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February 22, 1995

Introduced By:

natmedsb

Proposed No.: 95-151

MOTION NO. **9491**

1
2
3 A MOTION requesting the King County
4 Executive to establish a natural medicine
5 clinic to provide the best possible
6 health care for citizens at the lowest
7 possible cost.

8
9 WHEREAS, a program of natural medicine integrated with
10 conventional medicine gives the best possible opportunity for
11 people to achieve quality health care and wellness at the
12 most affordable cost, and

13 WHEREAS, natural medicine can be defined as the cure or
14 prevention of disease through the use of vitamins, minerals,
15 amino acids, enzymes, herbs, and other natural substances, or
16 the use of non-surgical, drugless approaches, such as
17 acupuncture, that support the body's own healing processes,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, natural medicine also involves the sensible
20 avoidance of toxins, allergens, pollutants, chemicals, and
21 many unhealthy food additives, and

22 WHEREAS, natural medicine has frequently proven to be
23 successful by treating the underlying root cause of the
24 problem instead of merely masking the symptoms, and

25 WHEREAS, in many situations, natural medicine can be
26 more efficient, less costly, with fewer side effects than
27 conventional medicine, and

28 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan King County Council
29 constitutes the King County Board of Health and has
30 significant responsibility for the health of citizens of King

1 County, not only in its role as the Board of Health, but also
2 by the operation of the King County Health Department, and as
3 contractor through the Board of Trustees for medical services
4 at Harborview Medical Center;

5 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King
6 County:

7 A. The county executive is requested to prepare a plan
8 for the establishment of a natural medicine clinic that will
9 commence operations as soon as possible, but no later than
10 March 1, 1996.

11 B. The purpose of the clinic should be to integrate
12 natural medicine with conventional medicine to achieve the
13 highest quality health care at the most affordable cost. In
14 addition to providing high quality health care, the clinic
15 should conduct research and development of promising
16 therapies based on either historic use or on preliminary
17 published studies.

18 C. The county council recommends that Bastyr
19 University, the first fully accredited multidisciplinary
20 institution of natural medicine in the world, be considered
21 for managing the clinic.

22 D. The county council recommends that the clinic be
23 staffed by a Natural Medicine Health Team to consist of an
24 M.D. (for clinical services); an N.D. (a Doctor of
25 Naturopathy for clinical services); a Ph.D. (research design,
26 data collection and analysis); a nutritionist, with a minimum
27 of a Master of Science degree (nutrition and lifestyle
28 counseling); a Certified Acupuncturist; an R.N. (to assist
29 physicians); M.D. and N.D. residents (for education, clinical
30 services, research and data collection); a receptionist
31 (admissions and record keeping); and an administrator
32 (administration and budgeting).

1 E. Consideration is to be given to establishing the
2 clinic at a public health center or community clinic of the
3 King County Health Department; a storefront clinic offering
4 maximum visibility is desirable.

5 F. The county council recommends that Harborview
6 Medical Center be invited to participate in the program by
7 voluntarily providing a physician and a statistician to
8 observe, assist, and collect data.

9 G. Bastyr University, or the organization selected to
10 manage the clinic and develop the clinic plan, should utilize
11 natural medicine approaches that may include, but not
12 necessarily be limited to, treating hepatitis, recurrent
13 childhood infections (such as otitis media), benign prostatic
14 hypertrophy, arthritis, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome,
15 hypertension, osteoporosis, kidney stone formation and
16 bladder problems, female hormone-related problems, coronary
17 heart disease and other vascular disorders, arthralgias,
18 myalgias, and some chronic and migraine headaches.

19 H. The approaches to healing may include, but are not
20 necessarily limited to, bionutritional support, Chinese
21 herbal medicine, biofeedback methods, and acupuncture.

22 I. Two years after the establishment of the clinic,
23 Bastyr University or the organization selected to manage the
24 clinic, should provide a report to the county executive and
25 county council that evaluates and documents, by strict
26 scientific standards, patient satisfaction, medical outcomes
27 of natural medicine, the potential for reducing the high cost
28 of health care, and results of the research program.

29 J. With the passage of this motion, the county council
30 thanks the panel of experts who previously testified before
31 the council on the subject of natural medicine: Dr. Jeffrey
32 Bland; Dr. Joe Pizzorno; and Dr. Jonathan Wright. The
33 council also would like to thank Dr. David Eisenberg of

1 Harvard Medical School for supplying the council with
 2 valuable supporting information. The expertise possessed by
 3 these four national experts is typical of the specialized
 4 knowledge, background, and experience that would be important
 5 to an independent oversight committee. The council
 6 recommends the establishment of such a committee, which would
 7 coordinate jointly with the county executive and the county
 8 council, and suggests that the members of the committee
 9 consist of persons whose technical backgrounds are comparable
 10 to those of Drs. Bland, Eisenberg, Pizzorno, and Wright. The
 11 purpose of the oversight committee should be to review data
 12 relating to the efficacy of the clinic, to help ensure the
 13 success and credibility of the clinic's processes, and to
 14 encourage the communication of the results of the clinic's
 15 programs to numerous practitioners of both conventional and
 16 natural medicine.

17 K. The county executive is requested to submit a
 18 progress report on the plan to the county council by June 1,
 19 1995; the county executive is requested to submit a final
 20 report describing the plan and recommendations to the county
 21 council by August 1, 1995. These dates are intended to
 22 enable the executive's proposed 1996 budget to include funds
 23 to implement the plan.

24 PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 27th day of

25 February, 1995.

26 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 27 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

28 Kent Pullen
 29 Chair

30 ATTEST:

31 Gerald A. Peterson
 32 Clerk of the Council
 33

34 Attachments: None