



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 19, 2008**

**Resolution**

**Proposed No. 08-09.1**

1                   A RESOLUTION approving the Board of Health's Plan to  
2                   Educate the Public on the Value of Public Health.

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4                   WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of King County government to provide  
5 regional public health services to the 1.8 million residents of King County, as well as the  
6 hundreds of thousands of workers and tourists who enter the county each day, and

7                   WHEREAS, state law vests in the King County Board of Health oversight of all  
8 matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people of King County,  
9 including the adoption of countywide public health policy, and the enactment and  
10 enforcement of local public health regulations; and

11                   WHEREAS, public health services safeguard and improve the health of  
12 communities through organized efforts to: protect the public from natural and human-  
13 made health threats; promote health by providing reliable information and an  
14 environment in which people and communities can make informed decisions that impact  
15 their health; and assure the provision of quality preventive and curative health services,  
16 and

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17           WHEREAS, the cost of providing the same level of public health services  
18 increases each year yet, federal and state revenues that support public health have been  
19 eliminated, limited, or reduced, thus requiring significant increases in the level of county  
20 general fund resources for public health services, and

21           WHEREAS, acknowledging that the projected 2009 general fund budget deficit  
22 was nearing \$86.5 million, possibly requiring significant reductions in public health  
23 services, the board adopted BOH Resolution 08-07, calling on the state of Washington to  
24 provide adequate, stable, dedicated, long-term financing for local public health statewide  
25 and to provide financing options for local jurisdictions to protect, promote and provide  
26 for the health of the public, and

27           WHEREAS, through BOH Resolution 08-07, the board committed to working  
28 with the King County executive, King County council, the city of Seattle and other cities  
29 in King County and community, regional and state partners to educate the public about  
30 the value of public health and the need for adequate, stable, dedicated, long-term state  
31 and local funding sources;

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

34           A. The Board of Health finds that increased education is key for the public to  
35 recognize and value:

36           1. The benefits that public health services provide the entire King County  
37 population every day through:

38 a. health protection services, such as restaurant and drinking water inspections  
39 to ensure safe food and water, communicable disease control and the prevention of  
40 HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis;

41 b. health promotion services to prevent injuries and chronic diseases and to  
42 maximize people's ability to make healthy choices; and

43 c. health provision services that ensure access to quality health care, such as  
44 immunizations for children and adults that protect against the spread of communicable  
45 diseases, primary care and oral health services that improve health and reduce disease in  
46 low-income, vulnerable populations, family planning services that reduce unintended  
47 pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, and child care facility health and safety  
48 programs;

49 2. The magnitude to which public health centers serve our community's most  
50 vulnerable populations, which, in 2007, was 143,025 people, of whom 107,096 were  
51 below the poverty line and 44,657 had no insurance;

52 3. The role that King County and its public health centers play as part of a larger  
53 health care safety net, which is facing financial crisis due to declining revenues and an  
54 increasing number of uninsured, with over 140,000 uninsured residents in King County in  
55 2008;

56 4. The impact such public health services as the women, infants, and children's  
57 program that improves pregnancy outcomes and children's health and development  
58 through food vouchers and nutrition education, and family support services that provide  
59 assessment, education, skills-building and case management services to at-risk pregnant  
60 women and families with children to assure that babies are born with the best

61 opportunities to grow and thrive, have on reducing involvement in the criminal justice  
62 system later in life; and

63 5. The consequences that reducing core public health functions, priority  
64 services, and cross-cutting capabilities that are necessary to conduct 21st century public  
65 health would have on:

66 a. providing clinical health preventive services to vulnerable populations;

67 b. immunizing the community to prevent and control the spread of  
68 communicable diseases;

69 c. preventing and controlling chronic diseases, such as diabetes and asthma;

70 d. measuring and following health issues through our communities;

71 e. supporting and enhancing healthy families through family planning and  
72 promotion of healthy development in young child and mothers;

73 f. helping people access the health care services they need; and

74 g. preparing for, and responding to, health emergencies.

75 B. The Board of Health approves the attached education plan that proposes  
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77 numerous methods by which the Board of Health could educate the public about the  
78 benefits of public health services.

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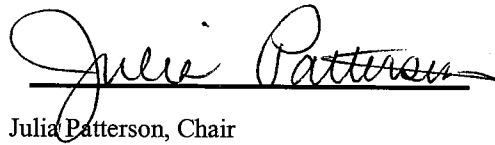
Resolution was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 9/18/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Lambert, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Clark, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Hutchinson, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Counts, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Licata

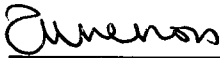
No: 0

Excused: 6 - Mr. Ferguson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Rasmussen, Ms. Frisinger and Ms. Manning

BOARD OF HEALTH  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

**Attachments**      None