



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 20, 2017

Resolution 17-01

Proposed No. 17-01.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION endorsing the Heroin and Prescription
2 Opiate Addiction Task Force Final Report and
3 Recommendations and calling on local and state actors to
4 implement the public health policies outlined in the report,
5 including the establishment of at least two pilot community
6 health engagement location sites.

7 WHEREAS, heroin and prescription opioid use constitute a public health crisis in
8 King County, resulting in a growing number of deaths, and

9 WHEREAS, heroin overtook prescription opioids in 2013 as the primary cause of
10 opioid overdose deaths, and

11 WHEREAS, two hundred twenty-nine individuals died from heroin and
12 prescription overdose in King County in 2015, and

13 WHEREAS, heroin is the most common drug for which individuals seek
14 treatment for substance use disorder in King County, and

15 WHEREAS, there is a high, unmet demand for opioid treatment in King County
16 and treatment providers dispensing methadone and buprenorphine are working to expand
17 their capacity, and

18 WHEREAS, treatment with methadone or buprenorphine for substance use
19 disorders improves survival rates, increases retention in treatment, decreases illicit opioid

20 use and other criminal activity, increases patients' ability to gain and maintain
21 employment, improves birth outcomes among women who are pregnant and contributes
22 to lowering a person's risk of contracting HIV or hepatitis C by reducing the potential for
23 relapse, and

24 WHEREAS, the majority of young adults who use heroin report being hooked on
25 prescription-type opioids prior to using heroin, and

26 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health in 2013 enacted secure medicine
27 return regulations to combat the abuse of prescription-type opioids and other medications,
28 and created a product stewardship program to dispose of unused medicines, becoming the
29 second jurisdiction in the nation to do so, and

30 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General declared the heroin opioid drug
31 epidemic a national crisis in a report titled Facing Addiction in America, and

32 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health provides for and promotes the
33 health, safety and welfare of the general public, and

34 WHEREAS, Washington state law grants local boards of health authority over the
35 supervision of matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people
36 within its jurisdiction, and

37 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health held ten public briefings, from
38 2012 to 2016, related to the epidemic of opioid misuse and abuse:

- 39 1. May 17, 2012, BOH Briefing 12-B06: Safe Disposal of Unused Medications;
40 2. September 20, 2012, Resolution 12-11: Calling on the Drug Enforcement
41 Administration to expedite its efforts to provide our communities with additional options

42 for operation of secure, accessible, convenient medicine take back programs that can
43 safely dispose of all household medications, including controlled substances;

44 3. June 21, 2013, R&R BOH13-03: Relating to providing safe collection and
45 disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through producer provided and
46 funded product stewardship plans, for which there was a unanimous vote to establish a
47 secure medicine return program;

48 4. March 20, 2014, BOH Briefing 14-B07: Secure Medicine Return Fees, for
49 which there was an initial briefing;

50 5. April 17, 2014, R&R BOH 14-02: A Rule and Regulation relating to fees for
51 the secure medicine return regulations, for which there was further discussion and the
52 matter was deferred to the May 15, 2014 meeting;

53 6. May 15, 2014 R&R BOH 14-02: A Rule and Regulation relating to fees for
54 the secure medicine return regulations, for which where was a unanimous vote to adopt
55 the fees;

56 7. December 18, 2014, BOH Briefing 14-B28: Secure Medicine Return Program,
57 Annual Report;

58 8. March 19, 2015, BOH Briefing 15-B05: Strategies for Responding to the
59 Opioid Overdose Problem in King County;

60 9. March 19, 2015, Resolution 15-05: Calling on the Washington state
61 Legislature to pass Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1671 to expand access to opioid
62 antagonists such as naloxone for opioid overdose;

63 10. March 17, 2016, BOH Briefing 16-B06: Secure Medicine Return Program -
64 Annual Report for 2015; and

65 11. October 20, 2016, BOH Briefing 16-B17: Heroin/Opioid Taskforce

66 Recommendations, and

67 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health has called on the Washington state
68 Legislature to expand access to opioid antagonists such as naloxone for opioid overdose
69 reversals, and

70 WHEREAS, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray,
71 Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus and Renton Mayor Denis Law in 2016 formed the Heroin
72 and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force made up of over thirty experts and
73 stakeholders to confront the epidemic of heroin and prescription opioid use disorder and
74 overdose in King County, and

75 WHEREAS, the task force met over a six-month period from March to September
76 2016 to review:

- 77 1. Current local, state and federal initiatives and activities related to prevention,
78 treatment and health services for individuals experiencing opioid use disorder;
79 2. Promising strategies being developed and implemented in other communities;
80 and
81 3. Evidence-based practice in the areas of prevention, treatment and health
82 services, and

83 WHEREAS, the task force applied an equity and social justice lens to the work to
84 ensure that recommendations do not exacerbate, but rather lessen, inequities experienced
85 by communities of color as a direct result of the war on drugs, and

86 WHEREAS, the task force made extensive recommendations to prevent substance
87 use disorder and overdoses and improve access to treatment for opioid use disorder in its

88 ninety-nine-page Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force Final Report and
89 Recommendations, and

90 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health has evaluated and was fully
91 briefed on the task force report by Public Health - Seattle & King County Health Officer
92 Dr. Jeff Duchin and King County Department of Community and Human Services
93 Behavioral Health and Recovery Division Assistant Director Brad Finegood in October
94 2016, and

95 WHEREAS, the task force recommended these specific prevention responses:

- 96 1. Raise awareness of the possible adverse effects of opioid use;
97 2. Promote safe storage and disposal of medications; and
98 3. Leverage and adapt existing screening practices to prevent and identify
99 persons with opioid use disorder, and

100 WHEREAS, the task force recommended treatment expansion and improvement
101 responses, specifically to:

- 102 1. Create access to buprenorphine in low-barrier models close to where
103 individuals live for all people in need of services;
104 2. Develop treatment on demand for substance abuse treatment services; and
105 3. Alleviate barriers placed on opioid treatment programs, including the number
106 of clients served, and

107 WHEREAS, the task force also recommended these specific evidence-based user
108 health and overdose prevention responses:

- 109 1. Expand distribution of naloxone in King County; and

110 2. Establish, on a pilot program basis, at least two community health engagement
111 locations where supervised drug consumption occurs and where medical care, behavioral
112 health and social services and access to substance use disorder treatment are provided for
113 adults with substance use disorders, in the Seattle and King County region, and

114 WHEREAS, supervised consumption sites have been in operation abroad since
115 1988, and have successfully reduced overdose deaths and behaviors that cause HIV and
116 hepatitis C infection, reduced unsafe injection practices, increased use of detox and
117 treatment services, reduced public drug use and publicly discarded injection equipment
118 and have not increased drug use, crime or other negative impacts in their areas, and

119 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health previously adopted a resolution
120 supporting a strategic and operational plan for HIV prevention in King County that
121 included community health engagement location sites, in September 2007;

122 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
123 County:

124 A. The Board of Health endorses the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction
125 Task Force Final Report and Recommendations and recognizes that implementation of
126 the recommendations will protect and preserve the health of King County residents by
127 reducing overdose deaths, limiting the transmission of infectious disease and increasing
128 public safety.

129 B. The Board of Health calls upon state, county and city actors, as well Public
130 Health - Seattle & King County, to implement the public health policies outlined in the
131 Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force Final Report and

- 132 Recommendations, including establishing, on a pilot program basis, at least two
133 community health engagement location sites.
134

Resolution 17-01 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 1/19/2017,
by the following vote:

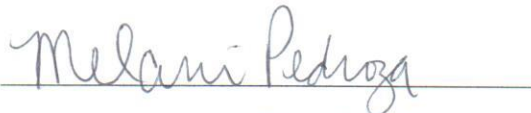
Yes: 12 - Mr. Baker, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott, Ms. Wales, Mr.
Dembowski, Dr. Delecki, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms.
Juarez
No: 0
Excused: 3 - Ms. Lambert, Dr. Danielson and Ms. Gonzalez

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None