



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 5, 2004

Motion 12023

Proposed No. 2004-0318.2

Sponsors Phillips

1 A MOTION approving the final report of the King County
2 health advisory task force.

3

4

5 WHEREAS, health care costs in this country are skyrocketing, approaching a
6 national crisis, and

7 WHEREAS, King County is, like other employers in the region, state and nation,
8 facing an urgent need to be able to provide affordable, available quality health care to
9 employees while effectively containing the rise in employee health care costs, and

10 WHEREAS, in King County the employee benefits budget is expected to increase
11 fifteen percent or more per year for at least the next five years representing an increase
12 from \$124 million per year spent on employee health benefits in 2003 to \$249 million in
13 2008, and

14 WHEREAS, sixty-eight percent of the county's health care dollars are used by ten
15 percent of its enrollees, and

16 WHEREAS, to address this critical issue, an internal county team conducted a
17 focused and comprehensive research effort to seek best practice approaches from

18 research institutes as well as actual applications. This research included a variety of
19 sources, including, but not limited to: Epidemic of Care: A Call for Safer, Better, and
20 More Accountable Health Care by George C. Halvorson, George J. Isham, MD; Crossing
21 the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, Institute of Medicine;
22 multiple studies and abstracts by the Center for Studying Health System Change, the
23 National Committee for Quality Assurance and the Institute of Medicine; research and
24 surveys conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington Business Group on
25 Health and Watson Wyatt Worldwide; and initiatives elsewhere including San Diego,
26 Michigan, Philadelphia, Minnesota, central Florida and Oregon, and

27 WHEREAS, in the 2004 budget address the county executive announced the
28 formation of a task force to recommend workable solutions that go beyond cost shifts and
29 reduction of benefits, and

30 WHEREAS, in December of 2003, King County executive Ron Sims created the
31 health advisory task force, whose mission is to "recommend an innovative and achievable
32 set of strategies to improve the quality of health care while mitigating costs in the Puget
33 Sound market," and

34 WHEREAS, the 2004 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 14797, included a proviso
35 requiring the executive to submit to the council for its review and approval by motion the
36 health advisory task force's preliminary findings related to quality and cost effectiveness
37 of health care for county employees by February 19, 2004, and

38 WHEREAS, in its meetings of January 12 and 26, the executive's health advisory
39 task force ("HAT force") analyzed the direction recommended by an internal King
40 County benefits strategy group, and

41 WHEREAS, on February 9, 2004, the HAT force endorsed the county's direction,
42 verifying that King County has accurately defined the health care problem and identified
43 the most realistic, attainable elements to achieve quality of care and cost containment in
44 its own plan and directed the transmittal of an initial findings report to the executive, and

45 WHEREAS, the county executive has approved the initial findings report of the
46 task force and presented the report to the council in conformance with the proviso, and

47 WHEREAS, the council approved the initial findings report via Motion 11890
48 and requested that the final report of this task force be submitted by June 30, 2004, and

49 WHEREAS, this twenty-member body brought vast and diverse knowledge and
50 experience to bear on this critical issue, and

51 WHEREAS, on June 14, 2004, the King County health advisory task force under
52 the leadership of Alvin J. Thompson, M.D., and Edward Wagner, M.D., submitted their
53 consensus recommendation to the county executive, and

54 WHEREAS, their recommendation acknowledges that enough is known in the
55 fields of science, finance and actuarial risk, public health, technology, quality
56 measurement, health-seeking behavior, health care delivery and quality improvement to
57 achieve better care, healthier people and affordable costs, and

58 WHEREAS, the task force recommends a regional partnership to activate their
59 recommended strategy, and

60 WHEREAS, the county executive has approved their recommendations including
61 strong county participation in the development of the regional partnership, and

62 WHEREAS, the county executive presented the report to the council in
63 conformance with Motion 11890;

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
65 The final report of the King County health advisory task force included as
66 Attachment A to this motion is hereby approved. Funds provided by King County to
67 support the partnership recommended in the final report of the King County health
68 advisory task force shall be appropriately matched by other partnership members. The
69 council shall approve all King County funds proposed to support the proposed
70 partnership that is recommended in the final report of the King County health advisory
71 task force.

Motion 12023

72 The council also requests the executive to transmit to the council by motion a
73 progress report on creation of the partnership by March 31, 2005.

74

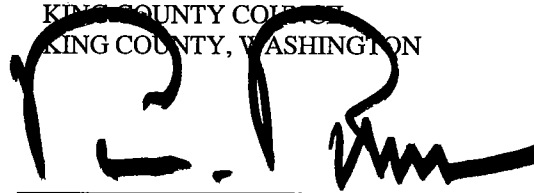
Motion 12023 was introduced on 7/6/2004 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/4/2004, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

Excused: 5 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Patterson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments A. King County Health Advisory Task Force Final Report