A RESOLUTION supporting collaboration in the
assessment of the health needs of King County
communities and the development of strategies to improve
community health.

WHEREAS, King County is home to many of the country's preeminent hospitals.
These hospitals protect and promote the health of King County residents through the
direct provision of medical services and through the advancement of medical research,
and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Hospital Association advocates on behalf of
hospitals throughout the state and supports its members in achieving their missions and
improving the health of their communities, and

WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County is charged with protecting
and improving the health and well-being of all people in King County and is committed
to reducing health inequities, and

WHEREAS, King County hospitals have a long history of working to advance the
health of the communities they serve through the provision of "community benefits", and

WHEREAS, community benefits are programs or activities that promote health
and healing as a response to identified community needs. Examples of community
benefits include charity care, or unreimbursed medical care, community health education,
training and continuing medical education for community physicians, free clinics for low-income persons, medical research, disease prevention programs and financial support of community building activities such as low-income housing, job development and violence prevention, and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act put in place comprehensive reforms to improve access to affordable health coverage, protect individuals who already have health insurance and enhance the quality of care received, and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act also established guidelines for the process by which hospitals should assess the health needs of their communities to inform community benefit activities, and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2011, King County's hospitals came together in partnership with one another, Washington State Hospital Association and Public Health - Seattle & King County to share information about their work around community benefits and to develop strategies to work together in their assessment of community health needs, and

WHEREAS, King County is a national leader in developing community collaboration among hospitals and public health, working to ensure community benefit programs have the greatest impact on areas of need in King County, and

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach to community benefits has the potential to avoid duplication of efforts and focus available resources on the community's most important health needs;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King County:

A. The Board of Health commends King County hospitals, the Washington State Hospital Association and Public Health - Seattle & King County for engaging in a collective effort to improve the health of King County residents.

B. The Board of Health urges the King County community benefits partnership to engage in community health needs assessments that solicit the input of underserved communities.

C. The Board of Health urges the King County community benefits partnership to invest in evidenced-based strategies, best practices and innovative programs to address
the greatest needs in our community, as identified by the community health assessments, and in efforts to prevent and reduce disease and health inequities in King County.

Resolution 12-07 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 6/21/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Frisinger, Ms. Cooke, Mr. Conlin, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Licata, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Danielson and Mr. McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Clark

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]
Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None