

Santa Clara County
Health Benefits Coalition

Resolution Supporting Formation of the Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition

WHEREAS, the cost of providing health care benefits to public employees continues to escalate beyond the ability of local government agencies to pay for those benefits; and

WHEREAS, government agencies in other regions have found it advantageous to form local coalitions of the purchasers of public employee health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, such a coalition could achieve efficiencies that reduce the cost of providing health care benefits to public employees while also increasing the quality of those services; and

WHEREAS, those efficiencies could include requiring local health care providers to post prices for the most common medical procedures in a standard format on their websites and also provide data about the quality and outcomes of services in a standard format, both of which have been shown to reduce health care costs in other regions; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition could identify and facilitate other cost savings and improvements to the quality of public employee health care benefits that could be collaboratively achieved; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a local coalition will create an entity that could join forces with a similar coalition currently forming at the state level, known as the California Health Care Coalition, to achieve additional efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, several foundations have active programs to fund innovative regional efforts to address issues such as those within the scope of the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will take no actions that interfere with collective bargaining procedures currently in place at its member public agencies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will be governed initially by a steering committee composed of one member from each participating public agency; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will be facilitated by its acting co-chairs, Santa Clara County Supervisor Jim Beall and Foothill-De Anza Community College District Trustee Hal Plotkin until such time as a Coalition steering committee establishes formal by-laws and selects new leadership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors supports the formation and will participate in the Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will contribute a sum, based on a sliding scale and not to exceed \$2,000, to support the recruitment and retention of a qualified grant writer to solicit foundation support for a two-year Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition pilot project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara on this Twenty-Eighth Day of February, Two Thousand and Six by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

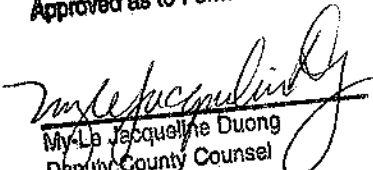
ABSENT

James T. Beall, Jr.
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Phyllis A. Perez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form and Legality


My-Lb Jacqueline Duong
Deputy County Counsel 2/21/06