Joint Statement of Intent to Develop a North Meridian Health Neighborhood Campus

The King County region has a long history of innovative collaborations among health and human service providers, working with local communities, to help individuals and families realize their full potential. Public Health—Seattle & King County and Neighborcare Health are two organizations with a longstanding presence in the north Seattle community and with complementary missions to improve health. We know, however, that too many families and individuals still face health inequities, rising costs of care, and a lack of access to health and social services.

We are excited about creating a more integrated and efficient approach to health, human services, and prevention and wellness support in north Seattle. This direction is consistent with state and county-level health reform planning that envisions greater integration in order to better address the full range of services needed to keep people and communities healthy.

We therefore sign on together to express our intent to create and support a project that achieves the following vision and principles:

Vision

We will create a community health and human service campus for low-income, underserved residents of north Seattle and environs. The Northend Multi-Service Center (currently home to the North Public Health Center and Community Psychiatric Clinic) will be transformed to a campus of integrated programs designed to address a broad range of health and social concerns. The site will offer an array of medical, dental, behavioral health, public health, and human services that are responsive to community needs and aspirations. As a result, the campus and its partners expect to expand access to services, contribute to the improved health and well-being of the north Seattle community, and better control overall costs.

Guiding Principles

- 1. Foster a "no wrong door" experience for visitors to the campus and any outreach programs that may be affiliated with it. Programs and staff will respect and respond to what brings a person to the door.
- 2. Assure that no one will be turned away based on inability to pay.
- 3. Provide client-centered services which honor the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender and cultural diversity of the north Seattle community.
- 4. Develop and coordinate services to meet clients' needs through increased availability and decreased fragmentation.
- 5. Work with the community to identify and respond to unmet needs, and to proactively support health and wellness throughout all stages of life.
- Create and sustain a leadership structure that will promote joint service delivery planning, remove barriers to integrated services across partner organizations, and effectively steward financial resources.
- 7. Capitalize on new opportunities afforded under health care reform.

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May 12, 2014

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