



visits, including pharmacy services that fill over one hundred fifty thousand prescriptions a year, and

WHEREAS, jail health services has recently re-accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care ("NCCHC") for compliance with NCCHC Standards for health care services in jails. This accreditation means that jail health services has met national operational standards, including for pharmacy operations, as determined by a panel of independent nurse and physician auditors. As of 2005, out of more than one thousand six hundred jails nationwide, only two hundred forty-two had received NCCHC accreditation, and

WHEREAS, recent state Board of Pharmacy inspections have disclosed possible problems in the pharmacy operations at the jail, although the department of public health disputes the inspection report findings, and

WHEREAS, the office of citizen complaints/ombudsman has issued a memorandum that details concerns about identified deficiencies within jail health services pharmacy and medication administration services that put patient health and safety at risk. The memorandum notes that the ombudsman identified these problems through a review of Board of Pharmacy inspection reports and patterns in one hundred ninety-two allegations reviewed since January 2004, and

WHEREAS, the department of public health notes that it shares the office of citizen complaints/ombudsman's commitment and concern for the welfare of the people who are in the jail's custody, but takes exception to several of its findings, and

WHEREAS, the department of public health affirms that it is committed to openly working with the office of citizen complaints/ombudsman, the executive and council to answer their questions and provide a fuller understanding of its operations, the quality of its work on behalf of patients and the significant progress it feels it has made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

That the King County auditor's work program be amended to immediately initiate

an audit of the pharmacy and medication administration practices of jail health services to provide an independent evaluation of the quality and accuracy of pharmacy practices.