speak and to ensure that the Board is able to hear testimony regarding multiple agenda items.

6. Any individual may submit written testimony, comments, questions or requests at any time, regardless of whether he/she also offers oral testimony. The Board may direct written submissions to staff to research, respond and/or report back at a subsequent meeting.

7. The President may:

- a. Call a speaker to order if his/her statement is too lengthy or is abusive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate.
- b. Request that a speaker leave the meeting if he/she refuses to come to order.
- c. Request that any individual leave the meeting if he/she does not observe reasonable decorum.
- d. Request the assistance of security or law enforcement in the removal of a disorderly person who has previously been asked to leave and refused the request.
- e. Call for a recess or adjournment to another time or place if the lack of public decorum rises to such level that it interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

8. The Board does not engage in discussion or debate with speakers during the public testimony period or business portion of its meetings.

B. Executive Session

The Board may recess to an executive session to discuss or receive briefings from staff regarding real estate, personnel, litigation or other matters pursuant to and consistent with Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).