



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

May 22, 2015

Resolution 15-06

Proposed No. 15-06.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION supporting ongoing collaboration to
2 assess the health needs and assets of King County
3 communities and the development of strategies to improve
4 community health.

5 WHEREAS, King County is home to many of the country's preeminent hospital
6 systems that in addition to providing safe and high quality care have a long history of
7 addressing our community's health through community benefit programs, and

8 WHEREAS, community benefits are programs or activities that promote health
9 and healing as a response to identified community needs. Examples of community
10 benefits include charity or unreimbursed medical care, community health education,
11 training and continuing medical education for community physicians, medical research,
12 disease and violence prevention programs and community-building activities that
13 promote health such as physical and environmental improvements, workforce
14 development and coalition building, and

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

18 WHEREAS, twelve hospital systems in King County came together with each
19 other, the Washington State Hospital Association and Public Health - Seattle & King

20 County in 2011 to form a collaborative partnership called King County Hospitals for a
21 Healthier Community, and

22 WHEREAS, King County Hospitals for a Healthier Community recognizes that
23 by working together the partners can better leverage expertise and resources to address
24 the most critical health needs in our county and avoid duplication, and

25 WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act, nonprofit hospitals are expected to
26 complete a community health needs assessment every three years and use the results to
27 inform implementation strategies to meet identified community health needs, and

28 WHEREAS, as one of the first collaborations of King County Hospitals for a
29 Healthier Community, the partners joined forces to develop a collective community
30 health needs assessment and issued it in March 2015, and

31 WHEREAS, the community health needs assessment reports the demographics of
32 King County and data on life expectancy and leading causes of death and chronic
33 illnesses, and

34 WHEREAS, the community health needs assessment identified the health needs
35 of the community to include access to care, behavioral health, maternal and child health,
36 preventable causes of disease and violence and injury prevention, and

37 WHEREAS, the community health needs assessment highlighted issues important
38 to the community. Common themes included: the importance of addressing basic needs
39 like housing and transportation; reducing health inequities; increasing cultural
40 competency and continuing to improve health insurance coverage, health literacy and
41 healthcare system navigation; and strengthening community input and inclusiveness and
42 recognizing existing community assets and resources, and

43 WHEREAS, Washington state is working to drive improved health for
44 populations and communities through the Healthier Washington innovation plan, and

45 WHEREAS, Healthier Washington includes a strategy to build healthier
46 communities through collaborative, regionally-governed structures called Accountable
47 Communities of Health, and

48 WHEREAS, members of King County Hospitals for a Healthier Community are
49 currently engaged in Accountable Community of Health initial design activities in the
50 King County region including participation in the interim Accountable Community of
51 Health Leadership Council, and

52 WHEREAS, the future King County Accountable Community of Health will be
53 expected to develop a regional health improvement plan that will help focus and align
54 priority health improvement strategies in the region;

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
56 County:

57 A. The Board of Health commends King County hospitals and health systems,
58 the Washington State Hospital Association and Public Health-Seattle & King County on
59 the issuance of its first joint community health needs assessment.

60 B. The Board of Health urges King County Hospitals for a Healthier Community
61 to use of the results of the community health needs assessment to inform their individual
62 and collective community benefit strategies.

63 C. The Board of Health encourages the Accountable Community of Health
64 Interim Leadership Council to consider, leverage, and build upon the community health

65 needs assessment as it considers its approach to developing a future regional health
66 improvement plan.
67

Resolution 15-06 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 5/21/2015,
by the following vote:

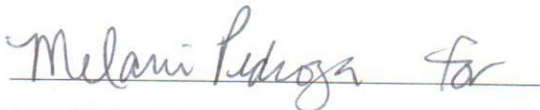
Yes: 8 - Mr. McDermott, Ms. Wales, Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Delecki,
Ms. Honda and Mr. Okamoto
No: 0
Excused: 5 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Licata, Mr. Baker, Dr. Danielson and
Ms. Sawant

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None