



Signature Report

April 23, 2008

Resolution

Proposed No. 08-04.1

1 A RESOLUTION supporting the King County Equity and
2 Social Justice Initiative.

3
4 WHEREAS, major inequities in health and well-being exist for communities of
5 color and low-income groups in King County, and

6 WHEREAS, a person's health and well-being is not just the product of individual
7 characteristics such as genetics or lifestyle choices, but is substantially influenced by
8 social determinants, including but not limited to: income and other forms of wealth;
9 affordable, quality housing; quality education; employment; safe neighborhoods and
10 community recreation sites; social support; and transportation, and

11 WHEREAS, living in poor neighborhoods can have a direct negative impact on
12 well-being because, for example, poor neighborhoods are often close to freeways and
13 other sources of environmental pollutants, or streets may be unsafe and housing run
14 down, and

15 WHEREAS, those living in poverty are at higher risk of poor health, including
16 shorter life expectancy, mortality from violence, HIV/AIDS, chronic diseases such as
17 diabetes, a lack of health insurance, obesity, and tobacco and drug use, and

Resolution

18 WHEREAS, people of color are disproportionately represented among the poor,
19 and

20 WHEREAS, a person earning \$15,000–\$25,000 per year is ten times less likely to
21 have health insurance than someone earning \$50,000 or more per year, and

22 WHEREAS, African American babies are two times more likely and Native
23 American babies are four times more likely to die before their first birthdays than white
24 babies, and

25 WHEREAS, an adult in south King County is twice as likely to smoke as an adult
26 in east King County, and a southeast Seattle resident is four times more likely to die from
27 diabetes than a resident of Mercer Island, and

28 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Board was briefed on the persistent inequities in health
29 and well-being by race and ethnicity, income, education and place of residence, and

30 WHEREAS, addressing health disparities has been a priority for the Board of
31 Health and a focus of its work since 2006, and

32 WHEREAS, the Board of Health played an instrumental role in the development
33 of the Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) for King County, and the guiding
34 principles adopted in the PHOMP specify that public health strategies shall be based on
35 science and evidence, focused on prevention, centered on the community and driven by
36 social justice to proactively pursue the elimination of health disparities, and

37 WHEREAS, in 2008, King County launched the Equity and Social Justice
38 Initiative to take aim at long-standing and persistent local inequities and injustices;

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King County:

Resolution

40 A. The Board of Health supports the King County Equity and Social Justice
41 Initiative and its approaches to addressing disparities, including identifying and
42 addressing the conditions at the root of inequities, actively seeking out and promoting
43 decisions and policies aimed at equity, empowering communities, and raising the
44 visibility of equity and social justice; and

45 B. The Board of Health requests that the department prepare a decision-making
46 tool for the Board’s review that can be used by governments to ensure equity is
47 intentionally considered in the development and implementation of key policies,
48 programs and funding decisions.

49 C. The Board of Health encourages the King County Council to work
50 collaboratively with Executive staff to develop and adopt a policy framework that defines

Resolution

51 the Equity and Social Justice Initiative and provides policy direction regarding the
52 county's roles and responsibilities in promoting equity and social justice in King County.

53

Resolution was introduced on 4/17/2008 and passed by the Board of Health on 4/17/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Patterson, Mr. von Reichbauer,
Mr. Dunn, Ms. Clark, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Hutchinson, Dr. Counts and Mr.

Gossett

No: 0

Excused: 5 - Mr. Rasmussen, Ms. Frisinger, Dr. Nicola, Ms. Manning and Mr.
Licata

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments None