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Proposed No.: 95-094

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MOTION NO. **9718**

A MOTION requesting the King County executive, in cooperation with the mayor of the city of Seattle, to convene an advisory panel to study health status and the changing state of health care in King County and recommend actions to the King County council by which King County and the Seattle-King County health department can most appropriately carry out their roles to protect and promote the health of the residents of King County.

WHEREAS, King County has a major role in responding to the health needs of its residents through the Metropolitan King County council's authority and responsibility as the King County board of health, the operation of the Seattle-King County department of public health in partnership with the city of Seattle, as contractor, through the Board of Trustees for medical services at Harborview Medical Center, and as provider of health benefits for county employees, and

WHEREAS, the health care system is undergoing unprecedented and controversial changes primarily as a result of private sector and federal and state government efforts to contain costs while also working to maintain effectiveness and improve access, and

WHEREAS, the emphasis on restructuring health service finance and delivery to contain costs is raising concerns regarding effects on choice and quality of care among

1 consumers and providers, and

2 Whereas, the Metropolitan King County council at its
3 January 20, 1995 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting heard reports
4 from nurses, who serve at local hospitals, on their deep
5 concerns regarding changes in hospital policies and
6 operations related to cost containment and managed care and
7 how they impact patient health, and

8 WHEREAS, changes in the health care system as well as
9 increased concerns about threats to public health from new
10 strains of infectious diseases and increasing health risks
11 for children and youth are also bringing about a need to
12 reexamine the functions and directions of public health
13 programming, and

14 WHEREAS, the Washington Health Services Act of 1993
15 recognizes the need to focus on improvement of the health of
16 the state's population as a necessary companion to, and
17 integral part of, improving the overall health care system
18 and, therefore, required submission of the Public Health
19 Improvement Plan to the 1995 session of the legislature for
20 its review and approval, and

21 WHEREAS, the Public Health Improvement Plan was adopted
22 by the legislature in the 1995 session, and

23 WHEREAS, the Public Health Improvement Plan provides a
24 framework that emphasizes a preventive role for public health
25 in partnership with the health care system and other services
26 and systems; defines core public health functions including
27 assessment, policy development and assurance; sets capacity
28 standards for carrying out these functions; and identifies a
29 set of health problem areas and health outcome standards to
30 provide a structure for identifying needs and resources and

1 measuring progress, and

2 WHEREAS, adoption of the Public Health Improvement Plan
3 requires a review of current public health roles, functions,
4 programs and financing needs in light of changing health
5 needs and health care system changes, and

6 WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 11578 adopting the 1995 budget
7 for King County included a proviso requiring the health
8 department by April 15, 1995 to develop and submit for
9 council review and approval a proposed work program and
10 schedule for developing a plan to implement the state-
11 approved Public Health Implementation Plan; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a need to assess health status trends
13 and changes in health systems and their impacts on, and
14 implications for, public health programming, the continued
15 operations of Harborview Medical Center, and King County as a
16 major employer and local purchaser of health care services,
17 and

18 WHEREAS, such an assessment would constitute the first
19 step in implementing the Public Health Improvement Plan in
20 King County and would satisfy the budget proviso contained in
21 Ordinance Number 11578;

22 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King
23 County:

24 A. The King County executive, in cooperation with the
25 mayor of the city of Seattle, is requested to convene an
26 advisory panel to study health status and the state of the
27 health care system in King County and recommend actions by
28 which King County and the Seattle-King County department of
29 public health can most appropriately carry out their roles
30 and responsibilities to protect and promote the health of the

1 residents of King County. The director of public health
2 shall chair the panel.

3 B. The advisory panel shall assess health status and the
4 state of the health care system in King County, identify key,
5 emerging public health and health care system issues and
6 recommend actions to the Regional Policy Committee and the
7 county council by which King County and the Seattle-King
8 County department of public health can most appropriately
9 help to maintain and enhance the health status of King County
10 residents, the effective functioning of the health care
11 system and the role of Harborview Medical Center as a model
12 public and teaching hospital. Recommendations may also be
13 made to other health related bodies where appropriate.

14 C. The advisory panel shall be broadly representative
15 of all sectors interested in public health and health care
16 issues including but not limited to representatives of health
17 and public health professional associations, labor, hospital
18 and health service organizations, hospital districts,
19 consumer groups, broad-based community boards and
20 commissions, local governments (Seattle and Suburban Cities
21 Association), community health clinics, academia and the
22 board of trustees of Harborview Medical Center Hospital. In
23 the interest of balance, no one sector or type of group shall
24 have more than two representatives. The advisory panel may
25 be supported by an additional technical advisory group.

26 D. The executive shall convene the advisory panel and
27 submit a work program and staffing plan to the Regional
28 Policy Committee and the council no later than February 1,
29 1996. The work program and staffing plan shall be
30 accompanied by a background report describing the current

1 legislative and planning framework regarding health care
2 reform and public health and the movement towards managed
3 care and other major trends in the health care marketplace.

4 E. The work program shall:

5 1. identify and coordinate with other community health
6 assessment and policy development efforts in which the health
7 department is participating with other departments,
8 jurisdictions and community groups such as the Human
9 Development Strategic Planning Initiative of the city of
10 Seattle, the Envisioning a Healthy Community Benchmark
11 Project of the King County children and family commission and
12 the assessment and planning work of the new state-initiated
13 Community Health and Safety Networks, and

14 2. include opportunities for public participation and
15 input.

16 F. The advisory panel shall provide a progress report
17 to the Regional Policy Committee and the council regarding
18 the panel's assessment process and the identification of key
19 health and health system issues by July 15, 1996 and shall
20 submit a final report to the Regional Policy Committee and
21 the council by December 1, 1996.

22 PASSED by a vote of 9 to 0 this 11th day of
23 December, 1995.

24 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
25 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

26 Kent Pullen
27 Chair

28 ATTEST:

29 Gerald A. Esten
30 Clerk of the Council

31 Attachments: