

RESOLUTION 2013-010

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BINGEN, WASHINGTON
ADOPTING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CREATING HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust (the “Trust”) is an entity to which contributions by cities and towns and non-city entities organized and existing under the Constitution or laws of the State of Washington and who are members of the Trust (“Participating Cities and Towns,” and “Participating Non-City Entities”) and their employees can be paid and through which the Board of Trustees of the Trust (“Trustees”) provides one or more insured health and welfare benefit plans or programs to Participating Cities and Towns’ and Non-City Entities’ employees, their dependents and other beneficiaries (“Beneficiaries”), on whose behalf the contributions were paid; and

WHEREAS, the Trust qualifies as a voluntary employee beneficiary association within the meaning of Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, providing for the payment of life, sick, accident or other benefits to Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Trust and Participating Cities and Towns and Non-City Entities have determined that it is in the best interest of Participating Cities and Towns and Non-City Entities to jointly self-insure certain health benefit plans and programs for Beneficiaries through a designated account within the Trust, while at the same time having the Trust continue as the entity to which other insured health and welfare benefit program contributions are paid and through which insured health and welfare benefit plans and programs are provided to Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, it appears economically feasible and practical for the parties to do so; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 48.62 RCW provides that two or more local government entities may, by interlocal agreement under Chapter 39.34 RCW, jointly self-insure health benefit plans

and programs, and/or jointly hire risk management services for such plans or programs by one or more of certain specified methods; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust Interlocal Agreement (the “Interlocal Agreement”) attached hereto creates a joint self-insured health and welfare benefit program (the “Health Care Program”) to be administered by the Trustees for the purposes of providing self-insured health benefits to Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, WAC 200-110-030 requires every local government entity participating in a joint self-insurance health and welfare benefit program to adopt such program by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 48.62 requires Health Care Program assets to be managed consistent with existing authority over use of municipal funds in RCW 35.39.030. The Trust will manage Health Care Program reserves in compliance with Chapter 48.62 RCW; RCW 35.39.030, and the Health Care Program Investment Policy; and

WHEREAS, all premium contributions for use in the Health Care Program are deposited into a designated account within the Trust, the Health Care Program Account (the “HCP Account”), and the HCP Account represents a pool of funds that is independent of all other Trust or other AWC funds; and

WHEREAS, the Trust intends to manage the HCP Account assets in compliance with federal and state laws and the Interlocal Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bingen believes it is in the best interest of the Health Care Program to allow the Trust to manage the HCP Account;

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Interlocal Agreement creating the Health Care Program is hereby adopted.


RESOLVED, that by adopting such Agreement, the City of Bingen acknowledges that it shall be subject to assessments as required by the Health Care Program.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bingen, Washington and approved by its Mayor, at a regularly scheduled open public meeting thereof this 1st day of October, 2013.



Mayor

Attest:


City Clerk – Treasurer

Approved as to Form:


Attorney

**ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is made and entered into in the State of Washington by and among the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust (the "Trust") and cities and towns, and non-city entities organized and existing under the Constitution or laws of the State of Washington and who are members of the Trust ("Participating Cities and Towns," or "Participating Non-City Entities"), all of whom are signatories to this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Trust is an entity to which contributions by Participating Cities and Towns and Non-City Entities (defined below) and Participating Employees (defined below) are paid and through which the Board of Trustees provides one or more insured health and welfare benefit plans or programs to Participating Employees, their covered dependents and other beneficiaries ("Beneficiaries"), on whose behalf the contributions were paid; and

WHEREAS, the Trust qualifies as a voluntary employee beneficiary association within the meaning of Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code ("VEBA"), providing for the payment of life, sick, accident or other benefits to Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Trust and the Participating Cities and Towns have determined that it is in the best interest of Participating Cities and Towns to jointly self-insure certain health benefit plans and programs for Beneficiaries through a designated account within the Trust, while at the same time having the Trust continue as the entity to which health and welfare benefit plan or program contributions are paid and through which insured health and welfare benefit plans and programs are provided to Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, it appears economically feasible and practical for the parties to this Agreement (defined below) to do so; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 48.62 RCW provides that two or more local government entities may, by Interlocal agreement under Chapter 39.34 RCW, jointly self-insure health benefit plans and programs, and/or jointly hire risk management services for such plans or programs by any one or more of certain specified methods; and

WHEREAS, each local government entity that is a signatory hereto, as required by WAC 200-110-030, acts upon the authority of a resolution adopting this Agreement and the Health Care Program (defined below) created herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of all of the mutual benefits, covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

- 1.9 **Participating Employee** means any individual employed by a Participating Employer and for whom the Participating Employer makes contributions to the Trust, and any individual who may have been so employed but is subsequently laid off, terminated, or retired.
- 1.10 **Participating Employer** means a Participating City or Non-City Entity that is also a party to this Agreement.
- 1.11 **Resolution** means the resolution adopted by each Participating City or Non-City Entity that authorizes the Health Care Program.
- 1.12 **State Risk Manager or Risk Manager** means the risk manager of the Risk Management Division within the Department of Enterprise Services.
- 1.13 **Stop Loss Insurance or Reinsurance** means a promise by an insurance company that it will cover losses of the Health Care Program over and above an agreed-upon individual or aggregated amount, which definition shall be modified by any changes to the definition of stop loss insurance in WAC 200-110-020.
- 1.14 **Third-Party Administrator** means the independent association, agency, entity or enterprise which, through a contractual agreement, provides one or more of the following ongoing services to the Health Care Program: pool management or administration services, claims administration services, risk management services, or services for the design, implementation, or termination of an individual or joint self-insurance program.
- 1.15 **Trust Agreement** means the Trust Agreement Governing the Trust amended and restated July 1, 2013, and any subsequent amendments thereto.
- 1.16 **Trustees or Board of Trustees** means the following individuals and their successors, who together, govern the Trust and the Health Care Program:
- 1.16.1 the AWC President and the AWC Vice President;
- 1.16.2 the EBAC Chair and the EBAC Vice Chair; and
- 1.16.3 an individual elected pursuant to the procedures in Article III, Section 5 of the Trust Agreement to serve as the trustee from one of the following regions:
- (a) North East Region (known as the "North East Region Trustee");
 - (b) North West Region (known as the "North West Region Trustee");
 - (c) South East Region (known as the "South East Region Trustee"); and
 - (d) South West Region (known as the "South West Region Trustee").

Individuals from Non-City Entities are not eligible to serve as Trustees.

and federal statutes and rules governing joint self-insurance programs and self-insurance programs generally.

- 6.3 The HCP Account is subject to audit by the State Auditor's Office.

ARTICLE 7

TRUSTEE POWERS RELATED TO HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees is provided with the powers and functions established under RCW 48.62.031 to accomplish the following:

- 7.1 Promote the economical and efficient means by which health benefits coverage is made available to Participating Employers and Non-City Entities and provided to Participating Employees, their covered dependents and other beneficiaries;
- 7.2 Protect the financial integrity of the Health Care Program through purchase of Stop Loss Insurance or Reinsurance in such form and amount as needed;
- 7.3 Contract for or otherwise provide risk management and loss control services;
- 7.4 Contract for or otherwise provide legal counsel for the defense of claims and other legal services;
- 7.5 Consult with the state insurance commissioner and the State Risk Manager;
- 7.6 Obligate the Participating Employers and Non-City Entities to pledge revenues or contribute money to secure the obligations or pay the expenses of the Health Care Program, including the establishment of a reserve or fund for coverage; and
- 7.7 Exercise all other powers and perform all other functions reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of the Health Care Program, Chapter 48.62 RCW and Chapter 200-110 WAC.

ARTICLE 8

ORGANIZATION OF HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

- 8.1 The operations of the Health Care Program are managed by the Board of Trustees or its delegates. The Trustees or any delegates review and analyze Health Care Program-related matters and make operational decisions regarding premium contributions, reserves, plan options and benefits in compliance with Chapter 48.62 RCW.
- 8.2 The Board of Trustees has decision authority consistent with the Trust Agreement, Health Care Program policies, Chapter 48.62 RCW and Chapter 200-110 WAC.

- 10.4 Read the terms, conditions and representations set forth in the application agreement related to participation in the Health Care Program;
- 10.5 Designate an employee of the Participating Employer to be a contact person for all matters relating to the Participating Employer's participation in the Health Care Program;
- 10.6 Pay premiums for the Health Care Program to the Third-Party Administrator no later than the tenth day of the month in which the premium is due;
- 10.7 By formal action of the legislative body of the Participating Employer, approve policies and procedures necessary to secure protected health information ("PHI") in accordance with Chapter 70.02 RCW and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") privacy and security rules, codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160-164;
- 10.8 Provide the Health Care Program with such information or assistance as is necessary for the Health Care Program to meet its responsibilities under this Agreement; and
- 10.9 Cooperate with and assist the Health Care Program and any insurer of Stop Loss Insurance or Reinsurance, in all matters relating to the administration and operation of the Health Care Program and all matters relating to this Agreement.
- 10.10 Comply with all bylaws, rules, regulations and policies adopted by the Board of Trustees relating to the Health Care Program.

ARTICLE 11

RESERVE FUND INVESTMENT

All reserve fund investments from the HCP Account shall be made in a manner that is consistent with RCW 48.62.111, Chapter 39.59 RCW, WAC 200-110-090 and the Health Care Program Investment Policy.

ARTICLE 12

FINANCIAL RECORDS

- 12.1 The Board of Trustees shall develop estimated revenue and expenditures to establish a budget for each fiscal year covering January 1 through December 31 annually. Actual Health Care Program revenues and expenditures shall be monitored monthly by the Board of Trustees and reported at its quarterly meetings.
- 12.2 The accounting records of the Health Care Program are maintained in accordance with methods prescribed by the State Auditor's office under the authority of Chapter 43.09 RCW. The Health Care Program also follows applicable accounting standards established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"). Year-end financial reporting is done on an accrual basis and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor as required by Chapter 200-110 WAC. Once reviewed and approved by the

ARTICLE 14

TERMINATION OF HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

- 14.1 In the event the Health Care Program is terminated, the Board of Trustees shall distribute the remaining funds in the HCP Account to the Trust or any successor association authorized by Chapter 39.34 RCW for like purposes for use in any program with similar purposes.
- 14.2 Upon termination, this Agreement and the HCP Account shall continue for the purpose of paying remaining outstanding claims and expenses and fulfilling all other functions necessary to complete the business of the Health Care Program.

ARTICLE 15

MEETINGS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 The Board of Trustees and the EBAC, if any responsibilities for Trust management have been delegated thereto, shall provide notice of their regular and special meetings and hold their meetings in accordance with Chapter 42.30, RCW Open Public Meetings Act.
- 15.2 Communications with Participating Employers may occur using mail, email or posting on the Health Care Program website. The website shall be partitioned to provide information for the general public and information specific to Participating Employers and their employees.
- 15.3 Communications may come directly from the Health Care Program, through the Third-Party Administrator or through another vendor on behalf of the Health Care Program.

ARTICLE 16

AMENDMENTS TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

- 16.1 The Board of Trustees shall review and analyze any proposed amendment to this Agreement. An amendment may be proposed for review by any party to this Agreement.
- 16.2 The Board of Trustees upon its discretion may take action by resolution on any amendment at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 17

PROHIBITION ON ASSIGNMENT

- 17.1 No Participating Employer may assign any right or claim of interest it may have under this Agreement.

21.3 The rights and remedies of the Board of Trustees are cumulative in nature and pursuit of any particular remedy shall not be deemed an election of remedies or a waiver of any other remedies available hereunder or otherwise available by law.

ARTICLE 22

NO WAIVERS

No waiver or forbearance of a breach of any covenant, term, or condition of this Agreement shall be construed to be a waiver or forbearance of any other or subsequent breach of the same or of any other covenant, term or condition, and the acceptance of any performance hereunder, or the payment of any sum of money after the same has become due or at a time when any other default exists hereunder, shall not constitute a waiver or right to demand payment of all sums owing or a waiver of any other default then or thereafter existing.

ARTICLE 23

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The Health Care Program shall designate a person to whom the State Risk Manager shall forward legal process served upon the Risk Manager; **The AWC Chief Executive Officer** (designee or successor). **The Health Care Program Director** shall be responsible for and shall be the contact person for all communications regarding the performance of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 24

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement or any provision of any document incorporated by reference shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provision, if such remainder conforms to the requirements of applicable law and the fundamental purpose of this Agreement, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are declared to be severable.

ARTICLE 25

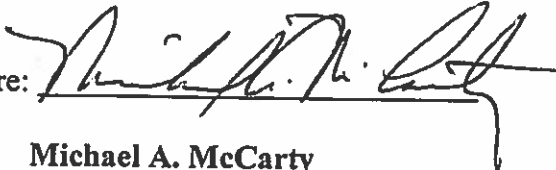
COUNTERPART COPIES

This Agreement may be signed in counterpart or duplicate copies and any signed counterpart or duplicate copy shall be equivalent to a signed original for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have executed this Agreement.

Association of Washington Cities
Employee Benefit Trust

Participating Employer

Signature: 
Name: Michael A. McCarty

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 30, 2013

Signature: 

Name (print): Betty J. Barnes

Title: Mayor

Date: October 1, 2013

Effective Date: January 1, 2014