



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 12, 2006

Motion 12424

Proposed No. 2006-0595.1

Sponsors Patterson and Ferguson

1 A MOTION requesting that the county auditor complete an
2 audit of the jail health services's medication administration
3 and pharmacy operations.
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5

6 WHEREAS, the department of adult and juvenile detention is responsible for the
7 operation of two adult detention facilities (jails) that book about fifty-five thousand
8 arrestees each year and houses about two thousand five hundred inmates in secure
9 detention on a average daily basis, and

10 WHEREAS, jail facilities are constitutionally required to provide adequate
11 medical, dental, and mental health services for those detained, and

12 WHEREAS, jail health services is operated by the department of public health
13 through an agreement with the department of adult and juvenile detention, and

14 WHEREAS, jail health services, to meet constitutionally mandated requirements,
15 provides a variety of clinical medical, health assessment, medications, dental and mental
16 health care services for incarcerated adults in King County, and

17 WHEREAS, jail health services is responsible for tens of thousands of health
18 assessments and clinic visits, including pharmacy services that fill over one hundred fifty
19 thousand prescriptions a year, and

20 WHEREAS, jail health services has recently re-accredited by the National
21 Commission on Correctional Health Care ("NCCHC") for compliance with NCCHC
22 Standards for health care services in jails. This accreditation means that jail health
23 services has met national operational standards, including for pharmacy operations, as
24 determined by a panel of independent nurse and physician auditors. As of 2005, out of
25 more than one thousand six hundred jails nationwide, only two hundred forty-two had
26 received NCCHC accreditation, and

27 WHEREAS, recent state Board of Pharmacy inspections have disclosed possible
28 problems in the pharmacy operations at the jail, although the department of public health
29 disputes the inspection report findings, and

30 WHEREAS, the office of citizen complaints/ombudsman has issued a
31 memorandum that details concerns about identified deficiencies within jail health
32 services pharmacy and medication administration services that put patient health and
33 safety at risk. The memorandum notes that the ombudsman identified these problems
34 through a review of Board of Pharmacy inspection reports and patterns in one hundred
35 ninety-two allegations reviewed since January 2004, and

36 WHEREAS, the department of public health notes that it shares the office of
37 citizen complaints/ombudsman's commitment and concern for the welfare of the people
38 who are in the jail's custody, but takes exception to several of its findings, and

39 WHEREAS, the department of public health affirms that it is committed to openly
40 working with the office of citizen complaints/ombudsman, the executive and council to
41 answer their questions and provide a fuller understanding of its operations, the quality of
42 its work on behalf of patients and the significant progress it feels it has made;

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

44 That the King County auditor's work program be amended to immediately initiate

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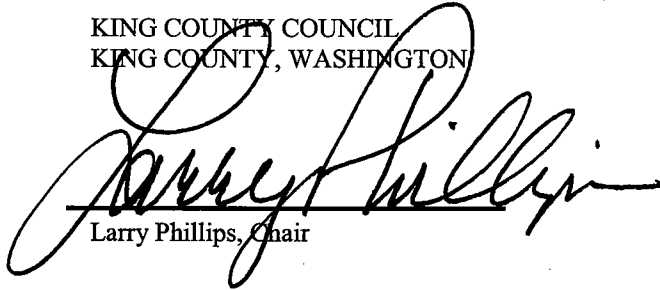
45 an audit of the pharmacy and medication administration practices of jail health services to
46 provide an independent evaluation of the quality and accuracy of pharmacy practices.

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Motion 12424 was introduced on 12/11/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 12/11/2006, by the following vote:

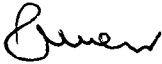
Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None