



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

April 16, 2010

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear County Executive Constantine:

I am writing to propose that King County and the City of Seattle update our 1996 Public Health Interlocal Agreement. The time is right to undertake this task. This agreement, which has not been updated since it was signed, is out of date and sections of it have not been operable for years. In conjunction with the adoption of the 2010 budget, the City Council adopted a Statement of Legislative Intent that calls upon the City to revisit how Seattle provides funds to Public Health—Seattle and King County (Public Health). The City's intention is to improve Seattle's connection and support of Public Health.

By renegotiating the Interlocal Agreement, I believe we have a unique opportunity to strengthen Public Health for the entire region. The City's primary focus is on ensuring high quality provision, promotion and prevention services for Seattle's residents and neighborhoods, but true improvements in public health must happen without regard to city boundaries. A sound public health system for the region is in Seattle's best interests.

Since 1951, the City and the County have operated a joint health department, first administered by Seattle then, starting in 1981, administered by King County. The basic tenets of our arrangement are sound:

- Public Health administered by King County
- King County has responsibility for providing core, regional public health services
- The City funds enhanced public health activities in Seattle
- The Board of Health plays a policy role
- The relationship follows the policy framework established in the King County Public Health Operational Master Plan and Seattle's Healthy Communities Initiative Policy Guide

Through a revised Interlocal Agreement, I think we can improve the effectiveness of Public Health. The Interlocal Agreement is our mechanism to establish a clear framework for governance, financing, accountability and communications. I've attached the City's

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proposed goal, objectives and principles/assumptions. They are written from the perspective of the City, but I want to reiterate that our intention is to improve our partnership with King County in order to strengthen the capacity of Public Health throughout our region.

I've assembled a team within the City to help direct this process for Seattle. The team includes Deputy Mayor Phil Fujii and Seattle City Councilmember and Board of Health member Sally Clark, who represents the Council on the City team. Jerry DeGrieck, the City's Public Health Manager and Policy Advisor, will be the City's primary lead for work on the new Interlocal Agreement.

Please let me know if you concur that King County and the City of Seattle should renegotiate the Interlocal Agreement and who your designated staff person will be. I look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that our partnership can strengthen the delivery of public health in Seattle and King County in order to create the conditions that improve the health of all communities, eliminate health inequities and maximize the number of healthy years lived by each person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McGinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle
City of Seattle

**Renegotiation of the City/County Public Health Interlocal Agreement and
Response to City Council SLI on Contracting for Enhanced Public Health Services
City of Seattle Goal, Objectives and Assumptions/Principles
4/12/10**

Goal:

Strengthen the delivery of public health in Seattle and King County in order to create the conditions that improve the health of all communities, eliminate health inequities and maximize the number of healthy years lived by each person.

Objectives:

- Maintain and strengthen the positive relationship that the City now has with Public Health—Seattle & King County (Public Health).
- Outline and codify the respective responsibilities that King County and the City of Seattle have regarding Public Health.
- Establish communication and oversight mechanisms for the County and City to address governance and other issues concerning the City's and County's joint agreement on Public Health.
- Assure a strong City presence and influence on Public Health's policies, activities and services in Seattle.
- Acknowledge the enhanced role that Public Health has with the City of Seattle as compared to other cities in King County.
- Foster partnerships between Public Health and other City departments/offices to help create the conditions for healthy communities.
- Result in no negative impacts to direct service delivery.
- Yield efficiencies.
- Establish an accountability framework for City funding of Public Health services and programs including outcomes and reporting.
- Delineate staffing and oversight responsibilities of Public Health and the City regarding the City's enhanced public health funding and services. Provide adequate City funding to assure an appropriate level of oversight.

Assumptions and Principles:

- The City wants to continue its historical role of jointly ensuring, with King County, that Public Health has the capacity and services in place to be responsive to community health needs and to effectively promote health through policy, system and environmental change.
- King County has financial, policy and statutory responsibility for the delivery of public health services in all of King County.
- A renegotiated revised Interlocal Agreement should recognize that the City's funding of Public Health is voluntary and to be used for enhanced public health services and activities as outlined in the HCI Policy Guide.

- The City's goals outlined in the HCI Policy Guide will be advanced through a renegotiated Interlocal Agreement:
 - Eliminate health disparities based on race, income, ethnicity, immigrant/refugee status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, health insurance status, neighborhood, or level of education.
 - Improve quality and access to clinical and preventive health services.
 - Protect and foster the health and well being of communities.
 - Support other City goals such as ending homelessness, closing the academic achievement gap, ending domestic violence, and healthy aging.