



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

516 Third Avenue, Room 400
Seattle, WA 98104-3271

206-296-4040 206-296-0194 Fax

TTY Relay: 711

www.metrokc.gov

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

September 21, 2005

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

Enclosed is the charter for the King County Health Reform Initiative (HRI) Measurement and Evaluation effort. This charter is being transmitted to you in response to a requirement contained in Motion 12131 approved by the Council on May 31, 2005. The motion states in part:

By September 1, 2005, the executive is requested to provide a program evaluation plan for the King County Health Reform Initiative. The plan shall be prepared by a consulting firm and concurrently submitted to council and the Health Reform Initiative policy oversight steering committee. The plan shall include a description of the research design and performance measures that will be used to evaluate the contribution of each program towards the county's overall goals of improving employee health and reducing employee health benefit costs. The plan shall include baseline county employee benefit costs, the approach to data collection and analysis, and the proposed timeline for reporting on achievement of annual targets for the four-year period 2006-2009. *If a new evaluation and reporting unit is proposed by the executive and approved by the council, a revised King County Health Reform Initiative Program Charter reflecting this change shall be submitted to council.* The program evaluation plan must be filed with the clerk of the council, who will retain the original and will forward copies to each councilmember and to the lead staff for the labor, operation and technology committee and the budget and fiscal management committee. (Emphasis added.)

Subsequent to the adoption of Motion 12131, the Council on July 31, 2005 approved the 2nd quarter omnibus supplemental appropriations ordinance. This ordinance included \$325,000 for measurement and evaluation of the Health Reform Initiative. The enclosed charter responds to the requirement contained in the Motion 12131 regarding the submission of a revised Health Reform Initiative charter reflecting the addition of these new resources for measurement and evaluation.

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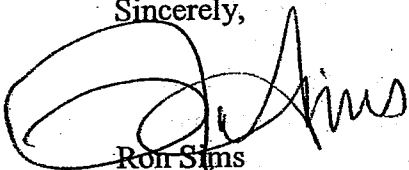
The King County Health Reform Initiative effort has been structured by the Program Director, Karleen Sakumoto, to include a Project Management Office that oversees all of the activities related to the HRI. With the Council's approval of funding for measurement and evaluation, this brings the total number of projects included under the HRI to four. These include: Benefits Program Development Project; Benefit Health Information Project, Education and Outreach, and now Measurement and Evaluation.

Four separate charters have been written to describe each of the four sub-projects. The enclosed Measurement and Evaluation charter has been reviewed and approved by all Executive department members of the Measurement and Evaluation Steering Committee, a key oversight group for the measurement and evaluation effort.

Pursuant to requirements contained in Motion 12131 regarding the preparation of a program evaluation plan for the King County Health Reform Initiative, a consultant report prepared by Clegg and Associates, Inc. was transmitted to the County Council on September 1, 2005.

Thank you for your continuing support of this important effort to reduce the projected costs of health care and to improve the long-term health of King County employees and their dependents. We look forward to discussing these documents with you in the near future. If you have any questions about the King County Health Reform Initiative, please call Karleen Sakumoto at 296-8579.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Scott White, Chief of Staff
Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director
Rebecha Cusack, Lead Staff, BFM Committee
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
David Randall, Senior legislative Analyst
Health Reform Initiative Policy Committee
ATTN: Karleen Sakumoto, Program Director