Proposed No. 11-06.1

A RESOLUTION supporting enhancements to the 2007 Strategic and Operational Plan for HIV Prevention in King County.

WHEREAS, HIV continues to be a significant threat to the public's health and the rate of new cases each year remains high, and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV within the community of gay and bisexual men remains high, being around fourteen to sixteen percent, and other groups are also disproportionately affected by HIV, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Public Health Seattle-King County collaborated with numerous community stakeholders to develop the Strategic and Operational Plan for HIV Prevention in King County, and

WHEREAS, in 2010 our nation adopted its first National HIV/AIDS Strategy,

and

WHEREAS, the three primary goals of the 2010 National HIV/AIDS Strategy include:

1. Reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV;

2. Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV; and

3. Reducing HIV-related health disparities, and
WHEREAS, since 2007, a growing body of evidence has demonstrated the potential prevention benefits of assuring ready access to medical treatments for HIV, especially HIV treatment that can lower the viral load, and therefore likely lower infectiousness of people who are living with HIV infection, and

WHEREAS, the 2010 National HIV/AIDS Strategy recommends that all areas with high HIV prevalence should monitor HIV viral loads and should increase the effective use of antiretroviral therapy to both diminish HIV/AIDS associated morbidity and as a strategy to decrease HIV transmission, and

WHEREAS, in an era of likely diminishing resources for HIV prevention, it is important for local government to assure access to a variety of evidence-based HIV prevention resources that is likely to be most effective, and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the 2007 Strategic and Operational Plan for HIV Prevention in King County, Public Health Seattle-King County has continued to work closely with numerous community partners to educate them about evolving HIV prevention and care strategies, including access to medical treatment for people living with HIV, and

WHEREAS, there is a growing consensus among medical providers and community-based HIV prevention organizations that access to medical treatment for people living with HIV is an important component of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King County:
A. The Board of Health supports amending the 2007 Strategic and Operational Plan for HIV Prevention in King County to include the adoption and monitoring of an additional HIV prevention goal that ninety percent of persons living with HIV/AIDS in King County are engaged in continuous medical care, and that ninety percent of people living with HIV/AIDS who are engaged in continuous medical care and who meet current clinical indications to receive antiretroviral therapy have an undetectable viral load; and

B. The Board of Health continues to encourage all communities, particularly
those that are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS to continue and enhance
individual and collective actions to prevent the spread of HIV.

Resolution 11-06 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 5/19/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Frisinger, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Conlin, Ms. Lambert, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Danielson and Mr. McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 4 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Licata and Ms. Clark

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None