

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BY AND BETWEEN  
KING COUNTY  
AND  
WASHINGTON STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION  
(STAFF UNIT)  
ADDRESSING THE 2011 BUDGET CRISIS**

WHEREAS, King County (County) is experiencing a financial crisis with a projected General Fund revenue shortfall of \$60 million;

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2011, the County will eliminate hundreds of positions;

WHEREAS, the County and the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) have an interest in preserving as many positions as possible;

WHEREAS, the 2010-2012 staff nurse collective bargaining agreement between the County and WSNA provides for a re-opener on cost of living adjustments and other wage-related items for the years 2011 and 2012;

WHEREAS, the national financial crisis, the County's structural financial imbalance, and declining revenues have significantly impacted the County's ability to pay Cost of Living adjustments to its employees;

WHEREAS, the parties will through this Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) help to preserve essential services and reduce layoffs necessary during 2011;

NOW THEREFORE, King County and the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) agree as follows:

1. The parties have negotiated that all employees covered by the parties' collective bargaining agreement will not receive a 2011 Cost of Living pay adjustment.
2. Employees covered by the parties' collective bargaining agreement shall be eligible to receive a cost of living increase for the year 2012 that equals 90% of the annual average growth rate of the bi-monthly Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Area Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W, July of the previous year to June of the current year). Zero floor and no ceiling.
3. Should significant shifts in economic and fiscal conditions occur during the term of this agreement, the parties agree to reopen negotiations for COLA when triggered by either an increase in the King County unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points compared with the previous year or a decline of more than 7% in County retail sales as determined by comparing current year to previous year. Data will be derived from Washington State Department of Revenue. By no later than July 30<sup>th</sup> of each year of this agreement, the county will assess whether the economic measurements listed above trigger contract reopeners on COLA for the subsequent year.

4. Employees covered by this Agreement will be eligible to receive, in 2011 and 2012, other forms of compensation adjustments as provided for in their collective bargaining agreement.

5. As determined by the County, savings generated by forgoing a 2011 Cost of Living pay adjustment shall be applied by the County in such a way as to reduce the loss of jobs held by bargaining unit members covered by the terms of this Agreement.

6. The County agrees to maintain the benefits negotiated in the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee for 2011 through 2012.

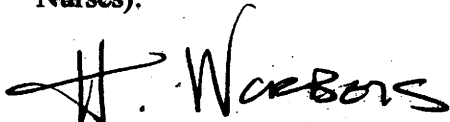
7. The parties acknowledge that all parties have fulfilled their obligations to engage in collective bargaining over the COLA reopener provisions, but not the other reopener provisions contained in the parties' 2010-2012 staff nurse collective bargaining agreement.

8. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement is subject to approval by the King County Council and ratification by the membership of WSNA.

9. Any dispute regarding the interpretation and/or application of this Agreement shall be handled pursuant to the terms of the grievance procedure contained in the parties' collective bargaining agreement.

10. The parties agree that Agreement shall be in effect through December 31, 2012.

For Washington State Nurses Association (Staff Nurses):



Heather Worbets  
Nurse Representative

11.2.10

Date

For King County:



Patti Cole-Tindall  
Director  
Office of Labor Relations  
King County Executive Office

11-5-10

Date