

November 18, 1996

Introduced By:

Cynthia Sullivan,  
Greg Nickels

November 26, 1996 clerk  
96-816S.doc/ssj

Proposed No.:

96-816

ORDINANCE NO. **12529**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the organization of the department of public health; repealing Ordinance 6066, Section 24, and K.C.C. 2.16.080; and adding a new section to K.C.C. 2.16.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 6066, Section 24, and K.C.C. 2.16.080 are hereby repealed.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. 2.16 a new section to read as follows:

**Seattle-King County Department of Public Health. A. DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED.** Since 1951, the city of Seattle and the county have jointly financed and operated a city-county health department. As of January 1, 1981, the city of Seattle and the county established a combined city-county health department known as the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health pursuant to chapters 70.05 and 70.08 RCW and certain city ordinances and county resolutions and ordinances. The director of the department shall be jointly appointed by the mayor of the city and the county executive, subject to confirmation by the city and county councils, and may be removed by the county executive, after consultation with the mayor, upon filing a statement of the reasons therefor with the city and county councils as authorized by RCW 70.08.040, as amended. The director shall be responsible for the management of the department.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.** As provided in the agreement between King County and the city of Seattle entitled "1996 Agreement Regarding the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health" approved by the county council by Motion 9999, the department shall be responsible for providing a functionally integrated set of services and programs that are fully responsive to urban, suburban city, and non-incorporated communities. The department shall achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout King County by providing public health

1 services which promote health and prevent disease, including, but not limited to, providing  
2 needed or mandated prevention or intervention services to address individual and  
3 community health concerns; assessing and monitoring the health status of communities;  
4 preventing disease, injury, disability and premature death; promoting healthy living  
5 conditions and healthy behaviors; and controlling and reducing the exposure of individuals  
6 and communities to environmental or personal hazards. The department shall assess the  
7 health of King County residents and communities, facilitate planning to develop responses  
8 to issues which affect the public's health, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and  
9 initiatives which address these issues. The department shall include an emergency medical  
10 services division, an environmental health division, a prevention division, a community  
11 oriented primary care division, an alcohol and substance abuse division, an administrative  
12 services division, and regional services areas.

13 PROVIDED THAT:

14 By June 30, 1997, the executive shall submit for council review and approval a  
15 proposal to create a new behavioral health program which combines at least portions if not  
16 all of the existing mental health and alcohol and substance abuse programs.

17 Under the authority of the director, the division managers shall oversee the  
18 development and implementation of technical and practice standards in their respective  
19 areas of expertise.

20 C. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION. To fulfill the purpose of  
21 reducing death and disability from accidents, acute illness, injuries and other medical  
22 emergencies, the duties of the division shall include the following:

23 1. Track and analyze service and program needs of the emergency medical  
24 services system in the county, and plan and implement emergency medical programs,  
25 services, and delivery systems based on uniform data and standard emergency medical  
26 incident reporting;

27 2. Set standards for emergency medical services training and implement  
28 emergency medical service personnel training programs, including, but not limited to,  
29 public education, communication and response capabilities, and transportation of the sick  
30 and injured;

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3. Coordinate all aspects of emergency medical services in the county with local, state and federal governments, other counties, municipalities and special districts for the purpose of improving the quality and quantity of emergency medical services and disaster response in King County; and

4. Analyze and coordinate the disaster response capabilities of the department.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION. The duties of the division shall include the following:

1. Inspect and monitor regulated facilities to ensure compliance with public health codes, rules and regulations;

2. Investigate complaints or special programs (e.g. disease outbreaks, sewage spills, toxic spills) identified by the public, the media or public officials;

3. Advise or educate the public on health risks associated with environmental hazards; and

4. Enforce public health codes, rules and regulations within the jurisdictions of the division.

E. PREVENTION DIVISION. The duties of the division shall include the following:

1. Reduce the public's exposure to communicable diseases through surveillance and outbreak investigation;

2. Lower the occurrence of chronic diseases, injury and violence in the community through strategies which reduce the frequency of risk factors for these conditions;

3. Promote and provide public education and research in the development of prevention models;

4. Perform specific public health services including vital statistics and laboratory functions; and

5. Perform medical examiner and statutory coroner duties, except for the holding of inquests, which function is vested in the county executive.

1 F. COMMUNITY ORIENTED PRIMARY CARE DIVISION. The division shall  
2 focus the department's clinical leadership, health services, and expertise and strengthens  
3 quality systems and effective care partnerships with government, business and community-  
4 based organizations. To maintain the community health care system, the duties of the  
5 division shall include the following:

6 1. Develop benchmarks of service quality, clinical guidelines and standards  
7 of excellence for the health department;

8 2. Provide leadership and coordination with health care providers,  
9 government agencies, business and community groups in the provision of primary health  
10 services to at-risk populations in King County;

11 3. Develop, implement and monitor a systematic, comprehensive system of  
12 health service delivery in King County which improves health outcomes by connecting  
13 community-based intervention and strategies with the health care of individuals;

14 4. Develop responsive service delivery and access mechanisms to meet the  
15 changing health care needs of at-risk populations in King County; and

16 5. Provide basic primary care services to detainees of the King County  
17 adult detention facilities.

18 G. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DIVISION. The duties of the  
19 division shall include the following:

20 1. Administer, staff, and provide technical expertise to department  
21 programs related to the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse;

22 2. Provide services on alcoholism and other drug addictions pursuant to  
23 federal and state laws and King County ordinances; and

24 3. Provide for the delivery of services in outpatient, 24-hour residential  
25 programs and/or inpatient settings either directly or by contract.

26 H. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION. The duties of the division shall  
27 include the following:

28 1. Provide administrative and technical support to the department;

29 2. Oversee the administrative systems and activities of the department; and

1 3. Provide general support within the department as authorized elsewhere  
2 in this chapter.

3 I. REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS. In addition to divisions, the department shall  
4 be organized into regional service areas that will directly provide department activities,  
5 services and programs within identified geographic boundaries in the county.

6 SECTION 3. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 1997.

7 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 30<sup>th</sup> day of

8 September, 1996

9 PASSED by a vote of 10 to 0 this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November,

10 1996

11 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
12 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

13 Jane Hogue  
14 Chair

15 ATTEST:

16 Gerald C. Peterson  
17 Clerk of the Council

18 APPROVED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1996

19 Greg Lube  
20 King County Executive

21 Attachments: None